



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**APRIL 3, 2012**

**CITY HALL**

**6:00 P.M.**

**I) CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order. Councilman Mills gave the invocation. Mayor Howard led the council and guests in the pledge of allegiance. Let the record show that Mayor Howard, Councilman Mills, Councilman Hutchins, Councilman Smith and Councilman Middleton were all present. Let the record show that also present were the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, Utility Director, Charles Jenkins, City Clerk, Melinda Crook and Fire Chief Kenneth Jones.

**II) APPROVE MINUTES**

**MARCH 6, 2012 MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Al Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Charles Middleton to approve the March 6 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES WORKSHOP MARCH 20, 2012**

A motion was made by Councilman Torre' Mills and seconded by Councilman Al Hutchins to approve the March 20th workshop minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MARCH 20, 2012**

A motion was made by Councilman Torre' Mills and seconded by Councilman Al Hutchins to approve the minutes from the Special Called Meeting March 20th. The motion carried unanimously.

**III) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS**

**BILLY RAY MURKERSON – INERT MATTER AT LANDFILL**

Mr. Murkerson came before the Council regarding a proposal to consider recycling limbs and inert materials at the landfill. He informed the Council there would be no charge to the City. He informed the Council this project, if it works, would help the City in keeping the inert materials and limbs out of the landfill. The Council questioned a waiver from Mr. Murkerson due to this being done on City property. Mr. Murkerson also informed the Council that if this project works the City could just deposit all limb and inert materials directly to his shop. He informed the Council that his main concern with landfill materials was that citizens place items that are not yard debris or limbs in with the same piles therefore making it hard to separate. The Council informed Mr. Murkerson that they would like to see a proposal.

**IV) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CHIEF JONES REQUEST TO APPLY FOR THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FOR AIR PACKS**

**AND TURN OUT GEAR** - The Fire Chief came before the Council to inform them that it was that time of year again to apply for the Firefighters Grant. He asked the Council's approval to apply for the Firefighters Grant for Air Packs and Turn Out Gear and if approved the City would have a 5% match, in the amount of \$5,000.00. He also asked the Council for approval to find a grant writer, for around \$500.00, to apply for the funds due to so many new rules and regulation. He informed the Council that with the new rules and regulations he did not feel comfortable writing the grant and felt that finding someone with more knowledge of the changes. A motion was made by

Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Torre' Mills to approve getting a Grant Writer to write the Firefighters Grant for the fee of up to but no more than \$500.00. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Torre' Mills to approve applying for the Firefighters Grant with the City match of \$5000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

**ALCOHOL LICENSE AVIS D. HOLMES** - A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Al Hutchins to approve the alcohol license for Avis D. Holmes. The motion carried unanimously

Jeff Jones, of Polyengineering, came before the Council to update them on what had been found and done at the Hwy 39 lift station. He informed the Council that he had some people out checking manholes late at night when flow should be down. He informed the Council of areas where they had found flow. He informed the Angus Drive has eye & eye flow but that he felt that 75% of the eye & eye was coming from the wet areas further up the line. He suggested two options to the council. One option being a new pump station and abandoning the lines through the wet area for an estimated cost of \$50,000 compared to repairing the line for an estimated cost of \$250,000 or more. There was discussion between the Mayor and Council. The Council agreed to let Polyengineering put together a proposal with a good cost on abandoning the lines through the wet area and adding a new lift station.

**V) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 8**

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Andy Smith to approve to Ordinance amending Article IV of chapter 8 of the Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE LOCAL VENDOR MATCH** - There was some discussion between the Council on the verbiage of the Resolution. A motion was made by Councilman Al Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Torre' Mills to table the Local Vendor Match Resolution to further look at the options given by the City Attorney. The motion carried unanimously

The City Attorney presented an Ordinance on Pool Rooms, Internet Cafés etc..., to the Council for review. This was presented because of an individual questioning opening up a business like this in the City.

**VI) CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk went over with the Council the proposed amendments to the 2011 Budget, which the Mayor had asked be done every quarter. The changes in the General Fund were to revenue due to the Public Safety reimbursement and qualifying fees, GMEBS expenditure due to an increase in the retirement fund, travel & education/training, contingencies and transfers out to the Recreation Department due to the purchase of a new truck and lawn mower, the financing going through the City. The changes to the other funds were additions to contingencies in all departments along with changes in the electric fund due to an employee leaving, water and sewer for the GEFA stimulus loan repayment, water pollution to dues/fees and to the landfill for the pay difference of an employee who retired and his replacement. A motion was made by Councilman Andy Smith and seconded by Councilman Al Hutchins to approve the amendments to the 2011 Budget. The motion carried unanimously.

The City Clerk brought to the Council a situation at the Civic Center per Mr. Mells check sheets. The Council then heard from Mr. Mells and the renter of the Center, regarding the night in question.

The Clerk then updated the Council on the situation between Tax Specialist and the previous company, Governmental Enterprises, which was hired to recover sales tax from the Department of Revenue for the Water Treatment plant upgrades. The

Council was informed that the City is looking into what actions could be taken against Governmental Enterprises to recover the \$8,800 already spent.

**VII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

The Mayor brought back to the Council the lease agreement for the CDBG Headstart building. A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Andy Smith to approve the lease agreement. The motion carried unanimously

**HAZARDOUS WASTE APPLICATION**

A motion was made by Councilman Al Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Charles Middleton to approve the Hazardous Waste Application. The motion carried unanimously

**LOANING OF TABLES AND CHAIRS FROM CIVIC CENTER**

The City Clerk asked the Council to clarify the loaning out of the table and chairs from the Civic Center for functions other than City functions. There was discussion between the Council regarding the fact that it had been reiterated to the employees that there was to be no use of City property for personal use. The Council agreed that the tables and chairs at the Civic Center could only be loaned out for community events not to private citizens and only if brought before the Council for approval.

**REQUEST FROM JIMMY WASDIN THAT THE CITY CLEAN A DITCH** - The Mayor explained that there was an issue with a septic tank partially uncovered and overflowing on one of Mr. Wasdin's properties and that he [Mr. Wasdin] believed that part of the problem was that the ditch needed to be cleaned out and had asked that the City clean the ditch. It was then brought to the Council's attention that easements and property surveys would have to gotten from all individuals who had property along the ditch. The City Attorney advised the Council to Cite Mr. Wasdin under the nuisance Ordinance. The Council agreed and decided not to consider cleaning the ditch.

**REMOVAL OF TREES IN CEMETERY PLOT** - The City Attorney advised the Council that he believed the cemetery plots to be private property. The Mayor also explained that other plots would have to be crossed in order to remove the trees in question. The Council then discussed the City cutting grass on the cemetery plots. The City Attorney stated that he believed that that could be done by the City. The Council then suggested pulling some deeds to see if there was verbiage which stated that the City was to maintain the mowing of cemetery plots. At the present time the council decided not to cut down the trees in question.

**DECISION TO START THE PROCESS TO CHANGE NEON SIGN ORDINANCE** - The Council discussed a few items in the present Ordinance. The Council then suggested meeting with the Chamber and Better Hometown and also checking with RDC regarding neon signs because of the historic aspect of the square.

**DECISION TO START THE PROCESS TO CHANGE LIVESTOCK ORDINANCE** - The City Attorney presented the Council, for their review, a revised Ordinance regarding cattle within City limits.

**DECISION REGARDING DRIVEWAY PIPES** - There was discussion between the Council on how driveway pipes are handled presently at the City. The Council was informed that at the present time the customer pays for the first pipe and the City installs the pipe but if the pipe was to need replacing the City covers the cost. The Council agreed that the customer should be paying for the pipe, be it a new driveway or a replacement pipe in an existing driveway, and the only part the City will do will be to continue to install the pipe.

**POLICY FOR ELECTRONIC MARQUEE** - A motion was made by Councilman Torre' Mills and seconded by Councilman Charles Middleton to follow the policy previously given to them for review. The motion carried unanimously

**REQUEST FROM SOUTHSIDE CHURCH TO REMOVE OAK TREE ON RIGHT OF WAY** - The Council discussed the location of the tree being on state right of way and if it would affect City electric lines. The Council was then shown pictures of the tree so that they were aware that the tree was still vibrant. The Council agreed that the City would not remove the tree.

The Mayor informed the Council that he had attended a meeting in regards to Lost negotiation. He also informed the Council that the City has been getting 40% since 1980 but that he would like to go after 46% based on population. He then explained to the Council what would happen if the City opted not to take action in the negotiations.

Councilman Mills brought to the Council at drainage problem at Ms. Whindleton's home, at the corner of Jesse Johnson and South Blvd. The Mayor informed the Council that the City was looking into the problem and checking to see if driveway pipes were clogged. He also informed the Council that the City was going to get someone out to see what else might be done to help with her problem.

The Utility Director, Charles Jenkins brought to the Council whether to charge ECSS pole attachment fees for a project they are doing. He informed the Council that they want to put line on 113 of the City's poles. He then informed the Council that Windstream is charged 29.00 per pole and Blakely Cable is charged 12.00 per pole. There was discussion between the Council whether to charge the school at all or whether to charge them the rate of 12.00 per pole. No decision was made at this time

**VIII) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Discuss personnel issues, including but not limited to disciplinary action. In accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6)

A motion was made by Councilman Torre' Mills and seconded by Councilman Al Hutchins to enter into the Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Torre' Mills to adjourn the Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

**IX) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**X) ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Torre' Mills to adjourn the April 3rd Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor