



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 26, 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, Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Smith were all present. Also present were the City Clerk, Melinda Crook and the Utility Director, Charles Jenkins.

**II) LISA COLLINS AND MATTHEW INMAN FROM EMC**

Lisa and Mr. Inman gave the Mayor and Council an update on the Gateway Project. Lisa informed the Council that two GDOT TE grants had been awarded, one for \$500,000 and one for \$300,000. Mr. Inman went through the different phases of the project and provided information showing the Mayor and Council the design plans. They then informed the Council that there was a shortage of the monies in the amount of \$30,000 and asked the Council if they could front the shortage. Lisa informed the Council that that was fully completed GDOT would start the reimbursement process and that the \$30,000 would be refunded to the City. There was discussion between the Mayor and Council. The Mayor and Council then decided to incorporate the \$30,000 request into the SPLOST budget with the final budget approval and approval of the Blakely Gateway Phase 2 contract, to take place at the next regular scheduled meeting.

**III) CHARLES JENKINS – NEW GAS CUSTOMER**

Mr. Jenkins informed the Council that the City had an existing customer who was seriously considering becoming a major gas customer. Mr. Jenkins informed the Council that to get them as a gas customer there would be a cost of \$65,000. He informed the Council that this customer would be purchasing 50 million cubic feet of gas in the next two years, which would double the gas department budget (revenue and expenditures.) He then informed the Council that this customer had done this in another City and had paid the expense with no assistance from the City, but that he would like the Council to consider some assistance from the City of Blakely. He informed the Council that he was thinking of about \$10,000 to install the 4" high pressure line meter station. He then informed the Council that this customer would be using this gas when most of the City's other gas customers are not using gas. There was some discussion between the Mayor, Council and Mr. Jenkins. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the City assistance in the amount of \$10,000 to install the metering station. The motion carried unanimously.

**IV) INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH COUNTY ON EXCISE TAX**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the County on Excise Tax. The motion carried unanimously.

**V) PUBLIC HEARING – BUDGET**

The Mayor called the Public Hearing on the Budget to order.

The Mayor and Council answered a couple of questions from the public. There was then discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding pay increase for the employees. Councilman Mills brought to the Council to consider giving a yearly bonus of \$1,500 to each employee. He informed the Council that employees had come to him stating that if given a percentage increase they really did not see it because taxes. He stated that the highest paid employee would see the increase to a larger degree than lesser paid employee because of the difference in wages. The Council then discussed if all employees would receive the same bonus or if salaried employees would be considered with a different bonus amount. The Council agreed in principal but would make a final decision at the next regular meeting when the budget was due to be adopted. The Clerk then informed the Council that she had checked into the discretionary revenue to be placed in the Trust account, as to whether it should be shown in the budget, and that she had found out from the auditors that it had to be shown because it was revenue that could be used at the City's discretion.

The Public Hearing on the budget was called closed at 7:10 pm.

The Mayor discussed with the Council the rate structure that had been presented by Mr. Giles from ECG. The Mayor informed the Council that he felt that there were some areas that needed to be changed, on the study. He stated that he felt that the commercial non-demand, Mom & Pop, business did not need to be affected by a 10% increase and that this should be spaced out more to the commercial demand, industrial and there should not be a decrease in the seasonal rate. He then asked that some different changes be looked at and to let this be reconsidered at the next regular meeting.

The Mayor asked that the Public Safety Agreement be put on the agenda for the next regular meeting and that the Clerk call USDA regarding the USDA loan for police cars.

**VI) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**VII) ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the November 26<sup>th</sup> Special Called Meeting and Public Hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor