



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

APRIL 7, 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 teleconference meeting to order. Mayor Travis Wimbush was present, Councilmember Margaret Zachary, Councilmember Ray Jarret and Councilmember Al Hutchins were present by teleconference. The City Clerk, Melinda Crook was present and the City Attorney Tommy Coleman was present by teleconference. Councilmember Hutchins gave the invocation. The Mayor then led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also let the record reflect that the meeting was on Facebook Live for the public to view.

II) APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to approve the March 3rd, 9th, 17th and teleconference March 22nd. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

III) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

IV) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Will Caudill – Updates

In the Police Chiefs absence, the Mayor read the monthly report

Chris McClendon – Vac Truck Bids

Chris McClendon, the Water/Sewer Department Head informed the Council that he wanted to take the proposal from Aquatech out of the equation because it was rear operated equipment. He stated that the proposal from Environmental Products Group was a tandem axle and was too large for the City which left Adams Equipment. He stated that this was the same company from whom the current Vac Truck was purchased and they had exactly what the City would need. He informed the Council that their proposal was in the amount of \$369,949.75 and that this was the cheapest quote as well. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if the current truck would last a little longer and if the purchase could be put off a couple of months for the finances to be reviewed, due to the current COVID-19 epidemic. Chris McClendon stated that there was a little time before the amount of the proposal would increase.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to table the purchase of a vac truck until the May meeting. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

Thomas Tye - Purchase of Backhoes

Thomas Tye, Gas Department Head, spoke to the Council stating that the purchase of the two backhoes has a buy back. He stated that Yancey was willing to give \$55,273 on one of the 2015 previously purchased backhoes and \$31,100 on the 2010 backhoe. He stated that the cost of the new backhoes was \$105,000 ea. He stated that with the trade ins the full cost to the City would be \$123,627. He then informed the Council that the price quote with buy back was good until July 30, 2020. Councilmember Jarrett asked to clarify that the price quote was good until July 30, 2020 to which Thomas Tye responded that was correct. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to table the purchase of the backhoes until the May meeting. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

Adam Askew

(a) Hwy 39 Lift Station

Adam Askew, Water Treatment Department Head, informed the Council that the guide rails had been completed. He informed the Council that the insurance check for \$13,450 had been received and that this was for the replacement of the two pumps that had been struck by lightning at the HWY 39 lift station. He stated that the proposal from J & H Wright was the cheaper and was the one that the insurance company had chosen. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to approve the purchase of the two pumps from J & H Wright in the amount of \$13,450. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

(b) Poplar Street Lift Station

Adam Askew, Water Treatment Department Head, informed the Council that the repair of this pump would be \$8,592.20 and the purchase of a new pump would be \$4,817.20 and we would install. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if there was a warranty to which Adam Askew stated that there was a five-year warranty on the new pump. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to approve the purchase of a new pump at the cost of \$4,871.20. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

V) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Second Reading and Adoption of Budget Ordinance

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to adopt the Budget Ordinance. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

Adoption of 2020 Budget

Tommy Coleman, The City Attorney, stated that the budget was automatically approved when the Ordinance was approved so this item did not need to be voted on.

VI) CITY CLERK'S REPORT

The City Clerk went through the February monthly and YTD revenue and expenditures figures.

Budget Adjustments and Amendments

The Clerk stated that she had presented the 2019 final budget adjustments to the Council in the packets and asked the Council for their approval or denial. The Clerk stated that these were for audit purpose. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to approve the Budget adjustments as presented. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

Councilmember Hutchins questioned the Clerk regarding the 2% employee increase that has been given to the employees in the past years. The Clerk informed the Council that nothing had been specifically mentioned at the budget hearing so they were not in the budget approved. Tommy Coleman, the City Attorney, stated that the Council would need to vote to amend the budget just approved to include these increases. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to amend the 2020 budget to include 2% increases for the employee's retro back to January 1st. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

VII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Reappointments to Planning Commission

Tommy Coleman, the City Attorney, stated that Buddy Moore's term was expired and that he was up for reappointment and that Kendall Alderman had moved out of the City limits therefore a replacement needed to be nominated and voted on for her replacement. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to reappoint Buddy Moore to the Planning Commission for the four year term. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference.

The Mayor then asked if there were any names for the Council's consideration for the vacant seat. Councilman Hutchins nominated Essie Smith and Mayor Wimbush nominated Darryl Alexander. With two names nominated the Council was polled. Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference to approve the nomination of Essie Smith for Planning Commission.

MEAG Telecom Refund

The City Clerk informed the Mayor and Council that the Telecom refund was one of two that are received from MEAG. She informed them that the Telecom refund has been put back into the Municipal Competitive Trust Flexible Operating Account previously. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to approve 100% of the Telecom refund being put into the Municipal Competitive Trust Flexible Operating Account. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

The Mayor addressed the impact to the citizens from COVID-19 and asked the Council members about waiving the April late fees and delinquent fees for late fees for Fiber. A

motion was made by Councilmember Zachary and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the waiver of late/delinquent fees. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

The Mayor thanked Councilmember Jarrett for his assistance in his absence. He also reminded the public regarding the Census and about absentee ballots applications being mailed for the Election that postponed until May. He asked that the Council and citizens continue to pray and work together as well all go through this time.

VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS

IX) EXECUTIVE SESSION – SALE REAL ESTATE

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to enter into Executive Session. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to return to Regular Session. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

X) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Zachary and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to adjourn the April 7th City Council teleconference meeting. A poll was taken by the Clerk of the Councilmembers vote. The motion carried with Councilmember Zachary, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting YEH by teleconference

Travis Wimbush, Mayor