



Blakely City Council Minutes
March 1, 2022, 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 meeting to order. Mayor Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Margaret Davis, Councilmember Ray Jarrett, Councilmember Al Hutchins and Councilmember Brad Clenney were all present. Also present was the City Attorney Hayden Hooks and the City Clerk Melinda Crook. There was a moment of silence. Charlie Sol gave the invocation and led the Mayor, Council and Public in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Mayor's Spotlight
Electric Department City employee Patrick White was the February Mayor's Spotlight. The Mayor spoke on how and what all Patrick does to assist all City departments.
- III. Approve Minutes
A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the Work Session and Regular Session minutes from the February 1st City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present
- IV. Citizens And Delegations
None Present
- V. Administrative Committee
Will Caudill – Updates
Chief Caudill gave his monthly report for February activity. Councilmember Hutchins questioned a drive by shooting on Fort Gaines St. Councilmember Hutchins stated that E911 had sent it out. Chief Caudill stated that he was not familiar with the incident but would check reports to find out. Chief Caudill spoke on two vehicles that he would like declared surplus. He explained that these vehicles had been seized and turned over to the City and he would like to be able to place them up for sale. Chief Caudill spoke on his staffing issues. He stated that an officer had resigned but that he had picked up another hired and that there were two cadets at the academy. He informed the Mayor and Council that Lt. Naramore had completed the Use of Force Instructor training.

Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates
E911 Director Matt Hromalik gave the E911 monthly report. He stated that the total monthly calls were 3,824.
- VI. City Attorney's Report



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First Reading of Reapportionment Ordinance

City Attorney Hayden Hooks explained that for a City sized such as Blakely per the Census, the apportionment would be about 2686 per district. She then stated that one district is a little over where it needs to be. She stated that the only shift would be an area South of Jesse Johnson for the North, Lancelot on the right, South St on the South and Main St on the West which are currently District 2 and moving them to District 1. She stated that there is no incumbent that lives in this District. She informed the Mayor and Council that this would need to run in the paper three times. She stated that since there was no election this year the Mayor and Council could take some more time to review. She stated that they could have the first reading at this meeting and adopt at the next meeting. The Mayor asked the Council if they would prefer to wait and let the three notices run for there to be time in case questions arise from the constituents because this was not an election year. Ms. Hooks stated that someone was willing come and speak about this matter if needed. She also stated that from all the maps she had seen this was one of the best. The Council chose to take the time and adopt at the next meeting.

The Mayor question the City Attorney about the Verizon agreement to which he was informed that work was still being done on the site assessment.

VII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Mayor and Council with January financial reports. She also gave a power point presentation of the financials to the public

VIII. New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Proclamation Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day

The Mayor read a Proclamation for Natural Gas Utility Worker's Day. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to recognize March 18th as "Natural Gas Utility Worker's Day." The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

Zone Change Ric Hall Lane

Kenneth Jones informed the Mayor and Council that after a second meeting of the Planning Commission the zone changed for Ric Hall Lane from R2 to City Commercial had gone through. He stated that it was passed due to the issues regarding the road remaining open, and a privacy fence/buffer being installed had been resolved. He stated that their recommendation to approve motion included a negative use section to limit the use to storage buildings if permissible by the Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the zone change from R2 to City Commercial. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

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The Mayor spoke on the hold up at the Civic Center stating that it was due to Fire Marshall having to approve the extension plans because of capacity/occupancy. Kenneth stated that he had been informed by Lane Davis that the plans had been rejected as presented and that more information was needed. Lane stated that the architect is in communication with the Fire Marshall on what more may be needed.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the Early County Bobcats had advanced to the Elite 8 and asked everyone for their support and prayer.

The Mayor asked the Council about making the mask wearing optional. He stated that if it was chosen to keep the policy in place that it needs to be enforced. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to make the mask mandate optional. Councilmember Clenney and Councilmember Jarrett voted "YEH" and Councilmember Davis and Councilmember Hutchins voted "NAY". The Mayor questioned the City Attorney if there were any legal updates regarding mask mandates. Ms. Hooks suggested she would look at the policy and compare to the CDC guidelines due to recent updates. She then suggested holding this item for further research to which the Mayor stated this item would be held pending an legal option from the City Attorney

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the payroll changes as presented by the Mayor. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the list of items presented by the Mayor along with the two cars presented by Chief Caudill. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

The Mayor presented a price quote for purchasing a trailer with automatic tarp system, for the landfill, in the amount of \$86,300. He stated that this was from the same company the City had purchased a trailer from last year. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve taking the quote to the County for approval of the trailer purchase in the amount of \$86,300. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

Councilmember Hutchins questioned the City Attorney about raise approvals and if they should be taken into Executive Session to discuss. The City Attorney stated that they had already been



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approved. She then went on to say that this could be handled either way the Mayor and Council chose to do the process.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the 900 linear foot 8" sewer main extension 900ft South of the Columbia St and Flowers Drive intersection along with the repair of pipe work under the road toward Mr. Lee's property in the amount of \$100,000 per Still Water Engineering bid. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

IX. Public Comments

JB Jones questioned the Mayor and Council on the drainage/road project on E. South Blvd. He questioned what the holdup was because this has been ongoing for several years. There was a short discussion on the employee's time to do the project.

Charlie Sol spoke on the mask mandate and what had happened regarding the mask mandate and why the action had been stopped. He spoke on the current mandate/ordinance.

Ms. Mells spoke on the interest of having an adult playground at the Senior Center and the grant funds possibly available to help with this type of project.

Ms. Celia Bostwick spoke about the mask mandate and breathing issues that some people have breathing problems that could be affected by the mask wearing. She then spoke on the cemetery and commented on the City cutting down the ragged looking trees. She then spoke on the Chamber banquet and how the Mayor and other members of leadership stepped up and helped serve when the hired servers did not show up. She thanked everyone for their support coming to the banquet due to the Chamber being a non-profit and this helps raise funds for the Chamber.

X. Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarret to enter into Executive Session on the matter of Personnel and Legal matters on a business license. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to return to regular session. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to deny the on-premise consumption of distilled spirits for CoCo Lounge until the City Attorney presented a new ordinance. Ms. Hooks then stated that she would investigate the revision of the alcohol ordinance to separate for restaurants and for clubs and at which time the owner



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could reapply. Councilmember Clenney, Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voting "YEH" and Councilmember Davis voting "NAY." The Mayor asked the City Clerk to poll the Councilmembers for their votes. After the poll the Clerk informed the Mayor that there were three votes of "YEH" and one vote of "NAY." The motion to deny carried

The Mayor stated that he recommended Billy Powell for the Street Department Foreman. Councilmember Hutchins asked that all the applicant names be stated for the record. The Mayor informed the Council that Billy Powell, William Hancock and Donell Bryant had applied for the position. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to deny the Mayor's recommendation of Billy Powell for the Street Department Foreman position Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voted "YEH", Councilmember Davis and Councilmember Clenney voted "NAY." The City Attorney informed the Mayor that due to there being a tie the motion failed and that another motion would need to be made. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to go with the Mayor's recommendation to hire Billy Powell as the Street Department Foreman. Councilmember Davis and Councilmember Clenney voted "YEH", Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett voted "NAY," the Mayor broke the tie with a vote of "YEH" the motion to hire Billy Powell carried.

The Mayor reminded the Council that Peanut Proud was the last Saturday of March and that the Poker Run would be this coming Saturday.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to adjourn the March 1st City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember's present

Travis Wimbush, Mayor