



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

MARCH 9, 2020

CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

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

Let the record show that Mayor Travis Wimbush called the Budget Public Hearing to order. Mayor Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Ray Jarrett, Councilmember Margaret Zachary and Councilmember Al Hutchins were all present. The City Clerk was also present. Charlie Sol gave the invocation. The Mayor led the Councilmembers and public in the Pledge of Allegiance

II) BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing opened at 6:05pm

The Department Heads present presented their proposed budgets to the Mayor, Council and public. As each Department Head came before the Council their actual 2019 final figures were presented. Changes in their budgets from 2019 to 2020 were the main items presented. Questions from the Mayor and Council were answered by each Department Head. Uniform amounts were asked to be changed according to the 2019 amounts presented. The Mayor asked that the account name be changed on Department of Public Safety to The Sheriff's Department. He asked that the 911 agreement between the City and County be reviewed for any information regarding the City providing a vehicle. The Mayor asked the Clerk to try to separate the Leachate Revenue line item be separated to Water Treatment alone. He asked if the Sanitation and Landfill revenues could be separated by each department. The Mayor asked to get detail of monies collected from Solar project in the Landfill.

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Celia Bostwick, with the Chamber of Commerce, questioned the Economic Development support that has been in the budget for several years. She stated that she was questioning because of the Council's questions during the budget review. The Mayor brought to the Council's attention that the City has no representation on the Development Authority Board and therefore no vote on who gets hired as Economic Development Director. Ms. June Merritt, County Chairman, came before the Council to explain about the Board and its authority according to the law. The Mayor stated he just wanted it clarified that previous appoints of the Economic Development position had been decided by the Mayor, County Chairman and Chair of the Development Authority. Ms. Merritt then explained the previous hire and reiterated that the Development Authority hires the Economic Development Director. The Mayor restated that the City contributes funds but has not decision rights in the hiring process. Ms. Bostwick restated that she just asks that the City continue their support of the Economic Development Director position. The Mayor then stated that he was attending the School Board meeting and that they may want to get involved regarding Economic Development also. He then stated that no Councilmembers asked that the amount be removed at the present time.

Tracey Robinson asked questions on the difference in group insurance, cost of uniforms compared to purchasing and where the profit goes, from the Electric Department. He also asked if the gas expense is broken down by Department. The City Clerk and other Department Heads answered his questions.

There was discussion between the Council as to when to schedule the meeting for the second reading of the Budget Ordinance and adoption of the Budget. Councilman Hutchins requested to schedule the meeting the next week but other Councilmembers questioned waiting until the April 7th City Council meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Zachary and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve waiting until the April 7th regularly scheduled meeting. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Jarrett voting "YEH," Councilmember Hutchins voting "NAY," and Mayor Wimbush breaking the tie with a vote of "YEH"

The Public Hearing was closed

IV) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Zachary and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to adjourn the March 9th Public Hearing. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor