



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
CITY HALL**

**JANUARY 7, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

I) SWEARING IN OF NEW OFFICIALS

Let the record show that the City Clerk, Melinda Crook called the January 7th City Council meeting to order. She then stated that the Probate Judge, Robin Altman, would be swearing in Travis Wimbush, as Mayor. The Probate Judge, Robin Altman, then swore in Margaret Davis Zachary, as Councilmember and Ray Jarrett, as Councilmember.

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

For the record Mayor Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Margaret Davis Zachary, Councilmember Ray Jarrett and Councilmember Al Hutchins were present with one seat still vacant. Also present was the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook. Darryl Alexander gave the invocation and the Mayor led the Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III) APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to approve the December 3, 2019 minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

IV) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

Gwen Houston, request for funds for 2020 Census

Mrs. Gwen Houston gave a brief explanation of the 2020 Census and steps that were being to for the Census count. She explained that there is a budget of \$1,375.00 and that she was coming before the Council to request half payment from the City of \$635.00. She explained that the other half was requested of the County. She stated that the Census will start April 1st and completed by April 30th. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve to payment of \$635.00 for the Census budget. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Wanda & Ivan Minks – CDBG updates

Ivan Minks came before the Council and gave an update on the 2018 CDBG. He stated that the homes should be completed by June. He then updated on the 2019 CDBG. He stated that this had just been awarded and that seven homes were included in this CDBG. He informed the Council that only one contracted had applied to build these homes so the Sole Source procedure would need to be completed. He then updated on the 2020 CDBG. He stated that multiple areas in Blakely have a need for infrastructure and home and that the North and Southeast areas were in need. He stated that they had done some surveys and that there is a

short timeframe for completion because the deadline is April 1st. Mayor Wimbush then asked that Ivan update the public on how the housing in the CDBG grants works. Ivan gave a detailed explanation of this and answered questions from the public. He then stated that he was willing to come back for a meeting to go into more detail if the Council requested.

V) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Alcohol License Krishna Food, 1518 S Main

The Building Official, Mark Hawkins, came before the Council regarding an alcohol license for Krishna Food for Ms. Patel. He informed the Council that all requirements had been met. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to approve the alcohol license application for Ms. Patel, Krishna Food. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Will Caudill – Updates

Chief Caudill, gave the Council Police Dept. updates. He spoke of the success of Christmas on the Square. He informed the Council that the Police Dept. had presented presents to the Nursing Home. He informed the Council of the concentrated patrols on New Years Eve and then gave year end statistics.

Craig Hughes – Updates

Craig Hughes gave a power point presentation on the City financials. He then gave the Council updates on several on going projects (DA's Office, CDBG, Gateway, EWP, DOT paving.) He went on to explained that on the DOT paving Oxford was not responsible for striping the Square. He stated that the City might be responsible for the striping, but he would get that confirmed by DOT. He also stated that the EWP project had a deadline of January 30th and that there was a contractor bid opening the following week.

Gabe Jordan – Transfer Station Repairs

Landfill Supervisor, Gabe Jordan, came before the Council to present the Waste Management agreement. He explained the agreement and the costs that he had negotiated with Waste Management. He informed the Council that the agreement was previously approved in November 2019 and had also been approved by the County, but that it had never been signed (executed.) A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to approve the Waste Management agreement presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Gabe Jordan informed the Council of the work needing to be done at the Landfill due to a fire. He explained the repairs to the metal building and the additional concrete work (new pad) including railroad iron so the slab would not wear. He stated that the railroad iron was already ordered. He informed the Council that the insurance company was sending reimbursement for lost income (\$40,000) to help cover the cost of the temp location. He informed the Council that he had gotten quotes from Southern AgCom (\$17,944) and Singleton Construction (\$16,000) for metal work at the temp site. He stated that the temp site and the new slab would be on the City and County but the new building will be on the insurance company. He then stated that the City's half would be about \$45,000 to \$50,000 with the County paying their half. He stated that the County had approved to cover half the cost up to \$44,000.00. Councilman Hutchins questioned A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve moving

forward with the Landfill project. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

VI) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Renew Chamber Of Commerce

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, briefly explained the Chamber of Commerce agreement stating that the monthly amount is \$2083.33. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to approve the Chamber of Commerce agreement. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Renew Court Square Development

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, briefly explained the Court Square Development agreement stating that the funds in the agreement were monies received from Hotel/Motel payments to the City. He stated that the Court Square Development receives 3% of the 5% collected and that the City retains the difference. Mayor Wimbush stated that he would like to receive an update from the Court Square Development on use of the funds. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to table approval until and update from the Court Square Development was received. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

First Reading of Ordinance allowing for Budget Extension

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, explained the due to the budget not being completed before the end of 2019 this Ordinance was to give a three month extension for the budget to be prepared and approved by the present Council. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to adopt the Ordinance allowing for Budget Extension and dispense of the second reading. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Pole Attachment Agreement

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, explained that this agreement is with ECG and that they handle the aspects of Pole attachments such as phone lines connected to City utility poles and that this is a standard agreement. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the ECG Pole Attachment agreement. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

MOU City, Early County, GEMA/FEMA

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, informed the Council that the MOU was for the purchase of generators to be put in seven different places. He stated that the County had not approved the MOU but that it had been presented to the County attorney. He recommended the if the Council approved moving forward to give the City Attorney permission to make any necessary changes. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the MOU City, Early County GEMA/FEMA giving the City Attorney authority to make necessary changes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

MOU City, Hospital Authority

The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman, explained that this MOU was the same as the MOU with the County but with the Hospital Authority for a generator at the Hospital. He stated that

the City would be the administrators. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the MOU City, Hospital Authority again giving the City Attorney permission to make any necessary changes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Waste Management Agreement

This item was previously completed in Administrative Committee items

VII) CITY CLERK'S REPORT

The City Clerk presented the Council with hard copies of the financial report. She the informed the Council of overpayments from the County on E-911 expenditures in the amount of \$105,841.44 from 2017 to August of 2019. She gave a brief explanation on how the overpayments were found. The Clerk then requested the Council's approval to make the TAVT repayment yearly payment. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the TAVT payment. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present. She then stated that she had present budget amendments and adjustments for the Council to review. She informed the Council that since the amendments and adjustments had just been presented the Council could approve or table for further review.

Budget Amendments and Adjustments

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to table to budget amendments and adjustments for further review. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

VIII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Appoint Mayor Pro Tem

Councilmember Hutchins stated that he preferred not to have the position due to personal reasons. He then nominated Councilmember Jarrett. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to approve Councilmember Jarrett Mayor Pro Tem. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

2020 Meeting Dates

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the 2020 meeting dates. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

IX) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Patricia Davis, at 245 Mulberry, came before the Council to discuss paving on her street that stopped at the circle where her trailer is. She stated that something needs to be done about the driveways on her street and spoke of the mobile home ordinance.

Mr. Henderson suggested putting the whole Council be in the loop and that the citizens should be given their Councilmembers contact information and that Councilmembers have quarterly district meetings.

Nancy Wright came before the Council and public stating that there were jobs available for the 2020 Census. She stated that the Census would benefit the City for funding. She gave the website to apply 2020Census.gov/jobs

The Mayor thanked the public and his family for attending and reminded the public of the upcoming MLK parade on January 20th

X) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to adjourn the January 7th City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Travis Wimbush, Mayor