



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

May 24, 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 and Councilman Smith and Councilman Middleton were all present. Let the record show that also present were the Utility Director, Charles Jenkins, the City Clerk, Melinda Crook and Fire Chief, Kenneth Jones.

II) Citizens And Delegations

Mott Livingston - Ms. Livingston addressed the Mayor, Council and public again to give information regarding the traffic and water/sewer problems that already exist on Redbud and what another 45 additional homes could do in that area regarding these problems and schooling issues for additional children from the 45 home project proposed.

The Mayor moved Public Comments up at this point and allowed other members of the public to address the Council.

III) Administrative Committee Reports

Planning Commission – Zone Change Request – Redbud St - Ms. Joyce Barr was given an opportunity to address the Mayor, Council and public again regarding the type of development she tries to maintain. She also took this opportunity to respond to some of the issues that Ms. Livingston addressed in her presentation.

Jeff Jones, of Polyengineering, addressed the Mayor, Council and public to inform them of what he had found when he looked into the water/sewer issues in the area of the proposed rezoning. Jeff gave a presentation stating that the water flow and sewer usage would result in a small percentage increase but that the system should be able to handle the increase of 45 homes. He also stated to everyone that the storage capacity was almost at its maximum. He informed the Council that several hydrants and homes had been tested for flow output for this presentation. There was discussion between Mr. Jones and the Council regarding the PSI figures in his presentation. Ms. Barr questioned Mr. Jones if the system could handle this development to which Mr. Jones could not give a yes or no answer.

The Mayor informed the Council that he had been provided a letter from DCA which showed that Ms. Barr had been awarded 1.3 million dollars for this project. The Mayor then asked Ms. Barr several questions. He questioned if there was a specific dollar figure she was willing to put into place for improvements to the infrastructure. She responded with the fact that she could not give an actual dollar amount but that she also could not just let the City stipulate that amount either. She stated that it would depend on what may be needed. Ms. Barr also stated that she had changed the entrance point of the development to Cherry so as to limit the amount of traffic on Redbud and that the project would repave Cherry as well.

The Mayor opened the discussion up between the Council by stating that he had done some research into the project and had spoken with Ms. Barr regarding what affordability of these homes really meant. He also informed the Council that he had spoken to individuals in Bainbridge who had spoken very highly of Ms. Barr development. Councilman Mills then addressed the Council and public to address some of the items which had been brought up

by the citizens. Councilman Mills also made a statement addressing his concerns about the public's views and outlook of the development. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman to deny the rezoning of the Redbud property from Agriculture to PUD. The motion carried with Councilman Smith, Councilman Middleton and Councilman Hutchins voting Yes and Councilman Mills voting No.

Planning Commission – Manufactured Home Variance – 25 Willow Way

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the variance for 25 Willow Way. The motion carried with a vote of Yes from Councilman Mills, Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Middleton and a vote of No from Councilman Smith.

Planning Commission – Manufactured Home Variance – Ft Gaines St Lot 8 (502 Ft

Gaines) - There were some questions from the Council regarding the placement of the trailer on two different plats of property and they were informed the same owner owned both pieces of property. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the variance for Ft. Gaines Lot 8 (502 Ft. Gaines). The motion carried with a vote of Yes from Councilman Mills, Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Middleton and a vote of No from Councilman Smith.

Bids For Concrete Pad At Landfill - The Mayor informed the Council that only one bid had been received and then open the bid before the Council. The Mayor informed the Council that the bid was from Jonathon Ebersole in the amount of \$25,000 and that this cost was a split with the County. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the bid from Jonathon Ebersole for \$25,000. The motion carried unanimously

IV) City Attorney's Report

Golf cart ordinance - There was a first reading of an Ordinance designating certain public streets in the City of Blakely for the combined use of motorized carts and regular vehicular traffic

Second reading and adoption of an ordinanceCity Prosecutor

There was a second reading of an Ordinance amending article III of chapter 6 establishing the office of City Prosecutor, the duties of City Prosecutor. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the City Prosecutor Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Jones, of Polyengineering, presented the Council with his adjusted cost for the new lift station on Cedar Springs Rd. His informed the Council that the total cost with the City's assistance in the work would be \$66,000. The motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to have Polyengineering proceed with the design phase of the proposed project in the amount of \$16,500. The motion carried unanimously

V) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk informed the Council that the City was in a shortfall this month of \$100,000. The Clerk informed the Council that she had prepared a report showing a comparison of this year's revenue to last year's revenue and that in March the City's revenue was \$284,000 less than last year. The Council was informed that a little ground had been gained in April with a slight decrease in expenditure in March and April plus an increase in revenues from last year, however the decrease was still around \$226,000. The Clerk again reminded the Council that this was mainly due to the temperatures. There was discussion between the Clerk, Council and Utility Director regarding the cost of the electric sold to the City and that it had increase by two cents from this time last year. The Clerk also informed the Council that the City had received around \$50,000 in SPLOST.

VI) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Clean Up Howell Park On Liberty St At City Barn - The Council agreed that because of the bad shape of the building at Howell Park the City should tear them down so that they are not a hazard to any citizens who might be at the park. They did believe that the bathrooms

should be checked into and brought to working order if needed if this was to be used as a park area for the citizens.

The Mayor brought to the Council a tire repair. The Utility Director described to the Council how the area looked when he first check it and what the City had done to correct the problem. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve paying for the tire. The motion carried with votes of Yes from Councilman Mills and Councilman Hutchins and votes of No from Councilman Smith and Councilman Middleton and the Mayor breaking the tie with a vote of Yes.

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve purchasing an ad in the amount of \$600.00 for the new maps that the Chamber is having printed. The motion carried unanimously

Councilman Hutchins asked that the bathroom situation at Washington Park be looked into.

VII) Public Comments

Christy Haynes from the Chamber came to the Council to find out if they agreed with the 4th of July fireworks being set off on June 30th to help with the cost. She informed the Council that the cost of the fireworks was split between the City and County and that setting them off before the 4th would cut the cost by almost half. The Council agreed

Trey McClendon came before the Council to inform them of a rough area on River St. close to Lee St. He informed them that it was so rough that it could throw his car out of alignment. The Utility Director stated that he would have it looked into.

VIII) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to adjourn the May 24th Special Called Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Anthony Howard, Mayor