



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**JULY 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 Middleton and Councilman Smith were all present. Let the record show that Councilman Hutchins was not present. Also present were City Clerk Melinda Crook, Utility Director and Fire Chief Kenneth Jones.

**II) APPROVE MINUTES**

**MINUTES JUNE 5, 2012** - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the June 5<sup>th</sup> Minutes. The motion carried unanimously

**III) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS**

**MRS. MULKEY – REIMBURSE \$300.00 FOR SEWER REPAIR** - Ms. Mulkey was not present. The Mayor informed the Council of Ms. Mulkey's situation regarding sewage issues thought to be on the City side. The Mayor then asked the Utility Director for further information. The Mayor then asked Wallace George, of the Water/Sewer Department, for further information. Mr. George explained that the problem had been on Ms. Mulkey's side of the pipe and that the contractor hired by Ms. Mulkey had dug the wrong way looking for the problem. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith not to reimburse the \$300.00 charged to Ms. Mulkey by the contractor. The motion carried with Councilman Mills abstaining and the Mayor breaking the tie with a vote of "No" to reimburse.

**IV) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PLANNING COMMISSION – HOMER REDDICK – 357 DEAN AVE** - Chief Jones informed the Council that Mr Reddick had checked on requirements to bring this house into City limits, but had not gotten any permits when the house was brought in to the City. Chief also informed the Council that the house did not meet the minimum square footage, of 720, requirement for a R2 zone and that there were other code issues, which Mr. Reddick had said would be corrected. Chief then informed the Council that when brought before the Planning Commission Mr. Reddick's request to move the house in and bring to code had not passed due to a lack of second. The Mayor then asked the Chief if he looks at home being relocated into the City. The Chief informed the Mayor and Council that it depends on the location of where the house is located at the time however he had gone to Colquitt and looked at this structure. The Chief informed the Council of other items that would be needed to bring the house up to code. The Chief was questioned about the time restriction to complete work on the house, of six

month, that had been presented in the motion by the Planning Commission. The Chief explained that was due to Mr. Reddick already in the processes of working on two other homes that he owns and that work has taken a lot of time. Mr. Reddick then addressed the Council. Mr. Reddick explained why the other house had taken so long to complete upgrades. Mr. Reddick was questioned if the six months was a reasonable time frame for him to complete upgrades on the house he is trying to relocate. Mr. Reddick informed that Council that would be hard for him due to the fact that he actually does most of the work himself. A motion was made by Councilman Mills to approve Mr. Reddick's request for variance with the stipulation that the work to bring the house up to code be completed in 9 months. The motion died due to a lack of second

#### **V) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**NEON SIGN ORDINANCE** - This item was moved to the next meeting due to no further information from the Chamber to consider.

**TOWER AGREEMENT** - There was discussion between the Mayor, Council, Fire Chief, City Attorney and Jeff Daniels regarding the equipment that was going to be placed on the tower and why the request for this agreement was being made. The Mayor stated, and the Chief agreed, that the school system would be charged \$150.00 per month to help toward any maintenance that would be needed on the tower. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the tower agreement with Early County Board of Education. The motion carried unanimously

**E911 AGREEMENT** - The City Attorney presented the E911 intergovernmental agreement to the Council. He briefly explained the changes that had been made due to Calhoun County's portion of payment in the agreement. There was some discussion between the Mayor, Council and Attorney. The City Attorney, at this time brought to the Mayor and Council's attention the fact that he feels that there should be a better tax equalization between the City and County, due to the City being on the short end. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the E911 Intergovernmental Agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**

There was a first reading of an Ordinance amending the Animal Control Ordinance. The City Attorney explained that the only change was in the number of days that the City keeps an animal before euthanizing.

#### **VI) CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

The Council was given their financial reports. The Clerk informed the Council that the City finished the month with 42,606.25 in the bank. The Clerk updated the Council on the SPLOST funds and the City's cash on hand balance, which was 970,432.06. The Clerk informed the Council that she was still in the process of getting together the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget adjustments and would forward those to the Council when completed.

**PURCHASE OF CAMERA SYSTEM** - The Clerk informed the Council that the Mayor had asked her to get quotes on adding more cameras in City Hall and upgrading the system at the City Barn, due to theft issues. The Clerk informed the Council that she had initially gotten with the company the city already dealt with to get specs to go by for other companies to quote. The Clerk informed the Council that she

had worked with several other companies and then explained the quotes that she had received. There was discussion between the Mayor, Council and Clerk regarding these quotes and questions regarding the exactness of equipment on each quote. The Mayor explained to the Council what had been done and the spent time to get all the quotes as close to each other, on equipment, as possible. The City Attorney was questioned about the City's purchasing policy and if the City chose Wiregrass would they be in violation. The City Attorney informed them that they would not be in violation. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the quote from Wiregrass Security in the amount of \$7,260.00 for the City Barn and \$2,870.00 for City Hall. Let the record show that the motion carried with Councilman Mills voting "No" and the Mayor breaking the tie with a vote of "Yes" to approve the Wiregrass quotes.

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

**DISCUSS CAPPING SEWAGE FEES FOR HOUSEHOLDS** - There was some discussion between the Mayor and Council in regards to the capping of sewage fees for residential customers but there were no decisions made at this time.

**LOST NEGOTIATIONS WITH COUNTY** - The Mayor informed the Council that there was another meeting with the County on LOST negotiation on July 12th at 5:30 and that the County was proposing 43%. The Mayor stated that he felt that the City should not go below its population portion. There was some more discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding starting at 50%. The City Attorney informed the Council of several things that facture into how shares should be subdivided and that he would forward that information to the Clerk to them forward to the Council.

**TRAVEL POLICY-** There was discussion on per diem rates. Councilman Middleton stated that he did not see a problem with the current policy. There was a suggestion of increasing the per diem rates by 50%. Councilman Mills asked to receive a copy of the current travel policy.

The Mayor informed the Council that no bids had been received on the CDBG work that had been advertising in the paper. He then informed the Council that Wanda had spoke to him regarding a new CDBG for 2013. The question was asked if the City could get a map to show where previous work was done. The new application has to be in an area where no other work has been done for the past 20 years.

#### **VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Utility Director, Charles Jenkins, came before the Council to update them on the completion of the concrete slab at the landfill. He also brought to the Council some quotes on metal sales, which have gone down recently. The Council decided that because the City was not pressed to have to sell the metal at this time to wait and see if prices would increase. There was some discussion between the Mayor and Council about the inert space which is about to be a maximum capacity and what we might have to do next. Mr. Jenkins then spoke to the Council regarding some City employees. Due to the nature of conversation the Council decided to enter into Executive Session

**IX) ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to adjourn the July 3<sup>rd</sup> City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor