



Blakely City Council Minutes

July 5, 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 Al Hutchins, Councilmember Brad Clenney were present. Councilmember Ray Jarrett was not present. Also present was City Attorney Tommy Coleman and City Clerk Melinda Crook. There was a moment of silence. Joseph Buggs gave the invocation. The Mayor and Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to amend the agenda to move the audit report, to be presented by auditor Perry Henry, to citizens and delegations after Ms. Day. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember present

II. Mayor's Spotlight

The Mayor's spotlight for the month of June was for Robert Worlds. The Mayor spoke on Roberts accomplishments and his dedication to the Fire Department. The Mayor presented Robert with a certificate of recognition.

The Mayor asked Chief McDonald to come forward and explain the recent certifications that Robert Worlds and Michael Tucker has recently achieved. Chief McDonald explained that both Robert and Michael had completed their Fire Fighter 1 State certification. He then explained everything that both Robert and Michael had done to complete this certification. He stated that they had also completed their hazmat awareness training as well. He spoke on their dedication to their jobs and stated how proud the Fire Department and City is of Robert Worlds and Michael Tucker.

III. Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the Work Session, Regular Session minutes from June 7th and the Special Called Meeting on June 22. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

IV. Citizens And Delegations

1. Mrs. Betty Day – Tower Agreement

Ms. Day came before the Mayor and Council to request that the City give access to her property through Clardy Rd. due to a cell tower being placed on her property. She stated that Birdsong currently has a fence across the street but has agreed to allow the tower company to place a gate there. The Mayor asked the City Attorney Tommy Coleman if all that was needed would be



Blakely City Council Minutes

a verbal agreement. City Attorney Tommy Coleman gave a brief explanation and stated that an easement would be needed. The Mayor and Council requested that he draw up the necessary paperwork to present to Ms. Day as soon as possible.

Audit Report

The City Auditor Perry Henry came before the Mayor and Council to give the 2021 audit report. He gave a power point presentation. He gave a brief explanation of what an audit is and the audit process. He spoke on the City's statement of assets and stated that assets increased and gave an explanation of why. He stated that liabilities decreased and gave explanations of why. He then stated that the City's net position increased 1.3 million for the overall funds. He then went through the statement of activities. He explained that revenues went down and explained why. He then stated that expenses went down and explained why. He then stated that the governmental fund stated that revenues were down and expenses were down. He stated that the enterprise funds revenues were down and expenses were down and this was mainly due to the sale of the telecom. He then spoke on the overall findings and stated that the only finding was due to segregation of duties and explained that he was going to get with the staff to see if this finding could be better controlled. He stated that most all cities he audits has this finding but that improvements can be made. He spoke on some areas the he and the staff are going to work on improving such as capital assets, inventory etc... He finished his report stating that the City is in good position overall and that 2021 was a good year for the City.

V. Administrative Committee

Will Caudill – Updates

Chief Will Caudill gave his monthly report. He then stated that four arrests had been made for the shooting incident on Church St which would actually make his monthly numbers a little higher. He then stated that arrests had been made for the shooting incident on Palmetto. Chief Caudill then informed the Mayor and Council that they were hosting a training exercise, ALERT, which also includes other surrounding law enforcement. The Mayor and Council thanked Chief Caudill for all the work that the Police Dept has been doing in regards to the recent incidents.

Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates

E-911 Director Matt Hromalik gave the E-911 monthly report and stated that there had been a total of 4,629 calls for the month of June. The Mayor and Council thank E-911 for all of their work regarding the recent incidents.

VI. City Attorney's Report

Resolution MEAG voting delegate



Blakely City Council Minutes

The City Attorney Tommy Coleman explained the resolution and stated that this gets updated periodically. The Mayor stated that the current delegate is Brad Clenney with the Alternate being City Clerk Melinda Crook. The Mayor then stated that as he attends most of the conferences and is attending the up coming conference at which a board vacancy needs to be voted on then the change would be to add the Mayor as voting delegate. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the MEAG voting delegate resolution adding Mayor Travis Wimbush as the voting delegate and City Clerk Melinda Crook as the alternate. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Resolutions Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

The City Attorney Tommy Coleman explained the resolution and stated that this has to be updated periodically. He stated that is needed for FEMA/GEMA assistance. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Resolution. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Resolution Barn Complex Financing

The City Attorney Tommy Coleman explained that the City is in the process of using the GMA Bricks & Mortar program for the Utility Complex. He stated that once the financing through this program is complete this resolution needs to be in place so that the City can reimburse themselves from the funds for anything that they have already spent on the project. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the Utility Complex Financing Resolution. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

TSPLOST Resolution & Agreement

The City Attorney Tommy Coleman spoke on the TSPLOST and IGA with the County. He stated that this agreement is between the County, City, Damascus, Arlington and Jakin. He stated that the percentages are the same as the previous resolution and agreement. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the Resolution and IGA. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

VII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented financial reports to the Mayor and Council and gave a power point presentation for the public of the last fully completed month which was May.

Budget Adjustments & Amendments

The City Clerk then presented the Mayor and Council with budget amendments and adjustments which she and the Finance Director had prepared. The Clerk informed the Mayor and Council



Blakely City Council Minutes

that the amendments were to some revenue accounts which were offset by some expenditure's accounts. She then stated that the adjustments were just in between funds with the largest adjustment being that the retirement was now being broken down by department on a monthly basis so adjustments had to be made to move the expenditure from administration to the departments. The Mayor reminded the Council that amendments and adjustments have to be done periodically to stay in compliance. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the budget amendments and adjustments as presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

VIII. New Items Proposed by Mayor and City Council

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve a \$50,000 allotment of ARPA funds for the Senior Center programs. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve a \$50,000 allotment of ARPA funds for the IT Department. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve a \$150,000 allotment of ARPA funds for the Police Department which includes the purchase of two new Police Interceptors around \$40,980 each with SPLOST paying for outfitting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor informed the Council that Lane Davis has started the removal of the ceiling to lower the cost from the contractor. He stated that the door to replace is on its way. He stated the upgrades are well underway.

The Mayor stated that the weekend was a good weekend and he thanked the Council and public for their support/cooperation on the Declaration of Emergency that was put into place because of the most recent incidents that had taken place. He stated that the is not a total solution but it was felt this might curb what has been happening recently.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the 2 pay increases for the Fire Department and 1 pay increase for the Gas Department. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor thanked the Council for their attendance in their participation/attendance at the GMA Convention. He stated that at this convention there is a lot to be learned at the classes



Blakely City Council Minutes

and from networking with other City Officials. He asked those that attended to possibly get together to see if anything could be implemented at our City.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to increase the per diem from the current State per diem rates to \$100.00 per day for Mayor and Councilmembers only. The Mayor commented that when the Mayor or Council go to conferences or conventions, they are having to take off from their paying jobs to do City business, unless they are retired, and this additional is just a little extra as an offset for them for this loss. The motion carried with Councilmember Hutchins, Councilmember Davis voting "YEAH" Councilmember Clenney voting "NAY" and the Mayor voting "YEAH" to break the tie.

IX. Public Comments

Celia Bostwick addressed the Mayor and Council to thank them for their continued support on the firework festival. She also thanked the Police Department for their attendance in a booth which she felt gave citizens a sense of security. She then spoke briefly on littering signs and the noisy muffler issue. She spoke briefly on the Emergency Declaration curfew and thanked the Mayor and Council for their efforts on trying to take a first step to do something due to the recent incidents.

Charlie Sol spoke on speed bumps. He stated that instead of fixing problems some of these are creating problems. He stated that you can see marks where cars have hit. He stated that the "homemade" speed bumps do not look good and are a bad reflection on the City.

X. Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to enter into Executive Session for personnel matters. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to enter back into regular session. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve moving Gabe Jordan to only being over the Landfill and making Billy Powell over the Sanitation Department. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Councilmember Hutchins questioned if there was a light uniform material then the employees are currently wearing due to the current uniform shirt material being hot.



Blakely City Council Minutes

Chief Will Caudill informed the Mayor and Council that due to having surgery Animal Control employee Sherry Hughes was out for a while if the Mayor or Council should receive a call.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to adjourn the July 5th City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor