



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
CITY HALL**

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

6:00 P.M.

I) CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Let the record show that Mayor, Anthony Howard called the meeting to order. Mayor Anthony Howard, Councilman Frank Thornton, Councilman James Crozier, Councilman Al Hutchins and Councilman Charles Middleton were all present. Also present was the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook. Reverend James Martin gave the invocation and the Mayor led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II) APPROVE MINUTES
A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the minutes from the October 3rd regular Council meeting and the October 5th special called meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

III) Citizens And Delegations
Will Geer – Audit Report
The City auditor, Will Geer, came before the Council to present the 2016 audit. Will reviewed the Balance Sheet with the Council, which shows the cash position of the City, liabilities and assets as of the end of 2016. He informed the Council that the pension liability was moved to the Governmental Funds and that he had done this mainly due to the new employees but will be clarifying this. He explained that in the past they had broke out pension liability by department according to payroll but when the new fund was created he didn't feel that this would make sense due to the time period of employment on the new hires in this fund. He then reviewed the Statement of Activities showing the expenses of the Governmental fund. He stated that Governmental activities has a positive net position of \$581,845. He then stated that the Business type funds also showed a positive net position of \$716,604 so overall the City's net position at the end of 2016 remained positive. He then asked if the Council had any questions and there were none.

(1) Ivan & Wanda Minks – OpportunityZone

Ivan Minks stated that the Opportunity Zone is ready to get submitted. He stated that he had contacted DCA and was asked if there had been an onsite evaluation to which Ivan informed him there had not been. He then stated that DCA came and did an evaluation to look for blight in the Opportunity zone and they found three locations. He then stated that he still wants to submit and see if there is an opportunity of it going through and then amend the zone. Councilman Crozier questioned the rules and regulations. Ivan then explained the intent is to improve Economic Development. He gave some further explanation of the Opportunity Zone. Ivan informed the Council that Steve Robinson is getting out letters regarding the denial of the North Ave. CDBG project. He stated that

they were told that Blakely had been on the list of Governments not to receive grant funds. He stated that it was due to the City not being current with the SDS. He stated that there could be a 30 to 60 day delay once the SDS was entered and submitted which could through off the date. He discussed DCA's process and how other Cities had also been denied for various reasons. He stated that they had received indication that how it scored and with the RAZ the City was in the zoning range. The Mayor then stated that when we get started next year we will resubmit this project. Ivan stated that once they received the actual letter they will be able to refine the problem areas before resubmission. He stated that North Ave. is a good project.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Randy McDonald – Bids on Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Fire Chief, Randy McDonald informed the Council that in December 2016 we applied for the Firefighters Grant, for self breathing apparatus. He stated that we were awarded the grant in the amount of \$110,400. He explained that this broke down to \$6,900 for 16 units. He informed the Council that four companies had responded and they were, American Safety & Firehouse at \$92,000, Ten8 at \$93,248, Fireline at \$92,528 and Nafeco at \$93,056. He then stated that everything in the grant has to be spent so he is also looking at thermal imaging cameras. Ten8 and Fireline quoted \$795 per camera, which totaled \$12,720 and American Safety & Firehouse quoted \$950 per camera, which totaled \$15,200. With these additions it would bring the bids by Ten8 to \$105,968, Fireline to \$105,248 and American Safety & Firehouse to \$107,200. He stated that Nafeco did not offer the cameras. He then stated that Fireline is cheaper but Ten8 is located in Forsyth with a representative in Cuthbert and Fireline in Winder. The Council questioned Randy on his recommendation to which he responded that he would prefer to accept the bid from Ten8. He also stated that there is still \$4,432 to expend and that he would be looking into some additional equipment. He also reminded the Council that the City has a 5% match in the amount of \$5,520. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Jamey Crozier to approve the recommended bid from Ten8 in the amount of \$105,968. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

V) City Attorney's Report

Second Reading Of Ordinance Amending GMEBS Retirement Plan

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, stated that this Ordinance is to amend the City GMEBS retirement plan that was discussed at the last Council meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the Ordinance amending the GMEBS retirement plan. The motion carried by Councilman present.

Resolution and Quote from GMA for Firefighter Cancer Policies Per House Bill 146

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, stated that the General Assembly voted that all City's and County's provide two different cancer policies for firefighters and volunteer firefighters. He stated that this was not an option and not real expensive. He presented a quote from GMA in the amount of \$3,412 annually. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the GMA Resolution and quote for the firefighter cancer policy in the amount of \$3,412. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

VI) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Council with financial reports. She informed the Council of the receipt of the insurance refund premium and that it had been transferred into the

savings account toward next year's bond payment. She informed the Council that the FEMA claim had been submitted for Hurricane Irma and acknowledgement that our initial paper work had been received. She informed the Council that the new software had been uploaded on the server and will soon be on individual computers for demo. The Clerk informed the Council that CSI had submitted a cost to extract data from the current system so ECG had been contacted to help with the billing information. She informed the Council that the budget is behind due to not having all budgets submitted by departments. The Clerk informed the Council that nothing had taken place at the park recently due to getting the building ready for the Fire Department moved but that once completed the park would again be worked on. Councilman Hutchins questioned how the prepaid program was going to which she stated that several customers are added per month but that we are having issues getting meters.

VII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The Mayor informed the Council that the CDBG project is underway and that City had already removed the asphalt and concrete on the street.

Councilman Crozier stated that there was a nice article in the MEAG power magazine, about BlakelyNet and requested that it be placed in the Blakely Buzz.

VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tracey Robinson addressed the Council regarding concerns with the mobile home Ordinance. He stated that he had read it and understands that there are certain criteria, measurements and facing a certain way but that he noticed a mobile home that is not faced that way. He stated that he understands what "grandfathered in" means and would like clarification. He stated that some people have been denied putting mobile homes in certain spots. The Mayor stated that the City Attorney had been asked to review all the information like they had discussed. The City Attorney stated that he had looked at the plat and that there was a business license for this property as a mobile home park. He stated that this was pre-existing the adoption of the Ordinance and that you cannot regulate something that has already happened due to it had already been platted. He stated that it appears that even though it violates the current Ordinances it is allowed due to pre-existing the adoption of the Ordinances. The Mayor clarified that the pre-existing is the mobile home park and not the mobile home that has been placed. The Mayor then stated that he had discussed with Mr. Robinson would be to change the Ordinance for people going forward with people turning their mobile homes one way to the other, if the Council did not have any issues with that. Mr. Robinson then stated that he understands the Mayors concerns but his concern is how does the mobile home did the mobile home get placed there without being approved by the Council. The City Attorney stated that he felt he had already answered it and that there was nothing, due to being "grandfathered in" that prohibited it from being placed there. Mr. Robinson then questioned if that prohibited the owner from getting licensed electrician to wire it up, to which the City Attorney responded "no" that would have to be abided by current standards of building codes. There was further discussion between the City Attorney and Mr. Robinson and then discussion between the City Attorney, the Mayor/Council and Mr. Robinson regarding Ordinance changes and placement of mobile homes and fairness to all and differences of mobile home parks to property not in a mobile home park.

Ms. Davis, 245 Mulberry Lane, discussed parking on this street even with "no parking" signs. She stated that she had called to report loud music and talking and that these

people have scanners and by the time someone shows up the music has been turned down. She stated that it looks like a jungle with messed up yards. She spoke of how it is dangerous for kids. The Mayor stated that it will be looked into to see what could be done.

A citizen questioned the trucks on Howell St. and stated that they are still coming down that road and that she is still concerned for the children. She stated that they are gas tankers. Councilman Thornton stated that he would be with Charlie Wade to see if signs have been ordered. The Mayor stated that Buck Grist will be notified about this issue due to this not being a truck route and that a truck route would need to be found.

IX) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the November 7th City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor