



Blakely City Council Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2010

City Hall

6:00 P.M.

I) Call to Order, Invocation, Roll Call

Mayor Ric Hall called the meeting to order. Councilman Torre' Mills gave the invocation. Mayor Ric Hall, Councilman Torre' Mills, Councilman Al Hutchins, Councilman Andy Smith and Councilman Charles Middleton were all present. Also present were City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, City Clerk, Melinda Crook, and Utility Director, Charles Jenkins.

II) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Andy Smith to approve both the August 2nd and the August 10th Minutes. The motion carried.

III) Citizens and Delegations

Will Harris – Use Of Freezer Locker Building

Mr. Harris came before the Council to ask for use of the old Blakely Freezer Locker building to incubate and process chickens for three years. He informed the Council how the processing would take place and that nothing besides vacuum packed chickens would stay inside the City limits. He informed the Council that about 500 chickens would be processed per day. The Council questioned the zoning of the building and the Fire Chief informed them that it is zoned Commercial. Mr. Harris was asked by the Council about transportation for all materials related to the processing. He informed the Council that all waste would be transported out of the building daily and in sealed containers. The City Attorney informed the Council that to do this there would have to be a Special Consideration made. Mr. Harris also brought to the Council, for added information, the jobs and payroll that would be created if allowed to proceed. The City Attorney informed the Council that two public hearings would have to be held if they decided to proceed with the Special Consideration. A motion was made by Councilman Andy Smith and seconded by Councilman Charles Middleton to establish the hearings for conditional use. Let the record show that Council Mills and Hutchins voted No. The Mayor voted Yes to break the tie. The motion carried.

Benjamin Cawthorn – Water Bill for Minnie Tinson

Mr. Cawthorn came before the Council to question the water and sewer rate structure. He then question high water usage for customer Minnie Tinson. The Mayor explained the rate structure to Mr. Cawthorn and also informed him that the City had looked into Ms. Tinson's high water usage and found that there was a problem with a commode inside the house and that she had been made aware of the situation as of that morning.

Geer & Associates – Audit Report

Michael Edge from Geer and Associates was present to give the Audit report. He discussed with the Council the comparison of the General Fund and the Business Funds from 2008 to 2009. Mr. Edge then answered some questions from the Council and informed them that if there were any other questions please do not hesitate to get them together and send them and he would respond.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Recreation Dept – Pool at Washington Park

The Mayor updated the Council on the condition of the pool according to the information provided by the Rec Dept. He informed them that the pool had not been opened this year due to items not in code and could not be opened until these items are taken care of.

There was some discussion between the Council and Mayor regarding some of the items on the inspection sheet. The Mayor and Council decided to wait and hear from someone at the Rec Dept before making any decision on how to proceed.

V) City Attorney's Report

First Reading of Ordinance Amending Mobile Home Ordinance

There was a first reading of an Ordinance amending the Municipal Code of the City of Blakely by eliminating the requirement that manufactured homes or travel trailers located or relocated in the City of Blakely be manufactured within the preceding fifteen years.

First Reading of Ordinance to Subscribe To a Plan of Employee Benefits Offered Through GMEBS

There was a first reading of an Ordinance to Subscribe to a Plan of Employee Benefits Offered through GMEBS.

Resolution RE Duties of Mayor & Council

There was an extensive discussion between the Mayor, Council and the City Attorney regarding the wording in the Resolution. Councilman Mills asked that the Resolution be tabled until after the Executive Session and the Council agreed.

Resolution GMA Supplemental Lease

The Mayor informed the Council that this Resolution was to finance to new backhoes through our GMA Master Lease, which would save the City Attorney from having to rework the Yancey contract. He also informed the Council that we received a lower interest rate with GMA. A motion was made by Councilman Andy Smith and seconded by Councilman Charles Middleton to approve the Resolution for the GMA Supplemental Lease. The motion carried.

VI) City Clerk's Report

The Council & Mayor were given their financial reports. The Clerk then asked the Council the call a Special Meeting Thursday the 16th to have the second reading of the Ordinance for the GMEBS Employee Benefits due to this was for the employees health insurance. The Council agreed

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor and City Council

Radio Tower The Mayor brought to the Council the quote from Albany Communication in the amount of \$54,317.00 for a new 300' tower at the Ponds on 27 and provided a letter from the FAA which stated there were no hazards to air navigation. The Council was informed that the City had received 30,000 from the insurance company for the claim and would look at their all options, which would include SPLOST, for the balance.

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Andy Smith to approve the \$54,317.00 quote from Albany Communications for a new 300' tower. The motion carried

Georgia Sales Tax Recovery The Mayor brought to the Council a letter of engagement from Governmental Enterprises. He informed the Council that this company had been recommended by Mr. Simonton to review our invoices for the Water Treatment Plant upgrade to see if the City had been charged sales tax incorrectly and to recover any such sales tax for the City. There was some discussion between the Mayor and Council. A motion was made by Councilman Andy Smith and seconded by Councilman Charles Middleton to approve having Governmental Enterprises check into sales tax recovery for the Water Treatment Plant bond project. The motion carried.

Millage Rate A motion was made by Councilman Andy Smith and seconded by Councilman Charles Middleton to approve the millage rate staying the same as last year at 3.25 mills. The motion carried.

VIII) Public Comments

There were customers present with concerns regarding their utility bills.

IX) Executive Session – Personnel

A motion was made by Councilman Al Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Torre' Mills to enter the Executive Session.

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Torre' Mills to adjourn the Executive Session.

X) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Torre' Mills to adjourn the September 7th City Council Meeting. The motion carried.

Ric Hall, Mayor