



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

MARCH 1, 2016

CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

I) Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge Of Allegiance

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Let the record show that the Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Al Hutchins, Councilman Charles Middleton, Councilman Frank Thornton, Councilman James Crozier, City Attorney Tommy Coleman and assistant clerk Trudie Evans were present. Pastor Lillie Powell gave the invocation.

II) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the three sets of minutes from February. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmen present.

III) Citizens And Delegations

Mia Pittman & Allison Hutchins – addressed the Council regarding the playground installed at the old Howell Ball Park on Liberty Street. Ms. Pittman asked the status of the playground. Mayor Howard informed those present that the \$50,000 budgeted for the equipment had been expended and the City would need to allocate more funds to expand the project. Ms. Pittman formally requested that the City allocate more funds to complete the playground.

Councilman Hutchins made a motion to allocate more SPLOST funds for the playground. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmen present.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Alcohol license – Sherrie Hughes - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the alcohol license for Sherrie Hughes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmen present.

V) City Attorney's Report

Second Reading And Adoption Of Solar Ordinance - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adopt the solar ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmen present.

Second Reading And Adoption Of Ordinance Repealing The Brown Bag Ordinance - A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adopt the ordinance repealing the brown bag ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmen present.

VI) City Clerk's Report

City Clerk Melinda Crook was not present for the meeting. Financial reports were distributed to the Council and they were informed that if they had any questions regarding the reports they could contact Mrs. Crook when she was back in the office. Mayor Howard briefly touched on the project update reports that Mrs. Crook had left with the financial reports.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Mayor Howard asked Jeff Jones with Polyengineering to give a brief summary of the findings from his evaluation of the water and sewer system in the Redbud Street / Meadowbrook Street areas. A copy of his complete presentation is on record with the February 25th minutes.

Appointment To Planning Commission - A motion was made by Councilman Crozier to appoint James Ansley "Buddy" Moore Jr to the Blakely Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Middleton. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmen present.

A motion to re-appoint Billy Glass to another 4 year term on the Blakely Planning Commission was made by Councilman Middleton. The motion was seconded by Councilman Crozier. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmen present.

Rezoning Request Redbud Street – A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to deny the zone change request on Redbud Street. Let the record show that Councilmen Middleton, Crozier and Thornton voted "Aye" with Councilman Hutchins voting "Nay". The motion carried.

Approve Revised Zoning Map - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adopt the revised zoning map as presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Councilman Hutchins brought up high bills for Tanglewood apartments #12 and #50. Mayor Howard asked Kenneth Jones to look into these.

Councilman Hutchins brought up the fact that a new refrigerator and stove were needed at the center.

Councilman Hutchins brought up the fact that City employees were doing work on the Courthouse grounds. Mayor Howard stated that he and the County Chair had agreed to that as the city employees already

took care of all the large planters around the courthouse. Councilman Hutchins made a motion for the City to do the lawn work for 2 months and then the County for 2 months. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Mayor Howard called for a vote; Councilmen Hutchins and Thornton voted “Aye”, Councilmen Crozier and Middleton voted “Nay”. Mayor Howard broke the tie with a vote of “nay”. Motion failed.

Mayor Howard asked Lane Davis for an update on the bridge project on East South Blvd. Lane stated that except for some final clean up the project was complete.

VIII) Public Comments

Tommy Jive Wright addressed the council regarding a building he owns on North Church Street and future alcohol licenses due to the 300 foot distance limitation adopted previously this year. He wanted to get his building “grandfathered in” since there was an existing alcohol license at that location.

Ms. Lillie Powell with Upper Room Deliverance Ministry addressed the council regarding a conditional use request to build a church on Redbud Street. This matter had been tabled by the Council in January due to drainage concerns. Ms. Powell provided documentation from Lodge Holman regarding the drainage concerns. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to grant the conditional use. The motion carried.

Ms. Elaine George addressed the council regarding her driveway at 18663 E South Blvd which washed out in the heavy rains. Mayor Howard will look into the situation.

Mr. Ladonnis Pittman addressed the council regarding an alcohol license for The Corner Spot on North Church Street. Mr. Pittman was instructed to fill out the proper application and go through the proper steps.

Ms. Margaret Wimberly with Charity Praise & Worship addressed the council regarding Councilman Hutchins’ use of the Blakely Civic Center.

Ms. Francenia Hill addressed the council requesting activities for children; she suggested some sort of concert on Court Square. She was instructed to check with the county regarding policies for using the square.

Ms. Anna Sewell addressed the council regarding the Butler Street area. She stated that the corner of Butler and North Avenue holds water. She stated that since Butler is a narrow street that the council should consider making it a one way street. She also voiced concern over empty houses and unkempt properties in that area looking bad and leading to unlawful activities in the area.

Mrs. Meredith Whitehead addressed the council regarding their decision on the Redbud Street rezoning.

Ms. Hortense Whindleton of 689 Jesse Johnson Street addressed the council regarding a drainage issue at her property. She believes the pipe in the ditch is clogged up.

Mr. Calvin McCoy addressed the council regarding the fact that there are no driveways on Chinaberry or Mulberry streets. Councilman Thornton explained that was due to the type of curbing that was installed in that area. He will look into it to see if the city can add some dirt on the backside of the curbing to make the transition easier for residents.

Chief Deputy Tim Hardrick addressed the council regarding Pokey's Event Center. He stated "It's our understanding that the mayor and council has agreed for Pokey's place to be open under certain conditions but there is some law enforcement issues with the new ordinance that has come out as far as officers responsibilities so for that reason the sheriff has instructed his guys not to work any events up there. That's not fair to Pokey but there are some law enforcement concerns about some of the words of the ordinance and I know there's a consensus that the Sherriff's office doesn't like to work city ordinances that's not the case we just want our guys to know what to enforce and how to enforce it and I just want the council to be aware of that."

Ms. Gladys McCoy addressed concern for safety of children playing on Howell Street. She requested something be done about the speeding on Howell before any children are injured.

Ms Lillie Powell spoke about the area around her home on Evergreen called "the hole" and the lack of police response to calls in that area. Chief Deputy Tim Hardrick offered a rebuttal to her complaint.

IX) Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the March 1st meeting was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins. Motion carried.

Anthony Howard, Mayor