



## **Blakely City Council Agenda**

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

- I. Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge Of Allegiance
- II. Mayor's Spotlight
- III. Approve Minutes
  1. Minutes February 1, 2022
    - i. Work Session
    - ii. Regular Session
- IV. Citizens And Delegations
- V. Administrative Committee
  2. Will Caudill – Updates
  3. Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates
- VI. City Attorney's Report
  4. First Reading of Reapportionment Ordinance
- VII. City Clerk's Report
- VIII. New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council
  5. Proclamation Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day
  6. Zone Change Ric Hall Lane
- IX. Public Comments
- X. Executive Session
- XI. Adjournment



## Blakely City Council Agenda

Work Session

February 1, 2022, City Hall, 5:00 P.M.

Brother Jason and Darryl Alexander came before the Mayor and Council to discuss that more space was need for the food pantry and they would like to question use of the Senior Center. They stated that they were questioning the Senior Center due to the fact that they were targeting seniors plus it would give them more space to put the food boxes together. They were questioned on if the whole pantry would be moving to which Brother Jason stated that it would. The Mayor asked how their process would work and it was questioned how often they would need to use the space. Brother Jason stated that that they would need to use the space once a month. There was discussion about what times and what days they would need the center. They stated that their distribution was the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month and that they could work around the lunch schedule that SOWEGA Council on Aging has currently in place. Brother Jason informed the Mayor and Council that there was a committee and he listed the members of that committee. They also stated that since Gwen Houston's was currently using the center for senior activities, they would get with her to work with her schedule as well.

Councilmember Hutchins discussed the letters that had gone out about the alcohol licenses. There was some discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding what had taken place to this point for the renewals of the on-premise consumption of distilled spirits. Chief Caudill spoke to the Mayor and Council on the requirements for the renewals and gave an update on the two licenses that had yet to be approved for renewal. There was discussion about looking at tailoring different alcohol licenses for restaurants, clubs and hair salons. It was discussion about the procedures of operation with the two alcohol licenses that had yet to be renewed and the possibility of letting them continue to operate until the ordinances had been remodeled. It was discussion about getting with the City Attorney to provide model ordinances which led to further discussion on the remodeling and separation of the ordinances so that each entity had a better understanding of their procedures/compliance.

Adam Askew spoke to the Mayor and Council on the City Hall water tower/tank maintenance and a fence for a lift station that is in the middle of a field. He stated that the water tower/tank should be inspected every 5 yrs but then stated that this had changed to every 3 yrs. He stated that he had quotes. Councilmember Hutchins questioned Adam about the companies he had quotes from and asked if they were the same ones who had quoted in the past and if he felt that they were all capable of doing this type of work. Adam informed the Mayor and Council that he had gone back to companies that he had dealt with, that had done work for the City and/or that he had gotten quotes from in the past. Adam then informed the Mayor and Council that Mike Still had questioned the fence around the lift station, which is out In the middle of a field. The Mayor suggested that Adam get with Lane about the fencing cost and if the City could do the work internally. Lane stated that he was informed, by

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Clarence Still, that when the lift station was installed the agreement was that a chain link fence was supposed to have been installed.

The Mayor passed to the Council pay increases for review

The Mayor informed the Council that the Civic Center was still on hold because the approval from the State Fire Marshall had not been received as of yet.

Adam informed the Mayor and Council that a representative from GA Rural Water would like to come talk to them about the water billing & processing because of the water loss figures that come from the water audit he submits yearly.

The work session was closed

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Travis Wimbush, Mayor



## 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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## Blakely City Council Minutes

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.





## Blakely City Council Minutes

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 1<sup>st</sup> City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

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Travis Wimbush, Mayor

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-\_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BLAKELY, GEORGIA ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF O.C.G.A. § 36-35-4.1 REAPPORTIONING THE ELECTION DISTRICTS FROM WHICH MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF BLAKELY ARE ELECTED; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCE AND CHARTER PROVISIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, Federal and State law require the reapportionment of the election districts from which the members of the governing authorities of the municipalities of the State of Georgia are elected to reflect demographic changes shown by the Federal census of 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Home Rule Act of 1945, O.C.G.A. § 36-35-4.1, authorizes municipalities to reapportion its election districts, using the procedures provided by § 36-35-1 *et seq.* of the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant thereto the Mayor and Council of the City of Blakely have prepared a plan (the “Plan”), a copy of which is attached to this ordinance as Exhibit A and incorporated herein as fully as if set forth verbatim; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 36-35-1 *et seq.* public notice of the proposed adoption of the Plan was published in compliance with the requirements of the statute, a copy of which notice and the affidavit of the publisher evidencing publication are attached hereto as Exhibit B.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the City of Blakely, and it is hereby ordained by authority of same as follows:

**Section 1.** The reapportionment plan (the “Plan”), a copy of which is on file with the clerk of the City of Blakely, and a copy of which is attached to this ordinance as Exhibit A, is hereby adopted.

**Section 2.** The City Clerk is directed to file, immediately upon the effective date of this ordinance, a copy of this ordinance and Plan and the attachments thereto, with the Secretary of State of the State of Georgia and with the Clerk of the Superior Court for Early County, Georgia, in compliance with the requirements of O.C.G.A. §36-35-5.

**Section 3.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed.

**SO ORDAINED**, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

**CITY OF BLAKELY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Travis Wimbush

( S E A L )

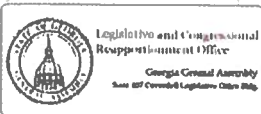
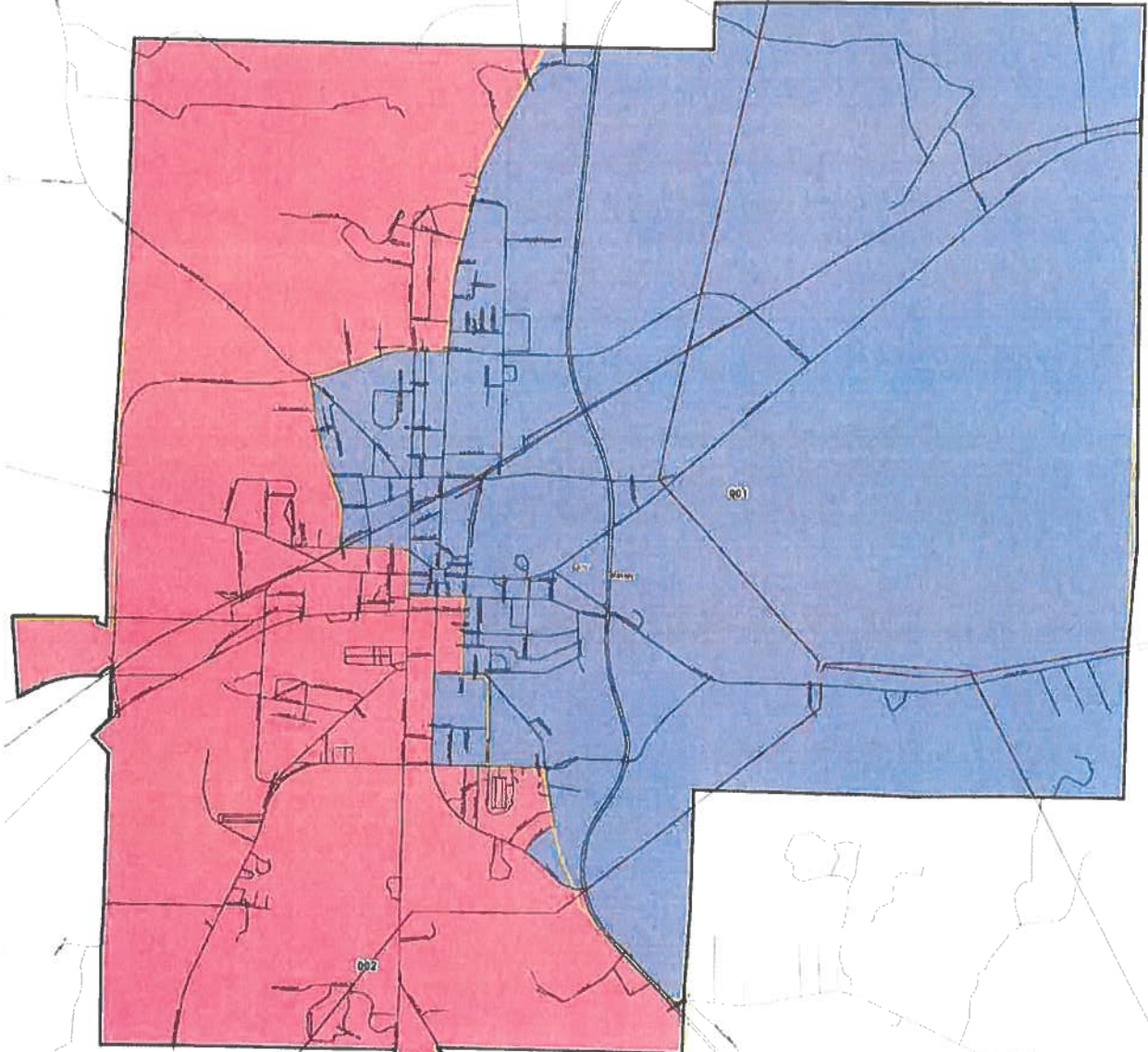
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, Melinda Crook

First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBIT "A"**

# Proposed



**Map layers**

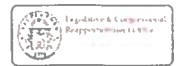
- Districts
- Blakely91
- CTTIES2020
- Pipeline/Power Line
- Railroad
- County
- District
- 001 (1)
- 002 (1)
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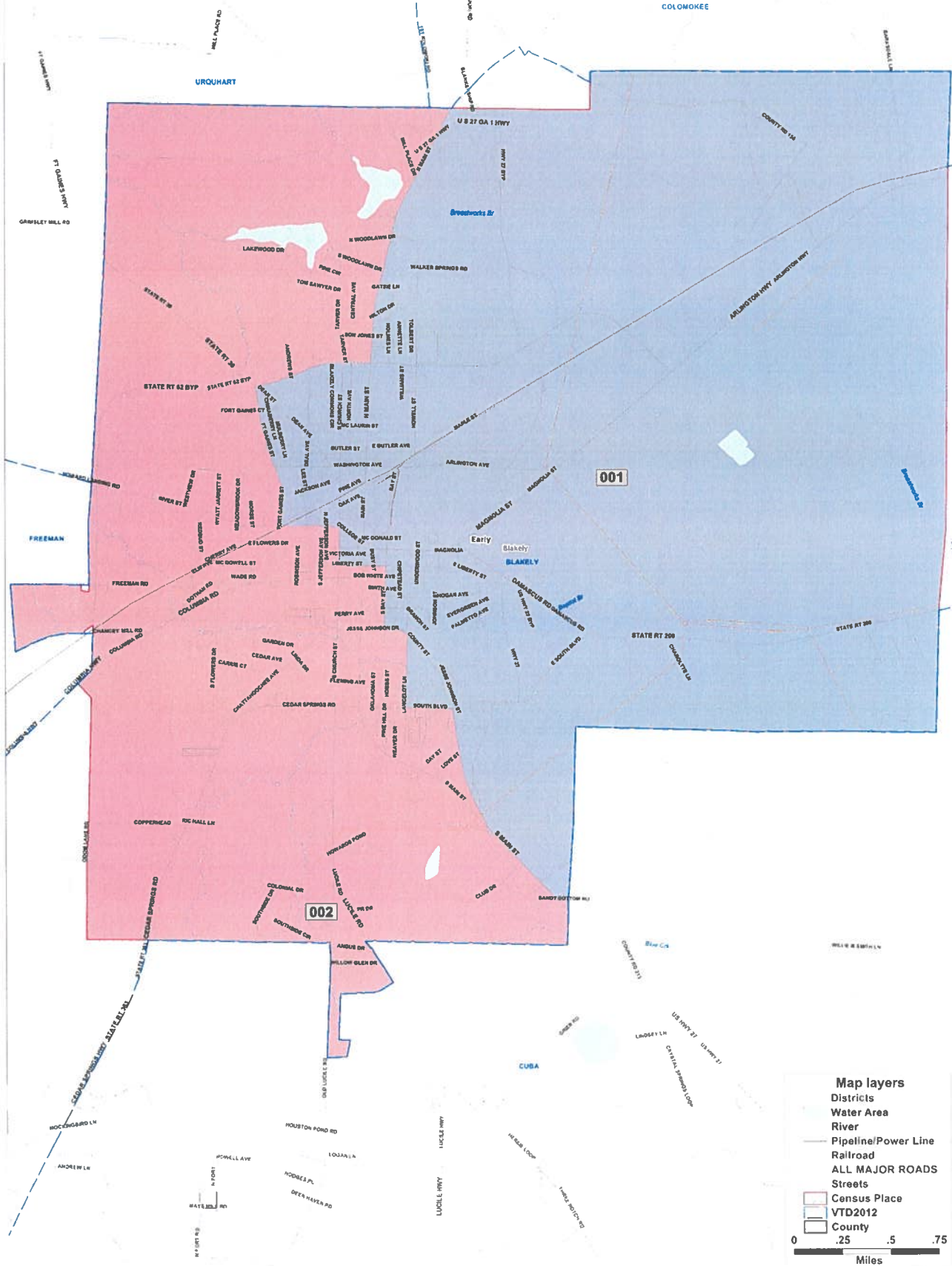
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District	Population	Deviation	% Deviation	10+ Pop	% 10+ Pop	% WH, WHC	% AD, BB	% Hispanic Origin	% NH, AA	% NH, Ind	% NH, Jm	% NH, Oth	% NH, 2+ Races
001	10,785,194	-3	-0.07%	821,638	7.61%	80.07%	10.54%	10.42%	4.44%	0.19%	0.06%	0.22%	1.64%
002	2687	1	0.04%	1878	69.60%	8.8%	88.44%	1.04%	0.41%	0.22%	0%	0.11%	1.97%
003	2687	1	0.04%	2011	74.84%	43.93%	51.58%	1.84%	0.78%	0.22%	0%	0%	7.12%

# Blakely City Council Districts



# Current Map



**A PROCLAMATION  
NATURAL GAS UTILITY WORKERS' DAY**

**WHEREAS:** In 2015, the American Public Gas Association began recognizing March 18<sup>th</sup> as Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day; and

**WHEREAS:** The date was chosen to remember the New London, Texas school explosion that occurred on March 18, 1937, leading to the widespread odorization of natural gas and an increased emphasis on safety; and

**WHEREAS:** Safety is a vital aspect of natural gas distributions and the employees of distribution companies' endeavor to make natural gas delivery as safe as possible; and

**WHEREAS:** The attention and dedication of our utility workers is essential to ensuring the safety of natural gas distribution; and

**WHEREAS:** On Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day and throughout the year, we recognize the vital services these workers provide to their communities; now

**THEREFORE:** The Mayor and City Council of the City of Blakely do hereby proclaim March 18, 2022 as Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day.

*So proclaimed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.*

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Travis Wimbush, Mayor

**CITY OF BLAKELY  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES  
MONDAY**

**February 21, 2022**

**6:00 P. M.**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: INVOCATION.**

Chairman Wallace Oneal called the meeting to order. Members present were: Wallace Oneal, George Eason, Exie Smith, Hope Hutchins, and Zoning Kenneth Jones

**2. APPROVE MINUTES OF January 24, 2022 Planning Commission meeting and Public Hearing.**

George Eason made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Exie Smith. All in favor. Motion passed.

**3. OLD BUSINESS: None**

**4. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Zone change request for 16958 Cedar Springs Rd. Legal description: LL 192-28<sup>th</sup> LD. The parcel is approximately 2.5 acres. The owner would like to change the zone from R-2, Two-Family, and Multi-Family Residential District, to C-Commercial District to expand the existing storage facility.**

After discussion about making sure the road, Ric Hall Lane, would remain open and that a privacy fence would be installed on the sides that join residential property, a motion was made by Hope Hutchins to recommend approving the zone change request to the City Council from R-2 to C-Commercial L-U, Limited to storage buildings provided that a privacy fence be installed. The motion was seconded by Exie Smith. All in favor. Motion passed.

**5. MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

There being no further business a motion was made by George Eason and seconded by Exie Smith to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion Passed.