



Blakely City Council Minutes

February 1, 2022, City Hall, 6:00 P.M.

I. Public Hearing Zone Change Ric Hall Lane

Mayor Travis Wimbush called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00pm. He then asked if anyone in support of the zone change would like to speak and that if anyone wanted to speak in opposition, they would be allotted the equal amount of time to speak.

Mr. Hagan Michael spoke in support and as a representative of the buyer. He briefly spoke on the additional development and that they were requesting the zone change from R2 to Commercial to make sure that the proper set backs are in place. Councilmember Clenney question if this would have any bearing on the easement on Ric Hall Lane. Mr. Michael responded by stating that they don't want to do anything with the road and that since the buyer would own a portion of the road at the beginning, they would maintain it but do not want to landlock anyone and do not intend to make any changes to the road.

Ric Hall questioned clarification that it was stated that this development would not affect the road. The Mayor clarified that was correct and the road would not be affected.

Mr. Kenneth Jones came before the Mayor and Council to inform them of the Planning Commissions decision. He stated that the road had been one of the issues the Planning Commission had because the survey included a portion of the road and whether this was a City street or not. Kenneth stated it was a private street and that there had also been discussion with the Planning Commission regarding whether there would be a landlock issue. He spoke on protective screening for Commercial property. He stated that the Ordinance calls for a 20ft buffer for planting shrubs and that it could be a fence as well but that recommendation would come from the Planning Commission to the Mayor and Council. He stated that these were the main issues that needed to be addressed before the Planning Commission would make a recommendation to bring it back before the Mayor and Council. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if the Planning Commission had had the information that this would not affect Ric Hall Lane to which Kenneth stated that they did not because it was being looked into as to whether it was a City street or not. The Mayor asked if there was a date set as to when the Planning Commission was going to reconsider this item. Kenneth stated at the regular meeting, the third Monday of the month if nothing else changes. The Mayor asked Kenneth to notify the buyer as to why this item had not been completed and when it would be reconsidered.

II. 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 Brad Clenney, Councilmember Margaret Davis, Councilmember Al Hutchins and Councilmember Ray Jarrett were all present. Also present was the City Attorney

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Flin Coleman and City Clerk Melinda Crook. Mayor Wimbush informed the Council and public that Mr. Walter Joe Kegler had passed away that the City wanted to acknowledge and pay tribute to his 38 years of service to the City as a moment of silence before the invocation. He stated that this moment of silence was also for Mr. Joe Owens, a long-term educator and football coach and others in the City that have recently pass and those that passed due to COVID 19. Councilmember Hutchins spoke on Mr. Kegler's history with the City. He stated that Mr. Kegler first worked in the water and sewer department and then moved to the gas department. He spoke on how Mr. Kegler could find water pipes that electronic equipment is used to locate today. After the moment of silence Darryl Alexander gave the invocation. The Mayor and Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Employee of the month

The Mayor informed the Council and public that due to not having a policy regarding the choice of employee of the month he had made some changes. He stated that going forward the award would now be called Mayor Spotlight. He stated that he would welcome any input/recommendations from the Council or public and as Mayor Spotlight could be given to either employees or members of the public. He then stated that the January Mayor Spotlight was awarded to the City Clerk, Melinda Crook. He briefly spoke on her years of service and the jobs she performs as City Clerk and Finance Officer.

IV. Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the Work Session and Regular Minutes from January 4, 2022. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

V. Citizens And Delegations

No members on the agenda

VI. Administrative Committee

Will Caudill – Updates

Chief Caudill gave his monthly report stating that Police answered 872 calls for service for the month of January and then gave the breakdown. Chief Caudill then spoke on the two on premise consumption alcohol licenses that have not been approved as of yet. He informed the Mayor and Council that Gold Rush had presented the information requested and that no further information had been received from CoCo's Lounge. There was discussion that the owner of CoCo's Lounge had previously stated that he didn't know if he would be able to present further information on admission on the door but that his previous submission stated he was at 51% food sales to 49% alcohol sales. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the renewal of the on-premise consumption of distilled

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spirits for Gold Rush. Councilmember Hutchins questioned the additional information that was requested of CoCo's Lounge. The Mayor stated that he felt it would be better if there was a separate Ordinance for clubs and one for restaurants. He then stated that CoCo's Lounge would be re-examined once a new Ordinance was put in place. It was then discussion whether CoCo's Lounge could continue to operate to which Chief Caudill stated that per the Ordinance they could until such time as it is approved or denied. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present. The Mayor then asked the City Clerk to get with Mr. Lee regarding what steps to take to get his license.

Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates

Matt Mromalik, E911 Director, came before the Mayor and Council and presented his monthly report. He stated that the total calls for January were 4,333.

Adam Askew – Water Tank @ City Hall and Fencing at Cedar Springs Lift Station

Adam Askew came before the Mayor and Council regarding the cleaning of the water tank behind City Hall. The Mayor and Council had three quotes presented. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the quote from Suez in the amount of \$2,000. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember present.

VII. City Attorney's Report

Site Access Agreement with Verizon

The City Attorney, Flin Coleman, spoke on the site access agreement from Verizon. He stated that this is part of the proposed lease of space on the water tower. He stated that the full agreement is still being reviewed and this portion is to get on the site to do environmental impact studies to see if usable. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the site access agreement from Verizon. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Alcohol Ordinance

The City Attorney, Flin Coleman, stated that this Ordinance is to clarify closing times for the sale of alcohol. He stated that this amends section 3.25(b2). He explained that another section clarified if a business could stay open after ending the sale of alcohol and another section to correct a clerical error. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the amended Alcohol Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The City Attorney, Flin Coleman, presented a Resolution for the sale of surplus firearms and awarding on to a retired officer. He stated that he felt this was legal without the Resolution but drafted one for better clarification. He stated that he added that these were to sold to officers

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and the sale of these firearms was to be under \$500.00. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the Resolution regarding the surplus sale of firearms. The motion carried

The Mayor questioned the City Attorney regarding a Resolution for adding Juneteenth as a legal observed holiday for the City of Blakely. Mr. Coleman stated he would look into that for the next meeting.

VIII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Mayor and Council with preliminary December financial reports. She stated that these were preliminary due to revenues still needing to be put into the previous year. She also stated that the majority of the expenditures were recorded but that some may still come in and therefore the numbers on these reports were subject to change. The Clerk then did a powerpoint presentation of the financials for the public.

IX. New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council Zone Change Ric Hall Lane – no action was taken

The Mayor informed the Council that the Chamber Banquet was cancelled and will be rescheduled and the Council will be made aware when it is rescheduled.

The Mayor stated that one set of bids had been received and that two others were expected to be turned in regarding the street resurfacing that had been discussed in a previous meeting.

The Mayor informed the Council that the Civic Center addition was still awaiting approval from the State Fire Marshall. He stated that the materials have been ordered and the job will move forward once the approval has been received.

The Mayor reminded the Council that February is Black History Month.

The Mayor asked that everyone continue safety protocols for COVID 19 due to cases continuing to increase.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve pay increase for some employees and a Department Head. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor updated the Council on the Deal/Dean water/sewer project. He stated that it is about 50% complete on Deal. He stated that the sewer portion is complete and the water



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portion is still in progress. He stated that project on N. Main, previously approved, is coming close to complete with the sod still to be put down.

The Mayor stated that some bids on infrastructure projects will be submitted once funds are release. He also informed the Council that the First Responder Grant funds had been received and were in the process of being paid out to Police, Fire and E911

The Mayor stated the from the GMA conference there will be some legislation regarding Policing along with Equality and Equity. He stated that some samples will be sent from GMA. He informed the Council that this year he will be moving from VP of District 10 to President which will put the City as having a voting delegate on the GMA Board of Directors.

The Mayor stated that the City Attorney will be getting documents to the City regarding a few changes on the redistricting.

Councilmember Hutchins questioned where the State Fire Marshall resides to which Kenneth stated a little past Colquitt. He stated he was questioning because it was taking a little while for approval of the plans on the Civic Center.

Councilmember Hutchins question what had the City come up with regarding the ditches on Jessie Johnson and East South Blvd. There was some discussion between Councilmember Hutchins and the Mayor.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the use of the Senior Center for the Food Bank storage and distribution so as not conflict with other uses of the center. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

X. Public Comments

Mike Newberry came before the Mayor and Council about assistance needed by the City for Peanut Proud. He stated that the use last year of the Government Complex was a great addition and they will be submitting a letter of request for use of the Government Complex again this year for the entertainers. He again thanked the Mayor and Council for all of the City's assistance

Darryl Alexander came before the Mayor and Council to thank them for their support and how C-Hope ministries has been able to assist the community and other counties. Councilmember Hutchins questioned how they were coming with the old gym to which Mr. Alexander stated it would probably be another year but things were moving forward.



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Exie Smith asked if she could receive a copy of the plans for the addition at the Civic Center.

The Mayor spoke on the older semi that had been brought up in last months meeting. He stated that upon speaking with the County, some of their commissioners do not want to continue to invest in any further repairs. He asked that the Council consider declaring the older semi surplus and put the funds received toward something new on a lease going year by year. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to declared the older semi (Freightliner) surplus. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to adjourn the February 1st City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Travis Wimbush, Mayor