



**BLAKELY CITY WORK SHOP**

**MARCH 20, 2012**

**CITY HALL**

**6:00 P.M.**

**I) CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order.

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

**II) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- **Travel policy** – There was discussion between the Mayor and Council and the public regarding items to incorporate into a more detailed travel policy. Some of the items discussed were: per diem (by meal or by day), mileage, whether spouses should be included with payment from the City, extracurricular activities whether there should be separate policies for employees and Council. The Mayor stated that he had started a draft and would forward to the Council for their review and input.
- **Neon sign ordinance**-There was discussion between the Mayor, Council, The Building Inspector and the public regarding amending the Ordinance to make signage more defined, such as: size of the sign and the number of signs, etc... The Council also suggested talking to the Regional Commission regarding signage due to historical district regulations
- **Livestock ordinance**-There was discussion between the Mayor, Council, the Building Inspector and the public regarding amendments to the livestock ordinance. The was discussion regarding an item going through legislation on chickens so the determination was made to wait on this item until the legislation was passed or not passed.
- **Local vendor preference**-The Mayor and Council was in agreement to omit the line in the Resolution that states letting a local vendor match an out of town vendors bid price. The Council was in agreement to change the Resolution at the next regular Council meeting.
- **Dangerous/potentially dangerous dogs**-The Mayor informed the Council of a dog which has been found to be dangerous to other animals. He informed the Council of several situations which had taken place with this dog. He informed the Council that the owner had been given notice that he could have a hearing and that we were waiting to see if a request for hearing might be made.
- **Fire agreement**-The Mayor discussed with the Council that the Chief, himself and Ray Jarrett had gone over the fire agreement piece by piece and that they had found a few issues but that everyone was in agreement.
- **Driveway pipes**-There was discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding setting policy to charge for sewer pipe in driveways. The Mayor informed the Council that he had been told that customers would pay for the original pipe and the City would replace the pipes if needed after that. The Council agreed and will put into policy that customer should pay for the supplies and the City will install.
- **Fuel savings**-There was discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding how to possibly cut down on the City fuel cost. A suggestion was to not let the Department Heads drive their City trucks home. There was then discussion about when the Department Heads might have to respond after hours. Councilman Middleton stated that he found that it might save \$20 per week and that he felt it wouldn't save that much money. There were different situations brought up regarding Department Head usage of

their City trucks. Councilman Middleton also reminded the Council that if they are called out after hours mileage would be reimbursed. There was then more discussion.

- **Policies and procedures for the sign out front**-The Council agreed that there should only be certain items placed on the sign in front of City Hall. They listed organizations such as: The school, Civic functions, New Chamber members (either the ribbon cutting or when they are inducted into the Chamber not both).

Jeff Jones came before the Council to address the problem that continues at the route 39 lift station. Mr. Jones explained to the Council how the lines flow to this lift station. He explained that this lift station is overwhelmed and cannot keep up with the flow at this time. He then gave ways to be able to identify where the problem may be coming from. He informed the Council that Polyengineering would run a test of these lines by getting the water at the station down and then measure flows going into the manholes one by one. He informed the Council that the best time to do this would be when water flow would be at its lowest which is after midnight until early morning hours. He was question on how long this testing would take and the cost to the City for this testing. He informed the Council that it should take at least one night possible two to three. He then informed the Council that the cost would be around \$2,000 to \$5,000. The Council was in agreement to have Polyengineering conduct this test for range of \$2,000.

### **III) ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Torre' Mills and seconded by Councilman Al Hutchins to adjourn the City Council Workshop. The motion carried unanimously

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Anthony Howard, Mayor