



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

DECEMBER 4, 2012

CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

I) PUBLIC HEARING

TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE TEXT IN THE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR OFF STREET PARKING TO ALLOW ALTERNATIVES TO CONCRETE OR ASPHALT FOR PARKING AREA SURFACES

The Mayor called the Public Hearing to order. The City Attorney then explained the changes in the Ordinance. He then explained that changing the Ordinance would affect everyone not just the funeral home in question. Mr. Sol, a member of the Planning Commission, informed the Council that when brought before the Planning for consideration, the motion died due to a lack of second. He stated that he felt it could be a cheaper process for startup of a new business.

TO CONSIDER THE ABOLISHING OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The City Attorney informed the Council and public that as of this time the City did not have a zoning board of appeals in place. A member of the public questioned who the appeals board would be, if this Ordinance passed and he was informed by the attorney that it would be the City Council as it is now. There was some discussion about the initial thought behind the zoning board of appeals.

There was not further discussion from the Council or the public. The Mayor called the Public Hearing to a close at 6:11p.m.

II) CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order. Ms. Williams 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 Attorney Tommy Coleman, City Clerk, Melinda Crook, Utility Director, Charles Jenkins and Fire Chief, Kenneth Jones.

III) APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the November 6, November 15 and November 26 minutes. The motion carried unanimously

IV) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

MISHELL PATCIT – REQUEST TO TAP TRAILER INTO THEIR WATER AND SEWER LINES

Ms. Patcit spoke to the Council regarding moving her trailer behind her parent's home. The City Attorney felt that there was an issue regarding two home structures on the one piece of property. The Mayor then reminded the attorney and Council of this being a hardship case. The Mayor then stated the City Ordinance regarding water meters and the fact that there can only be one tap per household. There was then discussion between Ms. Patcit, Mayor and Council and the City Attorney regarding what would take place once the hardship ends. She stated that, per the Ordinance, she would only have 60 days to remove the trailer and would possibly not have the funds to do so thus she requested the Council extend the time period. The Council asked Ms. Patcit how long she felt would be sufficient and she informed them up to five years. There was some discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding a time frame. The City Attorney suggested a shorter period of time and stated that he would like to look into the hardship portion of the Ordinance a little further.

V) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

RENEWAL OF ALCOHOL LICENSES

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the 2013 renewal of alcohol licenses with the City Clerk and Chief Jones to double check list for correct licenses. The motion carried unanimously

CHIEF JONES – BIDS FOR GENERATOR No bids had been received so this will be taken back up at a later time.

CHIEF JONES – BIDS FOR FIRE FIGHTER CLOTHING

Two bids were received and opened by the Council before the public. One bid was from GA Fire and Rescue in the amount of \$25,825.68. The other bid was from Nafeco in the amount of \$22,677.36. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to accept the bid from Nafeco in the amount of \$22,677.36. The motion carried unanimously

VI) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO ABOLISH THE ZONING BOARD

The City attorney read the Ordinance heading therefore constituting a first reading of an Ordinance to abolish the zoning board.

The City Attorney spoke to the Council regarding filing a lawsuit for LOST or filing jointly with the County. He informed the Council that if filed by the 21st of December the current LOST monies received would continue until the matter was settled. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve giving the City Attorney authorization to file either separately or jointly by the 21st. The motion carried unanimously

VII) CITY CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk informed the Council that the City finished the month with \$82,238.00 in the bank. She also informed the Council that \$43,000 had been put into the savings accounts, which was the tax monies received that month. She informed the Council that the total of cash on hand was \$1,074,155.00 as of this time. She then stated that all financial reports had been previously forward to the Council.

VIII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The Utility Director, Charles Jenkins, came before the Council to inform them of a new account being established by MEAG. He stated that this account call New Generation and Capacity Funding account. He stated that this account would draw a higher interest rate and that the monies put into this account would be more accessible than the monies previously put into the other New Generation account. There was some discussion and questions from the Council regarding the previous generation account and it was explained that those monies are specifically designated. The Mayor explained that if these monies are moved into the new account it will draw from 3 to 5% interest with the only stipulation being that the monies be left for at least five years. There was then more discussion between the Mayor, Utility Director and Council. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the moving the monies into the new account. The motion carried unanimously

The Utility Director then presented to the Council the adjustment to the new rates and rate structure with the changes that the Mayor has asked for, which would bring the Commercial Non-Demand down to less than a 10% increase. It was reaffirmed that these new rates and new structure, adding the ECCR (Environmental Compliance Cost Recovery) line item, would bring the current PCA of .0125 down to a zero PCA for the time being. It was also restated, by the Utility Director that the largest percentage increase was to security lights. There was discussion between the Utility Director and Council. The Mayor then stated that the ECCR would not be an additional revenue source just a break out of a cost that had previous been in the electric and PCA charges. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the new rates and structure to become effective with the January 2013 billing. The motion carried unanimously

The Utility Director then informed the Council that the new gas customer, discussed in a previous meeting, had contacted the City back with a go ahead on the project. He informed the Council that the whole project should be completed by March 1st which is when the customer would be starting processing again.

PUBLIC SAFETY AGREEMENT

The Mayor informed the Council that the new Sherriff has stated that he would like to keep the Public Safety agreement in place with the 60 County/40 City split. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the renewal of the Public Safety agreement for four years. The motion carried unanimously

GATEWAY PROJECT ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT

The City Attorney informed the Council that he felt the contract was flimsy and he would like to make an addendum to the contract to better protect the City. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Mills to table the addendum until the next meeting so that it could be review by the Council. The motion carried unanimously

There was a first reading of the Parking Lot Zoning Ordinance.

The Mayor brought to the Council the renewals of the Chamber of Commerce agreement and the EC2055 agreement with a change of the year dates. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith the approval of both agreements with the date change and no amount

change. There was some discussion about the reorganization of the Chamber and EC2055 and the City budgeted amounts. The motion carried unanimously

Torre asked that some round tables and some new rectangular tables be put at the Civic Center. He discussed revenue to expenditures of the Civic Center.

The Council went back over the final figures in the 2013 budget excluding the MEAG discretionary revenues. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the 2013 budget. The motion carried unanimously

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE TO ADOPT 2013 BUDGET

A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the Ordinance to adopt the 2013 budget. The motion carried unanimously

The Mayor discussed with the Council the RFP structure for limb pick up. Councilman Mills questioned the RFP process and asked for a copy of the contract from the City of Manchester.

The Mayor informed the Council that Decatur County had contacted him regarding submitting a proposal to the City to take the City's solid waste where the City now transports to Waste Management in Florida.

IX) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Kaye Slay came before the Council to voice a complaint regarding the noise from the Early County Community Development Center when it is rented out for a function. She stated that she is not trying to be a bad neighbor but would like to be able to sleep in peace. Ms. Wright came back before the Council to rebut Ms. Slay's statement. She stated that she had driven by and could not hear any noise.

Ms. Anna Williams came before the Council to request an extension of the hours, at the Civic Center, for a function that she was having on the 22nd. The Mayor and Council did not make a decision at this time but informed her that if they held another meeting before that date she could be placed on the agenda and they would consider it at that time.

X) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the December 4th City Council meeting.

Anthony Howard, Mayor