



Blakely City Council Agenda

Work Session
August 2, 2022, City Hall, 6:00 P.M.

I. Darlene Fuller, Legal Shield



Blakely City Council Agenda

August 2, 2022, City Hall, 6:00 P.M.

- I. Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge Of Allegiance
- II. Mayor's Spotlight
- III. Executive Session
- IV. Approve Minutes
 1. Minutes July 5, 2022
 - i. Work Session
 - ii. Regular Session
- V. Citizens And Delegations
 2. Meredith Whitehead
- VI. Administrative Committee
 3. Will Caudill – Updates
 4. Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates
- VII. City Attorney's Report
 5. MEAG Plant Vogle
 6. Resolution accepting Harris property on College Street
- VIII. City Clerk's Report
- IX. New Items Proposed by Mayor and City Council
- X. Public Comments
- XI. Adjournment



Blakely City Council Minutes

Work Session

July 5, 2022, City Hall, 5:00 P.M.

The Mayor opened the July 5th work session and stated that there were a few things to go over. He stated that the City Attorney has some suggestions regarding the recent shooting incidents. He stated that no incidents had been report over the holiday weekend after the Declaration of Emergency had been put into place. He stated that he had citizens thanking him for putting something in place and had not heard that there was any issue with the curfew as well regarding the businesses. He stated thanked the Council for their support of the Declaration.

The City Attorney stated that the only problem with emergency orders is that they are for emergencies and that the Mayor has to make the determination when the order is over. He stated that he had reviewed the Alcohol Ordinance, Other Ordinances, what other cities have done along with items that he dealt with when he was mayor. He spoke on the fact that there have been incidents like this in the past and the issues that happen when you have large gatherings and alcohol is involved. He then stated that if someone was to walk out of a club with a drink in their hand it is against the law. He then stated that the closing times could be pushed back to close at possibly 1:00am or whatever time the Mayor and Council would choose. He stated that the 50% food sale is not being complied by correctly. He stated that the businesses that hold this license are supposed to have security and if an incident takes place a report is supposed to be filed. He then stated that he has never seen a report if this has been done. He also stated that the security is supposed to be a post certified officer that can make an arrest. He stated that these are just some things that the City already has in place and can enforce. He spoke on loitering which is not allowed and is the City Ordinances. He stated that incident reports were filed or if the business was issued violations, then they would be taken to court. He stated that if taken to court altercations or violations should be reported to the Department of Revenue within 45 days. He then spoke on the shape of the buildings and the building code issues may be found or fire code issues. He then brought up parking issues and that there should be 1 space for every 100 square feet of building and 1 additional space per employee. He also stated that incidents or violations are supposed to be report to the Mayor and Council. He stated that they Mayor and Council could put a rule in place that there should be a certain amount of distance between these types of businesses. He stated that there could be a reinstatement fee is there was to be a suspension or loss of license for a period of time. He stated that it could be put into place that the Police Chief could close one of these businesses for 24 hrs if he was to find something and that if what the Chief finds is brought before the Mayor and Council, they could close the business for up to 30 days. He stated that this was a more immediate thing that could be done. He then spoke of possible road blocks. He stated that presently the most important thing is that these businesses operate according to what the City law are. He stated that the feels that some things recommended should be put into the

CITY OF BLAKELY

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Ordinances. The Mayor then stated that he feels that the biggest thing from the Mayor and Council is consistency and fairness across the board when discussing what could be done. The Mayor stated that he feels that there needs to be a meeting with the business owners and educate them of these laws. He stated that a unified front needs to be presented. He stated that the incidents may not involve the businesses and just two groups of individuals that met up and things escalated from there. The Mayor stated that if these laws are on the books they do need to be enforced but they need to be enforced consistently and fairly. Councilmember Clenney spoke of the Council getting a copy of what is on the books presently. Kenneth spoke on the Ordinance of regulation of events and notices.

The Mayor than stated that the next things that needed to be done was to address the semi-truck parking ordinance. The Mayor stated that GMA had not been able to get anything together due to preparing for the annual convention. The City Attorney Tommy Coleman stated that Dawson allows the truck to go home but trailer has to be parked elsewhere. He then stated that Camilla took a piece of City property and allowed trucks to park. There was more discussion between the Mayor and Council. The Mayor stated that a citizen was requesting that they be allowed to at least take their truck home to their property. The citizen spoke to the Mayor and Council on different concerns. They spoke of the issues around the area on the height of electric and phone lines. They then spoke on the issue of trucks to buses. They spoke on the new truck stop coming and issues that may be good and bad. The Mayor asked the City Attorney if he could possibly provide some information from other cities as well. There was discussion of liability if semi-trucks are not allowed at residence. The Council felt that the issues should be tabled for more information and further discussion.

The Mayor asked the Council to consider allotting several projects from the ARPA funds. He stated that presently two projects had been done from these funds which are the Dean, Deal & Angus project and premium pay. He asked that the Council allot \$100,000 to public safety. He spoke of the Enterprise Lease and that the City has not received any vehicles at the point and there is no time schedule as to when the City will receive vehicles. He stated that when at the convention he had spoke with Wade Ford and that they had two Police Interceptors and would like to Council to approve purchasing these two and that the Enterprise order would be adjusted from four vehicles to two. He then stated that the other portion of the \$150,000 could be put toward a camera system of the problem areas. He stated that the Police Chief would be getting some information and quotes together for this. He then informed the Council that the City did not receive the AARP grant for the Senior Center and asked that \$50,000 be allocated for the playground equipment and walking path. He then requested another \$50,000 for the IT Department due to a lot of equipment needs to be updated. The Mayor stated that we could be checking with the grant writer to find out about grants that could be utilized for IT as well.



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The Mayor then stated that he would like to address phase two the Jeanette King Park project. He stated that phase one on the renovation had been done and that is asking the Council about moving on to phase two such as adding a splash pad. The Mayor stated that funds for this could come from SPLOST. He stated that he had gotten some brochures from the convention for a starting point on the splash pad.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor



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



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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



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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



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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 this 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



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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.



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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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-_____

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A QUIT CLAIM DEED OF DONATION FROM AMELIA B. HARRIS TO THE CITY OF BLAKELY; REPEALING ALL PRIOR RESOLUTION IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, property owner AMELIA B. HARRIS wish to convey to the City of Blakely for the betterment of the City that certain property located within the City and more particularly described in “Exhibit A” attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, said property owners wish to make such conveyance by way of a Quit Claim Deed of Donation to the City; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the City Council to be in the best interest of the City of Blakely and its citizens to accept the property offered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Blakely as follows:

Section 1. The Quit Claim Deed of Donation from AMELIA B. HARRIS to the City of Blakely attached hereto as “Exhibit B” is hereby approved and accepted.

Section 2. The Mayor is authorized to deliver to AMELIA B. HARRIS the donation acceptance letter attached hereto as “Exhibit C”.

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

SO RESOLVED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

CITY OF BLAKELY

By: _____
Mayor, Travis Wimbush

Attest: _____
Clerk, Melinda Crook

Exhibit "A"

A parcel of land in the City of Blakely, part of lot of land No. 167 in the 28th District of Early County, Georgia, formerly known as the Methodist Parsonage and more particularly described as commencing at a point on the south margin of College Street a distance of 270 feet from the west margin of Lee Street measuring along the south margin of College Street, and from such beginning point thence south at right angles to College Street a distance of 240 feet; thence west parallel with College Street a distance of 0 feet; thence north to the south margin of College Street a distance of 240 feet; thence east along the south margin of College Street a distance of 80 feet to the point of beginning. Said parcel of land is the same land conveyed by Ida Barksdale et al. to H. C. Fryer et al., trustees of Blakely Methodist Church, by deed dated January 7, 1897, and recorded in Deed Book "T", Page 398, Deed Records of Early County, Georgia.

Said property is the same property described in and conveyed by that Warranty Deed from H. C. Fryer, Sr., E. T. Crawford, D. D. Knighton, Tom Morgan, W. L. Mosely, J. E. Williams, Sr., Grady Holman, Jr., C.L. Tabb and Judge J. W. Bonner, Trustees of Blakely Methodist Church to Ray Harris, dated December 15, 1962, and recorded in Deed Book 79, Page 492, Early County, Georgia, Deed Records.

Said property is the same property set aside as Year's Support to the widow and minor children of Walter Ray Harris by Order of the Ordinary of Early County, Georgia, on March 7, 1966.

Said property is the same property described in and conveyed by that Survivorship Deed from Leonard R. Harris to Leonard R. Harris and Amelia B. Harris, dated February 13, 2001 and recorded in Deed Book 235, Page 827, Early County, Georgia, Deed Records.

Return To:
 Flin Coleman
 Drew Eckl & Farnham, LLP
 1604 W. 3rd Ave.
 Albany, GA 31707

GEORGIA,
 EARLY COUNTY:

QUIT CLAIM DEED OF DONATION

THIS INDENTURE, made the 23 day of June, in the year 2022 between AMELIA B. HARRIS, as party of the first part, hereinafter called Grantor, and CITY OF BLAKELY, GEORGIA, a municipal corporation of the State of Georgia, as party of the second part, hereinafter called Grantee (the words "Grantor" and "Grantee" to include their respective heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns where the context requires or permits).

WITNESSETH that: Grantor, for and in consideration of a donation of the property described below to Grantee and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has bargained, released and quit-claimed and does by these presents bargain, remise, release and forever quit-claim to the said Grantee all the right, title, interest, claim or demand which the said Grantor has or may have had in and to the following described property, to-wit:

A parcel of land in the City of Blakely, part of lot of land No. 167 in the 28th District of Early County, Georgia, formerly known as the Methodist Parsonage and more particularly described as commencing at a point on the south margin of College Street a distance of 270 feet from the west margin of Lee Street measuring along the south margin of College Street, and from such beginning point thence south at right angles to College Street a distance of 240 feet; thence west parallel with College Street a distance of 0 feet; thence north to the south margin of College Street a distance of 240 feet; thence east along the south margin of College Street a distance of 80 feet to the point of beginning. Said parcel of land is the same land conveyed by Ida Barksdale et al. to H. C. Fryer et al., trustees of Blakely Methodist Church, by deed dated January 7, 1897, and recorded in Deed Book "T", Page 398, Deed Records of Early County, Georgia.

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Said property is the same property described in and conveyed by that Survivorship Deed from Leonard R. Harris to Leonard R. Harris and Amelia B. Harris, dated February 13, 2001 and recorded in Deed Book 235, Page 827, Early County, Georgia, Deed Records.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said described premises unto the said Grantee, so that neither the said Grantor nor any other person or persons claiming under the Grantor shall at any time claim or demand any right, title or interest in or to the aforesaid described premises or its appurtenances. Said property is conveyed as is and where is and subject to all outstanding ad valorem taxes on said property, including said taxes for 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantor has executed this document and affixed their seals hereto the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of :

[Signature]
Unofficial Witness

Amelia B. Harris (L.S.)
AMELIA B. HARRIS

[Signature]
Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 10/26/2025

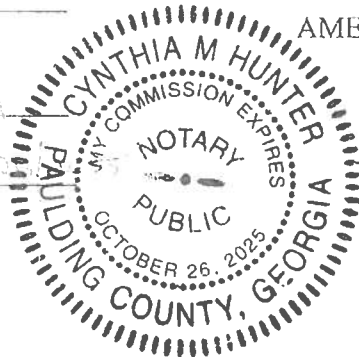


EXHIBIT "C"

Dear Mrs. Harris:

Thank you for your donation to the City of Blakely, Georgia.

The City of Blakely, Georgia is a municipal corporation created and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia. 26 U.S.C.A. 170(c) provides "for the purposes of this section the term "Charitable Contribution" means a contribution or gift to or for the use of (1) a state, a possession of the United States, or any political subdivision of any of the foregoing or the United States or the District of Columbia but only in the contribution or gift is made for exclusively public purposes".

Pursuant to this Code Section, the City of Blakely, Georgia may accept charitable contributions. You are advised to consult your attorney regarding the tax status of your contribution.

Your support and affirmation of our City is appreciated.

Name of Property Owner: AMELIA B. HARRIS

Contribution: That tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Blakely, early, County, Georgia and being more particularly described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Tax Id# _____

Sincerely,

THE CITY OF BLAKELY, GEORGIA

Travis Wimbush, Mayor