



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

APRIL 21, 2020

CITY HALL/TELECONFERENCE/LIVE STREAM

6:00 P.M.

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

Let the record show that Mayor Travis Wimbush called the meeting to order. Mayor Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Margaret Zachary, Councilmember Ray Jarrett and Councilmember Al Hutchins were all present by Teleconference. The City Clerk, Melinda Crook was also present at City Hall. Councilmember Hutchins gave the invocation. The Mayor led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance

II) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS

(1) Wanda/Ivan Minks – Update on 2020 CDBG

Ivan Minks was present, on the teleconference, to update the Mayor and Council on the 2020 CDBG Grant application. Ivan reminded the Council about the RAZ classification and stated that this was the 3rd year. He stated that they had gotten started late and due to the virus had only completed 5 out of 23 home inspections and if submitted now it probably would not be awarded. Ivan spoke of issues they had seen in the inspections they had done and also discussed cost breakdowns. He informed the Council that if they proceeded with the application and it was denied then the City would lose a qualification year. He stated that they could start the application over in November and would be able to submit a good application. Councilmember Hutchins questioned the difference in rehabbed home on N. Church St. and a customer who opted out of the 2019 CDBG. Ivan explained that the 2019 CDBG customer's home was not structurally sound where as the other home on N. Church had been. Councilmember Hutchins then questioned the funding regarding a complete rebuild to a rehab. Ivan explained some more details. The Mayor questioned the handling of the 2020 application and asked the Council their pleasure. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Zachary to table the 2020 CDBG application to submit in 2021. The City Clerk polled the Councilmembers. Councilmember Zachary voted "YEA", Councilmember Hutchins voted "YEA", and Councilmember Jarrett voted "YEA." The Mayor stated the motion carried with a unanimous vote from the Councilmembers.

Ivan Minks then informed the Mayor and Council that they would need to also vote to extend the RAZ to 2021. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to extend the RAZ classification to 2021. The City Clerk polled the Councilmembers. Councilmember Zachary voted "YEA", Councilmember Jarrett voted "YEA", Councilmember Hutchins voted "YEA". The Mayor stated that the motion carried with a unanimous vote from the Councilmembers.

III) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Thomas Tye, Lane Davis, Chris McClendon – Backhoe Purchase

Lane Davis spoke to the Mayor and Council regarding the backhoe purchase. He went over the proposals submitted by Yancey CAT and John Deere. Lane informed the Mayor and Council that the proposal from Yancey CAT would be \$117,827 with the trade in for the 2015 and 2010 backhoes the City currently owns. Lane then informed the Mayor and Council that the John Deere proposal was \$113,500 with the trade in of the same two backhoes. Lane informed the Mayor and Council that John Deere had a better warranty and that if field work was required there would be no trip charges, unlike Yancey CAT. The Mayor asked the Clerk to go through the funding options. The Clerk informed the Mayor and Council of the GMA Master Lease finance rates and an approximate yearly payment on the John Deere backhoes. The Mayor questioned the amount in the SPLOST account to which the Clerk gave the amount. Councilmember Hutchins questioned problems with the old backhoes. Councilmember Hutchins also questioned the one time a year payment from the SPLOST account. The Clerk informed the Mayor and Council that she felt the payment could be handled and also that the City Attorney recommended financing any large equipment. Chris McClendon spoke to the Mayor and Council of the buy back option and how the City could not afford to lose that option. He also spoke of the cost difference in the John Deere backhoe cost if waiting until May. A motion was made by Councilmember Zachary but died due to a lack of second.

IV) CITY CLERK'S REPORT

The City Clerk informed the Mayor and Council that the City had received around \$181,000 from FEMA for debris removal. She then informed the Mayor and Council that the \$85,000 had been received for the ITAD/OneGA Equity reimbursement for sewer repairs. Councilmember Hutchins asked the Clerk about the \$20,000 donation from Piggly Wiggly. The Clerk informed the Mayor and Council that a form had been created for those that were requesting assistance directly related to COVID-19. Councilmember Hutchins questioned who had put this in place and why the Council was not aware. The Mayor informed the Council of the disbursement process.

V) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Hutchins thanked the Sanitation Department for their continued work while other departments were on a staggered work schedule. The Mayor asked Councilmember Jarrett to discuss the staggered work schedule process and how it came about. Councilman Jarrett gave a brief explanation. There was more discussion between the Council about work scheduling and the donation. Councilmember Hutchins questioned the Executive Order previously put in place. There was discussion regarding that Order.

The Mayor read the Governor's New Executive Order. The Mayor stated that he did not support some of the businesses reopening. He then read a statement and asked the Council to reach out to Officials to speak on these matters.

VI) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Zachary and seconded by Councilmember Jarret to adjourn the April 21st Special Called meeting. A poll was taken by the Clerk with Councilmember Jarrett voting "YEA", Councilmember Hutchins voting "YEA" and Councilmember Zachary voting "YEA." The Mayor stated that the motion passed with a unanimous vote from the Councilmembers.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor