



Blakely City Council Minutes
September 6, 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 Brad Clenney, Councilmember Al Hutchins and Councilmember Ray Jarrett were all present. Also present was the City Clerk Melinda Crook. The City Attorney Tommy Coleman was present via Teleconference. After a moment of silence, Darryl Alexander gave the invocation and led the Mayor, Councilmembers and public in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Mayor's Spotlight**
The Mayor stated that Christopher Cox was this month's Mayor spotlight. The Mayor asked Matt Hromalik stated that Christopher, a shift supervisor, has been with E911 since it started in 2016. He stated that Christopher is one of the most valuable employees at E911. He spoke on the additional duties Christopher does such as mapping for City, County and street signs. The Mayor stated that by Christopher doing those signs it saves the City and County money from having to contract out that service.
- III. **Approve Minutes**
A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and Seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the Work Session and Regular minutes from August 2, 2022. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present
- IV. **Citizens And Delegations**
No one was present
- V. **Administrative Committee**
Will Caudill – Updates
Chief Caudill gave the monthly report for total calls of 782. Councilmember Hutchins questioned the ATM break in. Chief Caudill gave a brief explanation of what had happened and stated no arrest had been made as of yet. Chief Caudill spoke on a training equipment grant the Police Dept was trying for and that a new grant had recently opened up, out of the Governors Office, and that the Police Dept was getting together some items to present to the grant writer regarding submission. Chief Caudill then spoke on Faith and Blue. He explained what this initiative is about and stated that it will be taking place October 7-9. He also explained some of the things that will be going on during this time such as faith-based choirs and music, an event at Jeanette King Park and community dialog. He stated that more information would be on the Police Dept FB page and flyers. Darryl Alexander spoke on the community opportunity to



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fellowship together and for the community to participate/fellowship with the Police Dept as well.

Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates

Lequeshia Mincey gave the monthly E911 report - the total calls for the month of August were 4321

VI. City Attorney's Report

There were no items for the City Attorney's report

VII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented the Mayor and Council with monthly financials reports for the month of July. She then gave a power point presentation of the financials for the public

VIII. New Items Proposed by Mayor and City Council

Alcohol License JCK Celebration Station

Alcohol License J&J on Main

The Building Official, Mark Hawkins spoke to the Mayor and Council regarding the two alcohol license requests for JCK Celebration Station and J & J on Main. He stated that he and Kenneth Jones had been in contact with the City Attorney regarding the license requests. The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman then stated that an Event Center can only obtain an alcohol license for each individual event and cannot obtain a continuous alcohol license. The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman stated that this is for all alcohol licenses including just beer and wine. There was some discussion on brown bagging. The Mayor questioned if both the licenses applied for fell under this response to which the City Attorney stated "Yes" Kenneth Jones then spoke on what constitutes an Event Center according to the Ordinance. The Mayor suggested that these licenses be tabled for further clarification and information from the City Attorney. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to table the alcohol license requests for JCK Celebration Station and J & J on Main pending further information/clarification from the City Attorney. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the 8" sewer line on Flowers Dr as presented by Still Water Engineers for approximately \$125,000 with contingencies. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the removal/replacement of the 2" water main on Oklahoma St. for approximately



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\$90,000 with contingencies as presented by Still Water Engineers. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present. The Mayor stated that the 8" sewer line and the 6" water line would be paid from the ARPA funds.

The Mayor thanked the Seniors for attending the town hall meetings regarding the Senior Center proposals on the use of the funds allocated for the Senior Center by the City. He stated that the City would be moving forward with the requested items in priority order as presented by Gwen Houston. He also stated that the City would be getting with the contractor regarding the Pickle Ball Courts.

The Mayor presented the Council with several quotes on a Street Sweeper. He stated that the cost ranged from \$75,000, which was for a used sweeper, with the new sweepers from \$145,210.93 to \$269,000. He then stated that the Department Head was requesting the Nighthawk sweep for \$145,210.93. He stated that this would be financed with the yearly payment to come from the SPLOST account. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the purchase of the Nighthawk Street Sweeper in the amount of \$145,210.93. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the pay increase requests for Mary Johnson and Patrick Favors. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor updated the Councilmembers on the Civic Center progress. He stated that the sheetrock has been installed and the ceiling is being worked on presently

IX. Public Comments

Mr. Pernell Freeman spoke to the Mayor, Council and Public on the opening day for the Early County Bobcats. He asked the Mayor, Council and public to support the Bobcats.

Celia Bostwick spoke on Christmas on the Square and what changes would be taking place. She stated that they want to hold a night parade and that it would be moved from the first Saturday to the second Saturday. She stated it would start at 9:30 and go until the night parade. She asked for float entries. She then spoke on retailers open house for the first Thursday in October, a gospel sing and Saturday morning markets. She spoke on trying to make Blakely a go to town.

Cheryl Cawthorn questioned what was going on with the garbage. She informed the Mayor and Council that a bag of garbage, on top of her can, was moved off and placed by the side of the can and not taken. The Mayor stated that this issue is being addressed.



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Tamekia Buggs spoke on the trash issue also. She then spoke on the Ladybug mentoring program. She stated that this program teaches interpersonal skills, relationship skills and more. She stated that there are six young people involved. She stated that scholarships were being awarded.

It was brought up that an item was missed in the new items proposed by Mayor and Council. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the purchase of an EV charging station for approximately \$625 from Gresco. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor spoke on support of the local sports and activities

X. Executive Session – Personnel

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to enter back into Regular Session from Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to adjourn the September 6 City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Travis Wimbush, Mayor