



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**APRIL 5, 2016**

**CITY HALL**

**6:00 P.M.**

**I) Call to Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order. Charlie Sol gave the invocation. Those present were Mayor Howard, Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Thornton, Councilman Crozier, Councilman Middleton, City Attorney Tommy Coleman and Trudie Evans.

**II) Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmen present.

**III) Citizens and Delegations**

**Mrs. Kaye Slay** addressed the council regarding the pool hall & beer licenses recently approved on S Main St across from her home. She presented a petition signed by 26 residents of the neighborhood against the pool hall.

**Mr. Mike Newberry** with Peanut Proud addressed the council regarding the recent Peanut Proud Festival. He thanked the City for all their help with the festival and praised the city workers for their clean up job after the festival.

**Wanda & Ivan Minks** updated the council on some current projects. Our 2016 CDBG has been submitted and they believe it will compete well. They recommend that we create a Revitalization Area Strategy (RAS) which will give us up to 20 points on CDBG's. They also touched on REDLEG, the City has been approved as a designated lender for economic development projects. These loans are zero interest with a 10 year payback. Wanda also informed the Council that the USDA project is progressing, they are waiting for the PAR to submit the completed package to USDA.

**Jeff Jones** - Mayor Howard asked Jeff Jones to give the council a quick update. Jeff discussed a methane migration issue at the landfill. He is currently working on a materials list so the city can get the materials and complete the work to alleviate the issue. Jeff is currently working on the PAR for the USDA project. He is also working with DOT to get a permit for a service lateral from the manhole to the front of the County Administration building. He informed the council that there has been a wash at the landfill and EPD requires some modification to correct this issue. He also stated that Blankenship Construction should start on the HWY 62 lift station within the next week or two.

**IV) Administrative Committee Reports**

Adam Askew presented a proposal for lift station high tide units to the council. This proposal was from J. K. Duren Company as follows:

1 unit = 4,205.00  
3 units = 8,715.00  
6 units = 14,130.00  
13 units = 26,615.00

All quotes include one year of service/unit. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the purchase of the 3 units at a cost of \$8,715.00. The motion carried unanimously.

**V) City Attorney's Report**

There was a first reading of an ordinance regarding streets and curb cuts.

**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.

Mrs. Crook had left the final budget adjustments for 2015 with the financial reports. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the budget adjustments. The motion carried unanimously.

**VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor and City Council**

Appointment of Housing Board Member – A letter from the Housing Authority recommending that Charlie Wade be appointed as a member of the Blakely Housing Authority board to replace Gwen Houston was presented. A motion to approve the appointment of Charlie Wade was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Middleton. The motion carried unanimously.

**Alcohol Violation – Brian Eafford** – Chief Tim Hardrick explained that officers saw bottles of alcohol on a table at Mr. Eafford's club and Mr. Eafford did not have a brown bag license resulting in the charges that were filed. The council asked Kenneth Jones the status of Mr. Eafford's existing licenses and was informed that at this time he has not renewed his licenses, renewal was due by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Howard informed Chief Hardrick that if any activity is seen at that location to shut it down for not having a current license.

**Bay Street Closing** – Greg Grimsley with Birdsong addressed the council regarding the street closing. He stated that when their production increases there will be more trucks on Bay Street which will pose an increased public safety issue. There are also other concerns, such as vandalism of Birdsong property and food terrorism issues that require tighter security. He also stated that Birdsong had been in communication with the Day's regarding their property and the Day's are in the process of having their property valued for possible sale, giving Birdsong the right of first refusal on the property.

At this time the Mr. Coleman presented a first reading of an ordinance to close Bay Street. Mayor Howard asked if there was a process to dispense with the second reading of an ordinance so as to move forward with adopting it tonight. Mr. Coleman said that could be done by unanimous consent of the council. Mayor Howard then polled the council and received the required unanimous consent. There was a question of the City keeping an easement to maintain our services and Mr. Coleman said he would prepare such an easement.

A motion to move forward with the road closing in accordance to the terms agreed upon with Birdsong was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton. Mayor Howard called for a vote with Councilmen Middleton and Thornton voting aye, Councilman Hutchins voting nay and Councilman Crozier abstaining. Mayor Howard broke the tie with a vote of aye.

Councilman Hutchins questioned the policy regarding household debris on the side of the road.

Councilman Crozier thanked the city workers for all their hard work during the recent rains.

**VIII) Public Comments**

Ms Linda McCoy of 18938 E South Blvd addressed the council regarding the ditch in front of her house. There is a problem with water collecting there during heavy rains. Councilman Thornton will get with Charlie Wade about correcting the issue.

Ms. Louise Holley addressed the council regarding the closure of Bay Street. She voiced concern that closing Bay Street will increase traffic on Arlington Street. She also questioned exactly what the railroad right of way was on Bay Street.

Mr. James Hughes addressed Mrs. Kay Slay's concerns. He stated that he monitors the volume of the music and has no intention of bothering Mrs. Kay. He commented to the number of people who are coming into the community for tournaments at the pool hall. He also told Mrs. Kay if she has a problem to just let him know.

Ms Anna Sewell addressed the council regarding the pot holes in North Ave and Butler Ave, and when the speed bumps might be installed. She was informed that the Street Department was working on repairs and that there is a list of streets waiting for installation of speed bumps and we are working on installations as time permits. She also questioned the \$2.00 yard debris charge. Mayor Howard explained that EPD had required us to close our inert pit so the City now has nowhere to take yard debris to so we have to pay by the ton for the disposal of such material. This fee was put in place to help offset some of the disposal cost.

Robert Hutchins of 187 Evergreen addressed the council regarding trash being dumped across the street from his house. He asked about a no dumping sign, Mayor Howard said we would get one put up.

Brother Jason with the Holy Family Catholic Church addressed the council regarding the closure of Bay Street. He was concerned about increased traffic and semi trucks on Arlington Street due to the closure. Mayor Howard asked Chief Tim Hardrick to have officers enforce the truck route. Jason also questioned the prepaid meters and was informed that we are working on a programming issue at the moment but we are still moving ahead with the prepaid meter project.

Chief Hardrick questioned City Attorney Tommy Coleman about semi's on Arlington Street. Mr. Coleman will review our ordinance regarding truck routes.

#### **IX) Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Middleton. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton. Motion carried unanimously.

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Anthony Howard