



**Blakely City Council
Special Called Meeting Minutes**

January 30, 2015

City Hall

6:00 P.M.

I) Call to Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor, Anthony Howard, called the meeting to order. Let the record show that the Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Al Hutchins, Councilman Charles Middleton, Councilman Smith and Councilman Mills were all present. Pastor Edwards gave the invocation. Mayor Howard lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also let the record show that the City Clerk, Melinda Crook was also present.

II) Citizens and Delegations

Danny Williams – Bids for Backhoes

Danny came before the Council and presented the quote on the purchase of the two backhoes. He stated that the purchase price was \$95,488 each and that the buy back of the current backhoe is \$49,400 which would bring the overall total to \$141,576. The Mayor stated that the street, electric and sanitation department would like to keep the better of the two backhoes we presently have. Danny stated that the new backhoes would be on the 5yr buyback program as well. There were questions on the financing. The City Clerk informed the Council that due to the bond payoff the City would be purchasing the backhoes directly out of the savings accounts instead of SPLOST. Danny informed the Council that there were some items that we would have to replace before trade in. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the purchase of the new backhoes with one trade in totaling \$141,576.00. The motion carried unanimously

III) Administrative Committee Reports

IV) City Attorney's Report

Second Reading and Adoption of Animal Control Ordinance

The Mayor briefly went back over the change which is to bring us into compliance with the classification of dangerous and vicious dogs. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adopt the Animal Control Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously

Second Reading and Adoption of Insurance Ordinance

The Clerk reminded the Council that this Ordinance was presented by GMA due to GMA being the City's health insurance carrier. She reminded the Council that the City Attorney had stated in the January 6th meeting that this was a standard policy with GMA for retaining them insurance as insurance agent. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adopt the insurance Ordinance as presented. The motion carried unanimously

Second Reading and Adoption of Meter Tampering Ordinance

The Clerk briefly explained that this Ordinance was to put into place a \$250 fee for reconnection upon conviction. There was discussion between the Council, Clerk and Mayor regarding the difficulties of conviction for metering tampering. The Clerk stated that it is hard to prove, however this is a just in case we can get conviction because at the present time there is no fine or fee incorporated into any Ordinance. Councilman Middleton stated some ways that the court operates if convicted. There was a little more discussion. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adopt the meter tampering ordinance. The motion carried unanimously

V) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Council with a more up to date Revenue & Expense report for December 2014. She presented the Council with some budget adjustments for 2014 to which she stated that she hoped these were the final and that they are all interdepartmental. Councilman Mills then questioned the Clerk regarding the difference between the Rev and Expenses. The Clerk explained that there are time payments that are not showing, due to

being liabilities; bank to bank transfers etc... Councilman Mills still had concerns about the exact amounts of all these totaling up to the difference between revenue and expenses but that he understood about the items the Clerk had spoken of. He suggested changing the report to add more detail. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the budget adjustments presented by the Clerk for 2014. The motion carried unanimously

VI) New Items Proposed By Mayor and City Council

The Payoff of the City Hall Bond and the GEFA Loan. The City Clerk informed the Council that at the January 6th meeting the Mayor had informed the Council that it was being looked into to pay off the City Hall bond and the GEFA Stimulus loan with funds in the Flexible Operating Trust Account. She reminded the Council that these funds were in this account to use in cases of natural disasters for helping to start reestablishing electrical items. She also reminded the Council that we now have the electrical lines insured for 13million so therefore these funds could be used for other items if necessary. She reminded the Council that in looking at the interest that this account was drawing to the interest that was being paid on the bond and GEFA loan the Mayor felt that the funds could be better used for these payoffs to save the City the higher interest payout. The Clerk informed the Council that there is 3.3million in the trust account. She informed the Council that if the payoffs were approved it would only leave two debts on the City books, which are the Water Treatment Bond and the new garbage truck. She informed the Council that the payoff of the GEFA loan would be \$389,848.66. She informed the Council that although requested she did not receive the exact payoff of the bond before the meeting, however, the previous paperwork showed the principal payoff of \$1,105,000 with a redemption premium of \$22,100.00. She also stated that the first portion of interest had just been paid on the bond so there would be a small accrued interest amount to the 10th of February but that she did not have that exact figure however she felt that the payoffs combined would not exceed 1.6million. Councilman Mills questioned the interest rates on the bond and GEFA loan and was informed that it was 5.49% on the bond and 3% on the GEFA loan. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the payoff of the bond and GEFA loan from Flexible Operating Trust account not to exceed 1.6 million. The motion carried unanimously

Housing Authority Board Appointments - The Mayor informed the Council that there were three positions opening on the Housing Authority Board. He stated that the openings were Rev. Fred Daniel and they are asking Rev. Cody fill this position, Mary Holmes and they are asking that Wallace O'Neal fill this position and Sonyeta Bryant who is the tenant board member. The Mayor reminded the Council that Mayor makes the appointment but that what she wants the Council to be part of the process. The Council questioned if the Mayor is supposed to appoint why are names given by the Housing Authority in advance. The Mayor and Council felt that with Mr. O'Neal being recently appointed to the Planning Commission they would like to name Terrence Fields if he was willing to serve. The Council then stated that they felt other names of tenants should be presented and information on those tenants for more than just one suggestion.

MTC Credit designation - The Clerk informed the Council that this item was to designate where to place the voluntary deposits into the Municipal Competitive Trust account. She reminded the Council that the amount last year was \$63,203 and that it was being placed in the Flexible Operating Trust Extended Maturity account. She informed the Council that this year's monthly deposits would be \$64,066. She then reminded the Council that these funds were to help pay the payments on the Plant Vogle renovations. She reminded the Council that a few years these monthly amounts were being applied to the bill but that for the last few years it was being placed into the Flexible Extended Maturity Account. She informed the Council that off system sales are being applied to the bill and that designation is included in the paperwork for the Council to designate. The Mayor stated that he recommended continuing the same application. Councilman Mills questioned the different accounts in the trust to which the Clerk stated that the Flexible Maturity was not the Flexible accounts from which the funds for the payoffs were being withdrawn. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to continue the voluntary deposits the same as the previous year. The motion carried unanimously

The Mayor updated the Council on the Arlington Street project, the balance of the Southside project and the CDBG on Lee and Ft. Gaines St.

VII) Public Comments

Ms. Mia Pittman gave a presentation to the Council regarding turning the area previously known as Howell Park back into a park area for children from ages 6-12. She presented information on types of equipment and some cost estimates. She did state that additional information will need to be gotten before any decisions are final. She stated that also in the proposal would be a walking area for parents, a

new fence, a picnic area and some other items. There was discussion between the Council regarding an amount that the City could set aside to assist with this project. The Mayor stated that there may be a grant that could be looked into for some funding and that some outside donations could help as well. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the City applying \$50,000 toward this project. The motion carried unanimously

VIII) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the January 30th Special Called Meeting. The motion carried unanimously

Anthony Howard, Mayor