



**Blakely City Council
Minutes**

August 2, 2016

City Hall

6:00 P.M.

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

Let the record show that the Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Frank Thornton, Councilman James Crozier, Councilman Al Hutchins and Councilman Charles Middleton were present. Pastor Williams 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.

II) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the July 5th and July 14th minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

III) Citizens And Delegations

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Alcohol License – Lanisha Laurence – 1091 N Church St

The Building Official, Kenneth Jones, spoke of some items that were still needed. He then informed the Council that stated that no was check on the application recording incorporation but it was now stated that the business would be an LLC and stated how that could be changed. He also stated that the Health Inspector had not received an application. The Mayor asked Kenneth if he was stating that the application was incomplete, to which Kenneth stated “Yes.” The Mayor then asked who ever was at the meeting representing the alcohol license if they would like to speak. Ms. Laurence addressed the Council stating that she had submitted information in reference to the incorporation. She then stated that they only wanted beer and wine and that they had filled out the application according to how they were informed to fill it out. There was then discussion regarding the type of alcohol that would be sold on premises. The Mayor questioned the distance factor and Ms. Laurence stated that it only came into play regarding distilled spirits. The Mayor requested that the City Attorney and Building Official go out of the room to discussion the issue. The City Attorney informed the Council that if selling distilled spirits you must has 50% of the income from the sales of food. He then stated that there is another Ordinance which provides if you have on premise consumption there cannot be another on premise consumption within 150ft but that restaurants are exempted so what is being proposed is against the City Ordinance and should not be granted under the current Ordinance due to not being eligible. There was discussion that it is actually 300ft not 150ft. The Mayor then went back over everything the way he understood. There was then discussion. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to table this item. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Debbie McDonald – FBAS Foster Family Policies - Ms. McDonald spoke to the Council regarding a rough draft of a fostering policy that she wanted the Council to consider. She stated that it had come from the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s website which is more updated then what was at the animal shelter at the present time. She briefly explained the updates which covers what the fostering home would provide for the animals. She explained the policy and what she had come up with using this application. The Mayor asked Ms. McDonald to give an update on what their organization had

accomplished at the shelter. Ms. McDonald informed the Council of the amount of animals that had been adopted, returned to their homes or transferred out in comparison to what had been done at the shelter before they had come in to assist. The Mayor stated that he had discussed this with the City Attorney prior to the meeting and that it did not require an Ordinance change but could be adopted as a policy. Ms. McDonald asked that the Council not do anything with this until she has had a chance to make some grammatical corrections that she had found. Councilman Crozier questioned if they were actually going to make home visits. Ms. McDonald stated that just about everyone who has fostered she or the others have known but if they had questions about someone they may suggest other forms of help other than fostering. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the fostering policy presented by Ms. McDonald and that it would be administered by the FBAS. Councilman Crozier asked for a formal list of the shelter representatives to which Ms. McDonald stated she would get him one. The Mayor also stated that Ms. McDonald would clean up the agreement to which Ms. McDonald stated that it was a mess due to getting information from several different places to come up with the agreement. Adam Askew stated that he would like to make sure that there was verbiage where the City would not be liable if something happened in a foster home. The Mayor stated that the City Attorney would also review the agreement once the final draft was presented to the Clerk by Ms. McDonald. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Adam Askew – Quotes For Cleaning Water Tower - Adam Askew addressed the Council regarding four quotes to get the 5 year inspection done to the water tank behind City Hall. He stated that the lowest quote was from the company who rehabbed the tank previously. He stated that this was to do the tank inside and out. Councilman Crozier questioned if there had been any problems. Adam stated that this tank had not had anything done since it was rehabbed and that EPD requires this every 4 to 5 years. He also stated that the outside was starting to discolor. Councilman Hutchins questioned the funding to which Adam stated he had budgeted for this to be done. Councilman Crozier questioned how much to which Adam stated that he had budgeted enough to cover this quote. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the American Tank quote in the amount of \$9,350.00. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Gabe Jordan – boom truck quotes Gabe Jordan addressed the Council and submitted three quotes for a new boom truck. He stated that one was Pac Mac on a 2016 Freightliner chassis at \$132,975, another quote was on the same operating system and is a 2017 Kenworth at \$135,538. He then stated that the lowest quote was on a 2016 Kenworth chassis at \$130,440.00. He stated that Jason had gotten a quote on a 2015 Ford chassis for \$129,550.00. He stated that the one from Jason was lower but it was a 2015 but with the same operating system. He informed the Council that about two months ago all three of the boom trucks had gone down for repairs and that nothing was getting picked up then. He questioned the Council regarding moving forward and that it would take some time to get the truck except for the truck in the next to the lowest quote. He stated that it is available and sitting in Albany at the present time. He stated that the next time frame available would be January or February of next year. There was some discussion regarding the lowest and next to the lowest quoted trucks. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to approve the quote from Pro Equipment Sales in the amount of \$130,440.00. Councilman Hutchins questioned the funds for payment and Mr. Jordan stated that as far as he knew it was supposed to be SPLOST funds but the Clerk would know that information better. Councilman Crozier questioned an attachment to the quote in the amount of \$60,000. Gabe stated that it was just for an attachment piece of equipment. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

garbage hauling - Gabe Jordan addressed the Council regarding the hauling of the landfill garbage to Waste Management. He stated that at the present time nothing regarding the hauling has changed and that Randy Miles is continuing to haul the landfill garbage to Waste Management using the City/Early County trailers. He stated informed the Council of a comparison in cost between the City hauling the garbage and Randy

Miles hauling the garbage. He reminded the Council that we have had issues with the hauling in the past but that at the present time those problems are not an issue. He also stated that if the City goes back to hauling the garbage a new truck would probably have to be purchased. The Mayor questioned if he had a proposed contract with Randy Miles to which Gabe stated we did not. Gabe stated that there was not a written contract with EITHER Waste Management OR Randy Miles. The Clerk stated that the Waste Management contract was in the mail to get final signatures. The Mayor stated that he understood there was a contract going back and forth with Waste Management. The Mayor the questioned the Council on how they would like to proceed. Councilman Middleton stated he would prefer to wait until there was a draft agreement with Randy Miles. Gabe then informed the Council of the approve modification to the post closure requirements, at the landfill, for the hillside where there had been a washout and where a pipe needs to be installed to stop any further washout.

V) City Attorney's Report

VI) City Clerk's Report

The Clerk presented the Council with financial reports. She stated that she had spoke to the auditor about coming for this meeting but that he was unable to attend. She presented the Council with budget adjustments and one amendment to the 2016 budget. The Mayor asked the Clerk to go through the amendment and adjustments which she then did. She stated that the amendment was to increase landfill revenue by \$21,000 for the metal that was sold and to increase expenditures in the landfill due to unexpected lightning damage. She then went through the adjustments which were interdepartmental with a zero net change to each department and zero net change to the overall budget. She then gave the Council a brief update on the metering project and USDA funding for the Fire Department/Government Center. Councilman Hutchins questioned if the County had received half the funds for sale of the metal. Councilman Thornton stated that the metering project/Prepaid meters needs to be done due to pretty high utility bills this month. The Clerk stated that Tantalus and Exceleron were trying to come up with a work around while the software programming is being done. The clerk assured the Council that the metering and prepaid project was being worked on continuously to get it completed.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Proposed Solar Electric Rate From ECG - The Mayor asked the Clerk to explain this Solar Electric Rate. The Clerk stated that she was not familiar with how the rate was structured but that it had been sent due to interest being shown by the school system to go solar. The Mayor suggested that this item be tabled until the next meeting so that a representative from ECG could be present. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to table the proposed Solar Electric Rate from ECG until the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously

Intergovernmental Agreement for E-911 Services - The Mayor explained that this is the agreement between Early County and the City for the City to provide E-911 services. He stated that it also is to provide services to Randolph and Stewart Counties. He informed the Council that the County had already approved the agreement. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the agreement between the City and the County. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Matt Hromalik addressed the Council with an update on the E-911 project. He stated that he was in his third week and that they are on schedule. he stated that they had to work out an arrangement with AT&T who had wanted 90 to 120 days to get the trunks moved over but that they had gotten it down to 70 days. He stated that the go live date would be on the 28th of September with Early County and October 5th with Randolph and Stewart. He stated that the building was going as planned and that the electrical was done and the HVAC was just about complete along with the generator. He spoke of the painting, carpeting and console and Motorola installation. He spoke of the hires and interviews and the testing process that Bainbridge is helping with. He spoke of getting the new hires in to get some training done in advance on the 7th of September with the

experienced hires coming on the 19th of September. He then touched on the training and time schedule. He stated all the locations where the job ad had been posted. Councilman Crozier asked about the negotiation with AT&T.

Councilman Thornton stated that he would like to get the Alcohol Ordinance regarding the 300ft changed. Councilman Crozier questioned exactly which part Councilman Thornton would like to be changed, as to whether he wanted to strike the 300ft requirement altogether or just from new establishments. Councilman Thornton stated it was regarding the ones that are there now. The City Attorney stated that they are already exempt. Councilman Crozier questioned whether this was for the applicant or the building to which the City Attorney stated it was for the building. The City Attorney stated that an applicant can go anywhere but the building doesn't move. He also stated that current legal operating business was grandfathered. Councilman Crozier questioned if this was own or lease to which the City Attorney stated that it was own or lease. He then stated that if there was a license there it will remain there. Councilman Middleton questioned if someone was to sell his place the next person would be covered as well to which the City Attorney stated that he felt they would but that it was not written in the Ordinance. He stated it only applies to new locations. Councilman Crozier stated that his question was for a new tenant in an old location. The City Attorney stated that as long as the license is in that location as a new tenant it would not apply to them and they would be able to go ahead. Councilman Crozier then questioned that a previous item had been table and according to what was being explained it would have met the criteria with a fully completed application. There was discussion as to the fact that the building was already there but that no business had been in there recently. The Mayor suggested that the balance of this discussion take place outside of the meeting to get the matter straight so that the meeting could move forward.

Councilman Hutchins asked the Clerk to add a fountain at the Civic Center along with the other items that had already been requested. He questioned Kenneth Jones about water taps, on South HWY 27, that had been previously paid but had not been installed. Kenneth stated that all the existing homes have water but the ones that are new are the ones having issues. He stated that the City had gone out and installed the tap on the right-a-way but when the individuals were told that they were going to have to pay for 700 to 800ft of line they didn't want to do it. He stated that this is about all he knows about the issue. He informed the Council that the City was willing to do the work if the correct easements were given and that there were too many individuals involved to do that. He also stated that a survey would be needed due to the property lines that needed to be crossed and that it was questioned who was going to pay for the survey. He stated that he knew of two trailers that needed water and that was all he knew about the project. There was discussion on how the City provided water in this area in the beginning.

The Mayor questioned Jerome Johnson if he was supposed to be on the agenda at this meeting. Mr. Johnson stated that he was supposed to be on the agenda to get the Ordinance changed regarding the 300ft. The Mayor questioned if Mr. Johnson's license to sell alcohol had been approved to which he was told that it had. Councilman Thornton informed the Council of what Mr. Johnson had been told regarding the selling of food and alcohol. The Mayor then informed the Council that the Ordinance would have to be changed, which would require two readings, and questioned the Council how they wanted to proceed. Councilman Thornton stated that he wanted to change the Ordinance and the Mayor questioned how he would like it changed. There was discussion between the Council about the history of Ordinance and the requirements about the food placed in the Ordinance when it was finally voted in so as not to have bars on every corner or an increase in drunk driving. A motion was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Crozier to change the food requirement in the mixed drink/pouring on premise consumption Ordinance. The Mayor restated how the referendum was put out when placed on the ballot for vote. The motion did not pass with Councilman Middleton, Councilman Crozier and Councilman Hutchins voting "NAY" and Councilman Thornton voting "YEH"

VIII) Public Comments

Ms. Faye Price came before the Council with a list of questions regarding utility bills. The Mayor then stated that he would let the Clerk address the list of questions that she could and they would address any others. The Clerk then went down the list and answered all the questions for which she had knowledge such as electric rates, PCA, tax rate, how the meters are read, etc... The Mayor explained the ECCR charge and gave a little more explanation on the PCA charge. There was a question about a fixed bill to which Ms. Price was informed the electric charge is based on usage and that can change according to temperature. The Mayor questioned if she had had an energy audit to which she stated that she hadn't. There was a question about charges per zone to which the Clerk informed her that there is nothing in the system to bill by zone. Another question was about other providers in the area to which the Mayor informed her that Three Notch and Georgia Power are in the area but that the City is the lower of the three. Ms. Price thanked the Council for their responses.

Ms. Stapleton addressed the Council stating that what had just been told to Ms. Price was incorrect. She stated some issues that she had gone through and that her bill had gone up. She also stated that a customer service rep. in City Hall had been rude. The Clerk apologized for that and stated that she would address that issue. There was discussion between Ms. Stapleton and Councilman Middleton regarding temperatures and usage.

Mr. James questioned the Council about the 10% penalty and if it had always been in place. He also questioned having an energy audit. He then questioned about when the 20th falls and getting some additional days due to pay schedules.

Mr. Thornton questioned if he could sell products at his place of business until the alcohol license got approved due to the money he had put into the building. The City Attorney stated that he could as long as he did not sell alcohol.

A lady addressed the issue of the water on South HWY 27 and stated the piece of property that she could give an easement on and the piece that she could not give an easement on. She stated that these individuals needed their water. The Mayor stated that he would send Kenneth Jones to see her to try to get the easement moving forward.

Meredith Whitehead came before the Council to ask if they would waive the year long wait to rezone three lots on Redbud. She stated that she would like to rezone these lots from R1 to R2. A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Middleton to waive the year time frame to rezone three lots on Redbud. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

IX) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the August 2nd City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor