



**Blakely City Council
Special Called Meeting Minutes**

March 17, 2015

City Hall

1:00 P.M.

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

The Mayor, Anthony Howard, called the meeting to order. Let the record show that the Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Al Hutchins, Councilman Charles Middleton, and Councilman Smith were all present. One Council seat is open. Charlie Sol gave the invocation. Mayor Howard led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also let the record show that the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present.

II) EPD Consent Order

Gabe addressed the Council regarding the consent order that had been received on the inert pit at the landfill. he informed the Council that he had spoken with Mr. Fowler and Mr. Lucas to discuss the closure issue and the fine. He had asked if the fine was absolute and was told that the fine was not set in stone. He stated that he had discussed what the closure would entail and he informed the Council that it was going to take a lot of dirt. He then asked the Council if they could help with getting some assistance from the County due to the fact that the City only has two dump trucks. Councilman Hutchins questioned how the City got into this situation. Gabe then stated that it stemmed from before him and further explained the shape of the landfill and inert pit when he took over. The City Attorney then suggested to the Council that they should give the Mayor the authority to execute the consent order and handle any negotiations on the fine. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to give the Mayor the authority to handle the consent order. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Gabe then spoke to the Council about the situation at the transfer station regarding the hauling of the garbage to Decatur County. He explained that we have been having problems with the hauling company not always being reliable and that we had reestablished an account with Waste Management due to this issue. The Mayor also stated that we had a wet line kit installed on a City semi so that we could haul to Decatur if we had a rolling floor trailer. Gabe was instructed to give Decatur written communication with a 30 day time limit to get and keep the City in compliance with EPD regulations.

III) Public Hearing – Pokey’s Event Center

The public hearing opened at 2:10

The City Attorney explained that this hearing was being held for the Council to make a final determination as to whether the license for Pokey’s Event Center should be revoked. The City Attorney briefly went over the violations which had taken place at the event center. Deputy Price addressed the Council and restated the incident of February 22nd which involved marijuana, underage drinking and fighting. Deputy Wimberly reaffirmed that he had found marijuana. Deputy

Wimberly stated that he felt responsible for the situation due to his son hosting the party. he stated that he could have handled things differently and that he had been informed by the Sheriff that he had put himself in a bad situation by supervising. Deputy Wimberly was asked by the Council if Mr. Johnson had been in attendance to which he stated that he had not. Deputy Hunt informed the Council that several this party was young aged individuals from several surrounding Counties. She informed the Council of what she had witnessed regarding alcohol consumption and that she had initially advised a complete shutdown of the function. She then commented on several incidents which took place upon the actual shutdown. She informed the Council that she has witnessed Mr. Johnson present at the beginning of functions but that he would leave. There were questions from the Council regarding the curfew ordinance regarding the younger aged individuals at these functions. The City Attorney questioned the Deputies as to if the center is a management problem. All the deputies stated that they didn't feel it was and that maybe more security is needed.

Mr. Johnson addressed the Council stating that he didn't know that the property owner was still the responsible party. The City Attorney informed Mr. Johnson that it was his responsibility to know. He was then questioned as to whether he was called to these incidents, if he made his number available and if he was called would he had gone out. The Council questioned the deputies as to what day of the week these incidents happened and were informed Saturday. The deputies questioned whether the curfew ordinance law came into effect or if no alcohol was present were they allowed to stay open. The City Attorney stated that the curfew law takes effect. There was then discussion between the Council regarding the revocation. The public hearing was called to a close at 2:28

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to reinstated the license for Pokey's Event Center on a three month probationary period at which time the Council would re-exam to see if any further incidents have taken place. Councilman Hutchins questioned the Saturday night shutdown hours and if alcohol stopped being served could a function continue. There was also discussion about the occupancy level and security in place. The City Attorney stated that the ordinance could be changed to add a certain amount of security. The Mayor stated that the Council is here to help protect the public and works to do so and that the Council also just wants to make sure that things are done the right way. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

IV) New Items Proposed By Mayor and City Council

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Economic Development employee agreement to hire Jamey Crozier. The Mayor stated that Mr. Crozier had review the contract and had approved it. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

V) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to adjourn the March 17th Special Called Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor