



**Blakely City Council  
Minutes**

**February 2, 2016**

**City Hall**

**6:00 P.M.**

**I) Public Hearing Zoning Map & Solar Ordinance**

The Mayor called the public hearing was called to order. The public hearing was turned over to the City Attorney to explain the Solar Ordinance. The attorney briefly explained that the Solar Ordinance was due to interest in the General Assembly. He then stated that this Ordinance tries to regulate solar instillation to make it pleasing. He stated that there were certain regulations in this Ordinance like placement of panels at homes, solar fields and the power that they would generate plus other items. A citizen questioned the placement of solar panels. He also questioned if there were any size restriction. The City Attorney stated that there were restrictions. The Mayor stated that a copy of the Ordinance would be available. It was also questioned if the City would be willing to invest in solar energy to which the Mayor stated that we invest now through MEAG power. There were no questions regarding the Zoning Map. The hearing closed at 6:07

**II) Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge Of Allegiance**

Let the record show that the Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Al Hutchins, Councilman Charles Middleton, Councilman Frank Thornton and Councilman James Crozier were present. Charlie Sol gave the invocation. The Mayor led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance. Let the record show that the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present.

**III) Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the minutes from January 5th and January 28th. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

**IV) Citizens And Delegations**

**Mike Newberry – Peanut Proud** - Mr. Newberry informed the Council that the date for Peanut Proud had been moved to March 19th due to Easter. He stated that they appreciate everything that the City does to help and they hope that we can continue our support. The Mayor questioned how many people were being estimated to attend to which Mr. Newberry stated about 5,000 plus, but that it really depends on the weather. He briefly spoke of the entertainment.

**Michelle Still – Animal Shelter** - Ms. Still spoke to the Council on behalf of the Friends of the Blakely Animal Shelter. She informed the Council that 31 animals had been taken in January. She stated that they have gotten 20 adopted out, 15 transported out and that 6 had been put to sleep. She stated that they have made contact with the Humane Society of the US and that they are taking a look at our community animal shelter. She thanked the Council for letting them help and setting up a bank account strictly for the animal shelter. She then informed the Council that the High School is helping at the shelter and that students would like to get items to create adoption bags. She also stated that the Drama and Beta Clubs want to come to the shelter March 8th and 18th as a project. She informed the Council that they would be accompanied by teachers and adults to help with the animals. The Council stated that they were OK with this taking place. She then informed the Council that there is a slight problem regarding the working hours at the shelter. She stated that they would like to experiment with the shelter being open on Saturday's from 9-12, with volunteers, to see what kind of traffic

might come through. The Mayor stated that he would prefer to have a City employee present. The Council agreed to allow this experiment. She then stated that the shelter needs a little work. She stated that any up keep would be at their expense. She stated that they would like to pressure wash, clean and possibly paint areas of the shelter. The Council stated that they did not have any problem with this.

**V) Administrative Committee Reports**

**Alcohol License – Priscilla Ricks - Tabled From Last Month** - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to readdress the January tabled item of the alcohol license for Ms. Priscilla Ricks. The motion carried unanimously by the Councilman present. A motion was then made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to deny the alcohol license for Ms. Priscilla Ricks. The motion carried by Councilman present.

**VI) City Attorney's Report**

**First Reading of Solar Ordinance** - There was a first reading of the Solar Ordinance by the City Attorney. He read; An Ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Blakely, Georgia, to designate permissible uses of solar electrical systems; to repeal all Ordinances in conflict therewith; and for other purposes.

**VII) City Clerk's Report**

The Clerk presented the Council with financial reports stating that she provided update December reports and also January reports. She then updated the Council on the ongoing projects. The Clerk requested that a date be given for the ribbon cutting on the playground equipment.

Jeff Jones spoke regarding projects he is involved in with the City. He stated that he was working with Wanda Hudson on the submission for the 2016 CDBG. He also stated that he was working with Lodge Holman on the sewer issues for the new Dialysis Clinic. He stated that he has been looking into the two abandoned wells behind City Hall to see if there is something salvageable to help with water flow. He stated that he is on cost estimates for the paving of the parking lot on N. Main St. He is also working on cost estimates for a new Fire Station. He also stated that he is working on preliminary plans and cost estimates for the 12" water line on the South side of town to provide better water pressure to the West side of town. Councilman Hutchins questioned the work being done on E. South Blvd. Jeff informed him that this work was being done to shore up the bridge where dirt had eroded from underneath. He also stated that road work on this road was being looked into with the 2016 CDBG due to it being in the project area.

**VIII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council**

**Quote from D Lance Souther** - The Mayor informed the Council that this quote was to bore under MLK for the connection of the 6" water line on Ft. Gaines St. to the 6" line on the other side of MLK. He informed the Council that to run the line under the road it would have to be a 10" bore. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the quote from D Lance Souther in the amount of \$14,000. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

**Repealing the Brown Bag Ordinance** - The City Attorney stated that an Ordinance had been presented previously to repeal the Brown Bag Ordinance. The City Attorney had the first reading: An Ordinance of the City of Blakely, Georgia, repealing in its entirety article III, Brown Bagging, of Chapter 3, alcoholic beverages, of the code of Ordinances of the City of Blakely; making it an offense to possess and/or consume alcoholic beverages on certain premises; making it an offense for the person or persons in charge to permit such possession and consumption; providing effective dates; repealing conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**Reappointment to Planning Commission** - The Mayor made the Council aware that Janet Payton's term is up and asked the Council to consider possible replacements. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to table this item until the next regular meeting for a possible replacement. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

The Mayor reports on the SGRITA project. He stated that they were up to 450 customers signed up and that there was \$21,000 in reoccurring income. He stated that Jason had gone to a meeting with the Rural Caucus in Atlanta regarding lack of telecommunication in our areas. He stated that Jason was asked to return on February 10th. He stated that hopefully these meetings could move toward more funding in the future.

Councilman Hutchins requested the purchase of 20 chairs at the Civic Center. The Council was in agreement and requested the Clerk to let Charlie Wade know to make the purchase.

**IX) Public Comments**

Sally Tinson spoke to the Council regarding why the person who is checking on the Civic Center has to stay at a function. Councilman Hutchins explained that he opens the center, checks on it once during the function and then comes back to close the center down and check the facilities. Mr. Thompson, who checks on the center, spoke regarding this matter. He stated that he does not stay at a function. He also stated that he would like to place a set of rules/regulation at the center.

Michelle Still readdressed the Council informing them that a washer/dryer had been donated and that they were ready for the City to install the hook up. She also asked the Council if they would be willing to purchase a reflective animal shelter sign to place out beside the road because the only sign for the shelter was on the building which is well off the road. The Council agreed

Francina Hill spoke to the Council regarding kids and that there are things that need to be added for the Children in Blakely. The Mayor stated that he had been in a meeting with a former Boys/Girls Club leader and had asked if the City could get some assistance to get the club started in our area again.

**X) Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adjourn the February 2nd City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor