



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

January 16, 2020

CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

D) Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge Of Allegiance

Let the record show that Mayor Travis Wimbush call the meeting to order. Mayor, Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Margaret Zachary, Councilmember Al Hutchins and Councilmember Ray Jarrett were present. Also present was the City Clerk, Melinda Crook, City Attorney Tommy Coleman was not present. Commissioner Charlie Sol gave the invocation. The Mayor and Council lead the public in the Pledge of Allegiance

II) EWP Contract

Craig Hughes gave a presentation on the EWP project. He stated that he had gotten confirmation that GEMA would pay the 10% local share with FEMA paying 90%. He stated that the project has to be completed by January 30th and that he had gotten confirmation on this date. He presented three bids that had been received, GA Stormwater in the amount of \$97,000, Belcar in the amount of \$97,480 and No Deal LLC., in the amount of \$239,490. He briefly went through each bid and stated that he would prefer to recommend No Deal LLC mainly due to the fact that they had presented a letter of reference stating that they had previously done an EWP project and performed a good job. He stated that he was recommending them due to the reference and the time schedule for completion. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if any of these contractors were local to which Craig responded that two were local and one was from Atlanta. Councilmember Zachary questioned the letters of reference to which Craig restated that No Deal was the only contractor to present such a letter and that he had requested a letter from all contractors he had spoken with. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the bid from No Deal LLC in the amount of \$239,490 for the EWP project. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

III) Budget Adjustments And Amendments

The Mayor represented the budget adjustments and amendments for the Council approval that were table at the January 7th Council meeting. Councilmember Jarrett questioned if this was routinely a process to which the Clerk stated that it was and that adjustments/amendments have been done several times a year in the past. A motion

was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the budget adjustments/amendments. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

IV) Restructure Of Utility Bills

The Mayor stated that he was presenting this for discussion and survey by the Council. He stated that he would like to do something to assist the citizens regarding their utility bills and he feels that two penalties, the 10% and \$25.00 disconnect were excessive. He also would like to reexamine the delinquent fiber accounts being placed on the utility bills. He stated that it had been expressed to him that citizens would like the fiber amounts be kept separate. He stated that he would like to Council to look at moving the due date and/or doing away with the 10% penalty altogether. Councilmember Jarrett questioned getting a survey from other MEAG cities on their processes. The Mayor stated he would get with John Giles, from ECG, about a presentation. There was a brief further discussion between the Mayor and Council

V) Public Comments

Mr. Henderson came before the Council to suggest making all payments due by the 20th, timing on cut off plus fees.

Darryl Alexander questioned what would happen if the EWP project wasn't completed by the deadline and if the City would receive reimbursement if not fully completed and why there was such a large difference in the contract amounts. Craig responded that amount of reimbursement would be determined by USDA according to the amount of work completed and that final payment to the contractor would be according to that payment. He also questioned the budget adjustments/amendments to which the Mayor restated that this is a routine process.

The Mayor stated that the paving on the Square was found to be the City's responsibility and that it would be in the best interest to take action soon. Councilmember Hutchins stated that in 1972 school kids got paid to paint the lines on the square.

VI) Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Zachary and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to adjourn the January 16th Special Called meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor