



BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
CITY HALL

FEBRUARY 6, 2018

6:00 P.M.

I) Public Hearing – Zone Change - Bridget Worlds – 350 MLK

Mayor Howard called the public hearing to order. No one had comment and the hearing was closed.

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

Mayor, Anthony Howard, called the meeting to order. Let the record show that the Mayor Howard, Councilman Frank Thornton, Councilman James Crozier, and Councilman Al Hutchins were present. Also present were City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and Trudie Evans. Darrell Alexander gave the invocation. Mayor Howard led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III) APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Thornton to approve the January 2nd and January 9th minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

IV) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

Mrs. Claire Houston addressed the council regarding the condition of South Church Street, specifically that the road is hazardous because it is narrow and dark. She requested that if the road could not be widened that the City at least re-paint the stripes. Mayor Howard commented that we plan to resurface part of S Church and re-paint the stripes with coming LMIG funds.

V) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Commission – Conditional Use – 399 N Main St

Ms. Dawana Fields addressed the council regarding this request. She wants to open a group home for girls at this location. A motion to approve the conditional use request for 399 N Main was made by Councilman Crozier. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hutchins. The motion carried unanimously.

Planning Commission – Zone Change – 350 MLK

A motion to approve the zone change request for 350 MLK was made by Councilman Hutchins. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion carried unanimously.

VI) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Resolution Calling For Sunday Sales Referendum

Mr. Coleman explained that approving this resolution would allow a referendum to be placed on the May 22nd ballot. A motion to approve the resolution calling for a Sunday sales referendum was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Hutchins. The motion carried unanimously.

Travel Policy

A motion to approve the travel policy with amendment to be made to section F stating that proof the class was actually taken be provided for reimbursement was made by Councilman Crozier and seconded by Councilman Thornton. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution To Oppose De-Annexation

Mr. Coleman explained to the council that the General Assembly had proposed de-annexing part of the City of Stockbridge to create a new city. GMA had requested that other cities pass this resolution to show their support for the City of Stockbridge. A motion to approve the resolution to oppose de-annexation of the City of Stockbridge was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution Approving a TSPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement

A motion to approve the TSPLOST resolution was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Crozier. The motion carried unanimously.

VII) CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Melinda Crook was absent. Prepared financial reports were given to the council along with some project updates. If there are any questions they can contact Mrs. Crook later in the week.

VIII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Howard read through the project updates report, touching on the progress of the vacant lot in N Main, Clardy Road, and the retention pond on E Butler. Matt Hammond gave a quick update on FTTH and SGRITA.

Councilman Hutchins asked Lane Davis for an update on the park. Lane stated that he was currently working on the bathrooms at the park.

Resolution providing for Bank Of Early Signature Authorization For Fire Department Loan. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Crozier.

Request To Put Out RFP For Audit Firms - a motion to request RFP's for an audit firm was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Crozier. The motion carried unanimously.

Garbage Truck Bids – A motion to approve the bid from NJPA in the amount of \$148,959.69 plus the amount of \$5,500.00 for the optional auto-lube system was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Crozier. The motion carried unanimously.

IX) PUBLIC COMMENTS

A number of citizens were present with concerns over high utility bills. Mayor Howard stated that a public meeting was not the place to go through individual utility bills and requested that those with concerns regarding their bills place their contact information on a list and someone from City Hall would contact them and set up a meeting to discuss their bills.

Travis Wimbush thanked the Council for the City's assistance with the MLK program. He then asked the Council to consider making the current temp workers on the garbage trucks full time. Travis also questioned the TAVT tax monies and how that money was spent.

Nancy Wright addressed the council concerning the number of days on her bill cycle.

A citizen stated that she would like to have the rates printed on the utility bills and also questioned the number of days on the bill cycle.

Margaret Daniels asked the council to consider waiving the 10% late fee this month. Mayor Howard said that the council would discuss it, but no action was taken.

Brother Jason also asked the council to consider waiving the 10% this month.

Hannah Robinson addressed the council regarding high light bills.

A citizen requested to be allowed to keep 4 chickens in her back yard. Mayor Howard informed her that the current ordinance does not allow for fowl to be kept in the city limits.

Another citizen requested that the city go back to a twice a week garbage pickup. Mayor Howard explained that the current budget was set, and that the time to discuss that would be at the next budget hearings.

X) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Thornton and seconded by Councilman Crozier. The motion carried unanimously.

Anthony Howard, Mayor