



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MINUTES**

JULY 25, 2012

CITY HALL

4:00 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 Middleton and Councilman Smith were present. Also present were City Clerk Melinda Crook, Utility Director, Charles Jenkins, Gas Department Head, Danny Williams and City Employee, Charla Driver.

II) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

CHARLA DRIVER

Ms. Driver informed the Council that she was fine with the decrease in hours and benefits. Ms. Driver addressed the Council regarding issues that she had with things that had been said about her from a Council member and that lies have been told on her. She requested that Councilman Middleton explain why he made these comments about her and that Mr. Jenkins has been after her for the past 8 years. She explained that she has Dr. excuses for every time she has been out sick. She wants an explanation on why the City hates her and is out to get her. She informed the Council that she has been reprimanded several times and has refused to sign these reprimands because she does not feel they are warranted. She was questioned if she has time on the books to use on the times she is not at work. She feels that everything that is said about her and done to her is due to other employee's dislike of her. She commented about how she has given some of her sick time to other employees and that she has received sick time from other employee's. The Mayor asked Ms. Driver what she specifically wants the Council to do for her. She stated that she wants to conclude why she is being discriminated against. Councilman Middleton then addressed her comments. Councilman Middleton then made a motion to terminate Ms. Driver. The motion died due to a lack of second. The Mayor then suggested that the Council go into Executive Session so as to not make a rash decision. Councilman Middleton then withdrew his motion. Councilman Mills then questioned Ms. Driver if she was satisfied with the results of her meetings with Danny Williams and Charles Jenkins because of the exactness of what needs to be addressed in the Executive Session. She stated that she was satisfied with those results but what she wants the Council to consider is putting her back into a 40hr a week position no matter where that position is within the City.

III) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

DISCUSSION ON LOST NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COUNTY - The Clerk explained to the Council that the Mayor had asked her to contact a consultant who was assisting the City of Albany in their LOST negotiations. The Clerk informed the Council that she had gotten up with Mr. Michael Brown and had requested a proposal for cost to the City on a report of where the City would stand in the negotiations. The Clerk informed the Council that if hired he could have the information back to the City within a 2 to 3 week period with a rough report in about 1 week. There was then discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding who they wished to proceed in these negotiations. The Mayor suggested that the City go to the County and propose 50% and if not accepted then hire Mr. Brown to see where the City stands in the negotiations. The Council agreed

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS - The Clerk brought the adjustments and amendments to the Council. The Clerk informed the Council that there were some items on the Revenue side that at this point that were over budget and these totaled to \$18,814.00. Councilman Mills questioned these items and the Clerk informed him that these increases were just due to receiving more on some line items than budgeted. The Clerk then informed the Council that the other items were just adjustments within departments, which were just moving from one line item to another. The Clerk explained that the landfill needed a larger increase in contract labor due to TTL invoices. Also because of the shift of some employee's to other departments we had brought on some temporary employees and that had not been budgeted. Because of these two items the amendments that were made to revenues she had split up to 13,814 contract labor in landfill and 5,000 temp employees in sanitation so that the budget remains in balance. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the budget amendments and adjustments for the 2nd quarter. The motion carried unanimously.

The Clerk brought to the Council figures to set the 2012 Millage rate. She informed the Council that she had received the Digest that morning and was asked to proceed with this as soon as possible due to the time schedule the County Tax Commissioner had to follow. The Clerk informed the Council that in speaking to the Mayor it was expressed that he would prefer not to increase the millage rate if at all possible. The Clerk then informed the Council that she had prepared three report of the Five Year Tax Levy for them to consider due to the City showing a loss in revenue if staying at 3.25. The three reports showed at 3.25 a loss of (5,769.00), at 3.30 a loss of (859.00) and 3.35, an increase of 4,052.00. There was a brief discussion between the Council with this item to be taken up at the next regular meeting.

The Mayor asked the Utility Director to address the Council regarding contracts from DOT in regards to highway maintenance. The Utility Director then explained that he had read over the contracts and that he found them to be the same as previously done but that the mileage had increase slightly from 24.1 to 24.25. The Mayor then explained to the Council that these contracts are what keeps the City receiving 91,000 per year from the State for highway maintenance. The Council questioned whether the City Attorney had reviewed these contacts. The Clerk informed the Council that he had not due to the fact that she had just received them that morning. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the DOT Maintenance Contracts pending the City Attorney's approval. The motion carried unanimously

IV) PUBLIC COMMENTS

V) EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken after the Executive session

VI) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the July 25th Special Called Meeting. The motion carried unanimously

Anthony Howard, Mayor