



Blakely City Council Agenda

Work Session November 1, 2022, City Hall, 5:00 P.M.

I.



Blakely City Council Agenda

November 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 October 4, 2022
 - i. Work Session
 - ii. Regular Session
 2. Minutes October 6, 2022
 3. Minutes October 20, 2022
 4. Minutes October 27, 2022
- IV. Citizens And Delegations
- V. Administrative Committee
 5. Will Caudill – Updates
 6. Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates
- VI. City Attorney's Report
- VII. City Clerk's Report
- VIII. New Items Proposed by Mayor and City Council
- IX. Public Comments
- X. Adjournment



Blakely City Council Minutes

Work Session

October 4, 2022, City Hall, 5:00 P.M.

Mayor Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Margaret Davis, Councilmember Al Hutchins, Councilmember Ray Jarrett, Councilmember Brad Clenney, City Attorney Tommy Coleman and City Clerk Melinda Crook were all present.

The City Clerk presented an amendment to the alcohol license adding a \$75.00 fee for a renewal application. She explained that this came about when looking into the new process implemented by GA Dept of Revenue. She informed the Mayor and Council that the fee would include the background check and a portion for administrative fees. There was discussion between the Mayor and Council, Kenneth Jones and Mark Hawkins regarding this change.

The Mayor informed the Council that the City had been awarded the 2022 CDBG Grant for \$1,000,000 to be used on Cedar Springs Hwy. He reminded the Council that this was the project applied for in 2021 that had gotten turned down. He stated that the City portion is \$775,211 but not all at one time/over a period of time. He asked members of the Council if anyone wanted to go to the award presentation.

The Mayor informed the Council that the grant for the water meter project was approved as well.

The Mayor informed the Council that the paving portion of the paving project and that Peek Paving had also completed the striping portion of the paving project therefore making the project completed.

The Mayor informed the Council of a sewer leak on Chattahoochee. He stated that the repair was too large for the City to handle. He stated that raw sewage was flowing into the creek and that presently Chattahoochee was closed from Garden Dr to S. Church St.

The Mayor informed the Council that a Birdsong contractor had found a water line that the City has been unable to cut off. He stated that a live tap would be needed to get it cut off and this work would need to be done by a contractor. The Mayor stated that the infrastructure needs to be kept up because of issues that are being discovered.

The Mayor informed the Council that the ceiling should be completed soon and that the remodel project was coming to a close. He then stated that work being done by the City employees has saved a good amount of funds on this project.



Blakely City Council Minutes

The Mayor spoke on the City owned lots on N. Main St across from Ms. Sheila's. He asked the Council to think about paving the lots for additional parking that businesses could use along with Peanut Proud. He stated that the State has been in contact about this lot because of mud in the street. He stated that crush-in-run would cost just about as much as paving. He stated that the funds could come from SPLOST and also asked that they think about paving the parking lot at the Civic Center at the same time.

The Mayor informed the Council that the electric car charger, electric line and meter had been installed. He stated that it will only charge one car at a time. He stated that this is being put on a map. He then stated that if the other lot was paved the charger could be relocated with an underground electric line.

Kenneth Jones brought three properties, Kegler, Brownlee and McCoy, to the Mayor and Council that have gone through the courts for clean up. He stated that one property, Kegler property, has been worked on. He then stated that the McCoy property would need the most work. He asked the Mayor and Council to consider moving forward for the City to clean up the balance of the property. He stated that fees could be assessed on the property clean up accordingly. Kenneth stated that the customers had five months for clean up and the City now has three months. Councilmember Davis spoke on the three properties and stated that she keeps getting complaints regarding clean up of properties when there is a City owned property on Murdock that needs work done as well. Councilmember Clenney spoke on the property on S. Main St and that Mr. Wimberly keeps asking questions about the property. The Mayor stated that the interior had been cleaned and the owner is waiting on the attorney due to the property being sold. Kenneth spoke of what has happened in the past on that property clean up. There was discussion on the condition of the properties Kenneth brought to the Mayor and Council and what steps the City could possibly take moving forward on clean up. The Mayor asked the Council to consider allocating \$25,000 of ARPA funds to use as grant funds to handle these properties and properties like these for those that are indigent and/or don't have the funds to do the maintenance required. The Mayor then asked the City Attorney if he could draft a contract for use of these funds. The Mayor also stated that progress on properties need to be shown. There was discussion on the concrete plant, the Hall house and a few others.

Chief Caudill stated that an increase in fentanyl use is being seen in the community. He spoke on officers training for drug OD's and the use of Narcan. He stated that he would like to put a policy in place before administering Narcan to the officers. He stated that getting the policy done and the Narcan distributed would be the best scenario. The Mayor informed the City Attorney that there should be policies for both the Police and Fire.



Blakely City Council Minutes

Charlie Sol spoke to the Mayor and Council on community and safety. He talked about the speed bumps and that slower speeds are wanted. He stated the City is breaking the law with at least one of the speed bumps. He stated that the speed bumps cause traffic diversion. He also spoke briefly on ADA compliance with sidewalks on some roads.

Andy Pipkin, with the Kiwanis Club, spoke to the Mayor and Council about the organization. He stated that he helps start clubs and make them stronger. He spoke briefly on his history and that he would like to open a club in Blakely and that it would benefit kids of all ages. He spoke on the Key Club that works with high school age children. He stated that his objective is to make Blakely/Early County a better community. He stated that to start a club there has to be at least 15 members and there are already 20. The Council questioned what the club is like to which Mr. Pipkin stated it is a lot closer to the Rotary/Lions clubs than a Boy Scout Club. He stated that there would be projects to give funds about to other clubs and that funds raised from these projects would stay in Early County. He asked the Mayor and Council to consider joining the Kiwanis Club as individual and/or as an organization. The Mayor stated that there is a website for the Council to review how the Kiwanis Club works and projects that they do. Mr. Pipkins stated that there is no physical location presently where there is a meeting but they are looking in to possible meeting places.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor



Blakely City Council Minutes

October 4, 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 call 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 City Attorney Tommy Coleman and City Clerk Melinda Crook. There was a moment of silence. Billy Powell gave the invocation and led the Mayor, Council and Public in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Mayor's Spotlight
The Mayor stated that Bobby Freeman was this month's Mayor spotlight. The Mayor spoke on Bobby's work around the City, in the Street Dept, when the Tiger was down for repair. The Mayor spoke on the fact that Bobby never complained and spoke of the areas in the Street Dept that Bobby learned from the previous supervisor Charlie Wade.
- III. Approve Minutes
A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the minutes from the Work Session, Regular Session and September 16th Special Called Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present
- IV. Citizens And Delegations - Nobody was present
- V. Administrative Committee
Will Caudill – Updates
Chief Caudill gave the monthly report running through the different call stating that the total was 1015 total calls. Chief Caudill briefly spoke on recent shooting. The Mayor asked Chief Caudill about the new speed detection devices and asked if the information collected could be added to the monthly report. Chief Caudill explained how the speed detection devices operate. Chief Caudill then spoke on the Faith in Blue function coming the following weekend. He then gave a brief rundown of the weekend of events.

Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates
Lequiesha Mincey gave the September monthly report. She stated that there was a total of 4,256 calls
- VI. City Attorney's Report
Resolution – GMA financing for the sweeper



Blakely City Council Minutes

The City Attorney Tommy Coleman briefly explained that this resolution and documents are for a street sweeper financing and are the same as the City has approved and completed before. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the GMA Financing Resolution for the Nighthawk Street Sweeper. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmember present

Tower Agreement

The City Attorney Tommy Coleman spoke on the tower agreement. He stated that this agreement is dividing the maintenance cost seven ways between four entities (the City, the County, Life Brite and School Board). A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the Tower Agreement between the County, City, Hospital and School. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The City Attorney Tommy Coleman briefly explained that the Ordinance was to add a \$75.00 fee for alcohol license renewals and that this fee would encompass the background check and administrative fees. He then read the new Ordinance constituting the first reading.

The City Attorney Tommy Coleman spoke on changes that are being made to the alcohol license Ordinance. He stated that once complete and presented to the Mayor and Council a work session could be held to review and make any other changes.

The Mayor questioned the City Attorney Tommy Coleman about the use of force incidents due to a workers comp bill the City received. Tommy Coleman stated that meant the insurance company probably settled.

VII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented financial reports to the Mayor and Council. She then gave a power point presentation of the financials for the public. The City Clerk informed the Mayor and Council that the budget process was beginning.

VIII. New Items Proposed by Mayor and City Council

Flu clinic October 18th 8:30am

The Mayor informed the Council that the Health and Wellness committee had met that morning and had proposed that each employee who received the flu shot would have their name put into a drawing for a \$100 to come from the Health and Wellness Grant the City had received.

The Mayor informed the Council that the City had been awarded the 2022 CDBG Grant which was the one that had been applied for in 2021 on Cedar Springs Rd for sewer improvements. He



Blakely City Council Minutes

stated that the project costed at \$1,775,211 and the City's leverage match and inkind is \$775,211.

The Mayor asked the Council to allocate \$25,000 of the ARPA grant funds to take care of dilapidated property/houses to get into compliance. He requested that the City Attorney Tommy Coleman draw up an agreement to be utilized in this process. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the use of the ARPA grant funds as requested by the Mayor. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor informed the Council that the renovations on the Civic Center are close to being completed, hopefully by the end of October. He then requested that the policies and rental cost be reviewed by the Councilmembers for possible changes in polices and cost.

Councilmember Hutchins questioned the ditch on Jesse Johnson and if the City could do work that needed to be done. The Mayor explained that the work could be done better with the mini excavator presently in the USDA loan/grant process. The Mayor stated that it is currently being cut with the Tiger but will be safer to do any other work with the mini excavator.

Councilmember Hutchins invited the Mayor and Council to SWGRC in Camilla on the last Thursday in the month. He stated that the GA candidates will be present and that date is October 27th.

The Mayor spoke on the purchase of new jackets for the City employees. He stated they would be like the current windbreakers/jersey lined. He requested the Council consider allowing part time employees to be included along with the Mayor and Council. He stated the cost would be \$49.00 for sizes S-2X and \$54.00 for 3X-5X. The Mayor stated that Police, Fire and E911 get a different jacket as first responders A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the purchase of City jackets per the Mayor's request. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The City Attorney explained to the Mayor and Council that a bid had been presented from GMA for the purchase of the property for the Utility Complex in the amount of \$24,010. He stated that this was the only bid submitted. He also explained that this was part of the Bricks and Mortar program. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to accept the bid submitted by GMA for the land purchase in the amount of \$24, 010. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present



Blakely City Council Minutes

IX. Public Comments

Celia Bostwick thanked Billy Powell, Supervisor of the Street Dept, for putting up “Keep Beautiful” signs. Celia then questions if it was correct that City employees are not charged for the Civic Center rental to which Councilmember Hutchins state that was correct. She spoke on a possible cap on how many the employees are allowed to get the center at no cost. She stated that this could take away funds from other rental venues. She then questioned the sale of the Utility Complex property to which the City Attorney Tommy Coleman gave a little more explanation.

Exie Smith spoke on the Civic Center and requested that the Mayor and Council consider putting cost changes in place in January of next year and consideration on a cost increase.

X. Executive Session - Personnel

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

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the pay increase for probationary period completion for Billy Powell from \$22.00 to \$26.00 for taking over the Street Dept. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor presented to the Council a proposal on an automatic tarping system for a trailer at the landfill. The Mayor stated that the County had approved this at their meeting the previous evening. He stated that the cost was around \$10,000 which is a split with the County. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the automatic tarping system for a trailer at the landfill as presented by the Mayor. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to adjourn the October 4th City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Travis Wimbush, Mayor



Blakely City Council Minutes

Special Called Meeting
October 6, 2022, City Hall, 6:00 P.M.

Public hearing for financing of the Utility Complex

Let the record show that Mayor Travis Wimbush called the public hearing to order at 6:00 pm. Mayor Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Hutchins, Councilmember Jarrett and Councilmember Clenney were all present. Also present was the City Clerk Melinda Crook.

With no members of the public present the Mayor asked the Council if they had any questions. With no questions being asked the public hearing was closed at 6:10.

- 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 Ray Jarrett and Councilmember Brad Clenney were all present. Also present was the City Clerk Melinda Crook. Councilmember Hutchins gave the invocation and led the Mayor, Council and public in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Acceptance of bid for the Property Sale – Utility Complex
The Mayor informed the Council that the bid on the Utility Complex property sale was supposed to have taken place on the 6th instead of the 4th. He stated that no other bids had been submitted so the action needed to be readdressed. The City Clerk stated that the only bid received was from GMA in the amount of \$24,010.00. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to accept the bid from GMA in the amount of \$24,010 for the property purchase for the Utility Complex. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present
- III. Acceptance of Bid for Financing Organization – Utility Complex
The Mayor stated that the total loan amount is \$1,000,000. He informed the Council that local banks were afforded the opportunity to bid as well. He stated that per the bid tab presented to the Council Georgia Community Bank bid the lowest interest rate at 3.25%. The Mayor asked the Council to consider GCB being they are the lowest interest rate as well as a local bank. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to accept the bid submitted by Georgia Community Bank at an interest rate of 3.25%. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present



Blakely City Council Minutes

IV. Resolution Authorizing Execution of Documents

The Mayor requested the City Clerk read the Resolution. The City Clerk read the Resolution authorizing among other things the execution of documents relating to the acquisition, construction & installation of a new utility complex for the City of Blakely. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the approval of the resolution and execution of documents. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

V. Set milage rate

The Mayor stated that the Council had been presented with three millage rate options. He stated that his recommendation would be to go with the 3.968 millage rate which would be a decrease from last year's 4.20 millage rate. He stated that the decrease would be \$29,561 of overall taxes. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the millage rate of 3.968 per the Mayor's request. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

VI. Second reading and adoption of alcohol ordinance

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the adoption of the Ordinance amended to add a \$75 fee for alcohol license renewals to would cover the background check and administrative cost. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

VII. Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to adjourn the October 6th Special Called meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Travis Wimbush, Mayor



Blakely City Council Minutes
Work Session
October 27, 2022, City Hall, 2:00 P.M.

Mayor Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Margaret Davis, Councilmember, Al Hutchins, Councilmember Ray Jarrett, Councilmember Brad Clenney, City Attorney Tommy Coleman and City Clerk Melinda Crook were all present. Also present was Chief William Caudill and Deputy Chief Tonya Tinsley

The City Attorney Tommy Coleman presented the Mayor and Council with recommended alcohol license ordinance changes. Adding Restaurant as a definition was a proposed change. He then went through the detailed definition. He discussed consumption outside the structure and needing an enclosure. He spoke on minors on premises, hours of operation, vacating premises after closing time, financial document requirements, closing for emergency, fees that could be assessed, frontage view of windows and a few other changes. There was discussion between the Mayor, Council, City Attorney and Police Chief on the presented items. The Mayor stated that he would like to hold a work session with the business to keep them informed.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor