



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

DECEMBER 2, 2014

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 were all present. Councilman Mills was not present. Tony Thompson gave the invocation. Also let the record show that the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook were also present.

II) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the November 4th, November 19th and November 25th Minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

III) Citizens And Delegations

Barbara & Rodney Thornton – reinstating beer license - Ms. Thornton asked that the suspended license for Old School 21 be reinstated due to the fact that she felt that the hearing was not done correctly. She stated that she felt that five minutes was not long enough to clear the building. The City Attorney stated that the Council could REINSTATE if they chose to do so or they could change the length of time on the suspension. The Mayor asked the Council their thoughts on the situation. Councilman Middleton stated that he didn't feel reinstatement was an option due to the fact that the license had just been suspended the previous month. The Council agreed that they would re-examine the issue after six months. Mr. Thornton addressed the Council again asking for reinstatement but on a probationary period. Councilman Hutchins asked if Mr. Thornton could operate the club just as a DJ without serving alcohol. The City Attorney stated that he could operate as a separate business.

Tommy Jive Wright – close of Church St - Mr. Wright came before the Council again to speak regarding the closing hours for nightclubs and that he felt they should be able to be open longer on Saturday night. Councilman Hutchins questioned the City Attorney if a change could be made to which the City Attorney stated that an Ordinance could be amended if the Council chose to do so. The City Attorney then stated that this topic has been presented to the Council quite a few times in the last six months. There was discussion between Mr. Wright and the Attorney about how Ordinances are created or changed. The Mayor then stated to Mr. Wright that it seemed that no one on the Council wanted to change the Ordinance at this time. Mr. Wright continued to stress his views to the Council to which the City Attorney informed him that nothing would be done at this time.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Alcohol License Renewals - Kenneth Jones, the Building Official informed the Council that all businesses have state licenses except Blue Diamond, which he stated that he had been unable to find a tax ID for them as well. He also stated that the Country Club had not gotten their state license for the sale of mixed drinks. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve all alcohol licenses with the exception of Blue Diamond and the Country Club liquor, mixed drink, license. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

V) City Attorney's Report

Second Reading and Adoption of Budget Ordinance - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the budget Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

First Reading of Election Ordinance - There was a first reading of the Election Ordinance fixing and publishing qualifying fees for offices subject to election in the year 2015. The City Attorney stated that the Mayor seat was a cost of \$108 and the Councilman seats were a cost of \$72 and that there are two Councilman seats up for election next year.

VI) City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Council with financial reports. She informed the Council that the City finished the month of November with \$218,065.72 in the bank. She informed the Council that no money

was placed in the savings accounts due to the possibly of paying off the USDA loan early. She informed the Council that the bank balance increased by \$38,480.89 from October. She then informed the Council that she would be review expenses to make any other budget adjustments or amendments at the next meeting. She then informed the Council that an ad had been placed for health insurance quotes and that none had been received so the City would be staying with GMA at a slight increase.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Meeting Dates - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the meeting dates of the first Tuesday in every month for 2015. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Reappointment to the SWGRC board (non-public - Freddy Speight) - A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the reappointment of Freddy Speight as the non-public appointee for the SWGRC board. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present

Reappointment to the SWGRC board (Councilman - Al Hutchins) - A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to reappoint Councilman Hutchins for the Council appointment to the SWGRC board. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Work Comp insurance quotes - The City Clerk informed the Council that there were two bids for Worker's Comp insurance. One of the bids was the renewal quote from GMA and the other was from Swanner Collier/Brown Dethrage. She informed the Council that the quote from Swanner Collier/Brown Dethrage was in the amount of \$88,767 and the renewal quote from GMA was in the amount of \$55,479. The Council made the choice to stay with GMA.

The Mayor updated the Council on the Southside project. He informed them that the project should be finished up by the end of the week. He informed the Council that it would be another four to five weeks before any paving would commence due to wanting the area to settle good before it was paved over. He informed them that the paving may not be as detailed therefore cutting down on some of the cost.

The Council was asked to consider two bids on a new boom mower. They were informed that the tractor was in very good shape and should continue to last however the boom mower had come apart and had previously been welded in other areas and that it was felt the best option would be to replace the entire section. The Council was then informed that two bids had been received. One bid was from Atlantic Southern in the amount of \$51,078.75 for a Diamond boom mower and the other was from Sun South in the amount of \$47,820 for a tiger boom mower. A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the bid from Sun South in the amount of \$47,820 for a new boom mower to be paid out of the DOT reimbursement account. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Councilman Hutchins questioned a few items. He questioned the City Clerk regarding the City shutting down early the day before the Thanksgiving Holiday. The clerk informed Councilman Hutchins that she informed him that the City would be open all day before the meeting on the 25th at which time several employee approached the Mayor after the meeting to request an early closing which the Mayor then granted. The mayor confirmed this item. Councilman Hutchins then questioned the City doing thing for the County for which the County does not pay but when the County does things for the City, the City has to pay. He then questioned why the City does not use the RDC for CDBG instead of GW Hudson Consulting seeing as the City is a member of the RDC.

Kenneth Jones, the Building Official, came before the Council to question whether they had given thought to the pond request on South Main St. He went back through the requirements from DOT and EPD. The City Attorney also stated that he could not find anything in regulation regarding the pond. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith not to allow the pond due to a public safety issue of children in the neighborhood. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

VIII)Public Comments

IX) Adjournment

A motion was by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn the December 2nd City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilman present.

Anthony Howard, Mayor