



Blakely City Council Minutes
January 4, 2023, 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 Ms. Margaret Davis, Councilmember Al Hutchins, Councilmember Ray Jarrett and Councilmember Brad Clenney were all present. Also present was City Attorney Gary Lamar and City Clerk Melinda Crook. The Mayor asked for a moment of silence before the invocation for those that have past and including Allison Brown and Buffalo Bills player. Celia Bostwick gave the invocation. The Mayor and Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Mayor's Spotlight
The Mayor stated that this months Mayor's spotlight was Krystal Levatt. He spoke on how Ms. Levatt had stepped up and handled the situation when faced with the major of billing staff being out sick in recent weeks. He stated that she never complained through the entire situation and during all this trying to train the part time person as well.
- III. 2022 Employee of the year
The Mayor informed the Council and public that upon City employee vote Kevon Bennett had received the most votes for employee of the year. He stated that the comments made by Kevon's fellow employees were that he is dedicated and helps others.
- IV. Approve Minutes
A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the December 6th Work Session, Regular Session, December 21st Budget Public Hearing and the December 29th Work Session. The motion carried by all Councilmembers present
- V. Citizens And Delegations
No one was present
- VI. Administrative Committee
Chief Caudill gave the report of monthly activity stating that there were 616 calls for December. He then gave a report of the yearly calls stating that had been a total of 10,119 calls. Chief Caudill informed the Mayor and Council that Devanta Williams had turned in his resignation going to GSP and that Officer Gilliland had returned to work. He then gave the Mayor and Council paper reports from the radar sign. The Mayor questioned if the streets were permitted to which Chief Caudill stated that these streets were permitted. He stated that there was one that he needed to check.

Matt Hromalik, E911 Director gave the monthly report stating that there had been a total of 4,249 calls in December



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VII. City Attorney's Report

Second Reading & Adoption of Budget Ordinance

The City Attorney read the Budget Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the Budget Ordinance. The Mayor then made reference to some corrections in the budget to which Councilmember Hutchins questioned these changes. The Mayor stated that the changes were those discussed at the budget public hearing. There was discussion on possibly tabling the ordinance to which the Mayor stated that the motion on the floor needed to be completed first. The motion carried with Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Jarrett and Councilmember Clenney voting "YEH" and Councilmember Hutchins voting "NAY"

Second Reading & Adoption of Election Ordinance

The City Attorney read the Election Ordinance. The Mayor stated that the positions up for election this year were for Mayor, Councilmember Davis and Councilmember Jarrett seats. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the Election Ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

First Reading of Amendments to Alcohol Ordinance – removed due to not being ready for presentation

Renew Chamber of Commerce Agreement

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davisto approve the renewal of the Chamber of Commerce Agreement. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Renew Court Square Development Agreement

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the renewal of the Court Square Development Agreement. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

VIII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk gave the Mayor and Council the monthly financial report for the last fully completed month of November. She then went through the monthly financial totals for the public. The City Clerk presented budget amendments and adjustments to the Mayor and Council through November 2022.

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve budget amendment/adjustments as presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present



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IX. New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Appoint Mayor Pro Tem

The Mayor stated that in going through the order Councilmember Hutchins was next in line for Mayor Pro Tem. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to appoint Councilmember Hutchins as 2023 Mayor Pro Tem. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Approve Alcohol License Renewals

The Mayor stated that there was a list of business that have gone through the new renewal process and have been reviewed by Chief Caudill who had found no issues. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the alcohol licenses for 2023 that were present. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor spoke on the dilapidated property's that have been presented for the ARPA grant the Council had approved. He gave a list of the properties being, 398 Meadowbrook Dr., 521 Liberty St., 1105 N. Church St. and 315 Fort Gaines St. He asked that the Council approve moving forward with the ARPA grant project for these locations. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve as presented by Mayor. Councilmember Hutchins questioned how can the City do this work on private property. The Mayor stated that this work like the properties on N. Ave with the City not taking ownership just cleaning up the dilapidated structures/property. Councilmember Hutchins then questioned how is the City riding around to see who does and does not receive these funds. The Mayor stated that anyone can apply. He then stated that three of these properties had been to court and the owners are stating that they are indigent and cannot not afford to do the cleanup. Councilmember Hutchins spoke of a dilapidated property down Walker Springs Rd. and it has not been presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor informed the Council that the lease vehicles from Wade Ford would be a total of \$343,785 total with an annual payment of \$75,660.46. Councilmember Hutchins questioned if these were the vehicles discussed in the work session to which he was told they were. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve entering into the lease with Wade Ford as presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor informed the Council that he would like to have a special called meeting regarding changes discussed in the work session of the rental agreement for the Civic Center regarding alcohol. He stated that he wanted to get with the City Attorney about the changes discussed.

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Councilmember Hutchins questioned the changes to which it was stated that they would be specific to this building.

Payroll Changes

The Mayor presented payroll changes to the Council for several of the Administration staff. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the Administration payroll changes as presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor discussed the losing of a K-9 officer. He asked the Council about declaring the 2018 Chevy Tahoe surplus. He stated that Miller County was interested in purchasing the Tahoe. A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve declaring the 2018 Chevy Tahoe surplus with the Mayor and Chief negotiating the price. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor informed the Council that Chief Caudill had discussed referral for an employee recognition. The Mayor stated that he asked for Chief to create criteria and that it would come before the Mayor and Council quarterly or yearly for officer of the quarter/year. The Mayor stated that this could be for Police, Fire and E911 or possibly other departments. The Mayor stated that there is an award for heroic acts that could be looked at as well.

Councilmember Hutchins stated that the winter had been cold and that he would like to recommend suspending the 10 percent late fee January, February and March. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Davis to suspend the 10 percent penalty for January, February and March and resume in April. The Mayor stated that notice would be posted to make the community aware. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Councilmember Hutchins stated that gas prices have gone down some and new vehicles will be coming so he would like to recommend allowing the Department Heads to again be able to take City vehicles home. A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to allow City employees to again be able to take City vehicles home starting in February. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

X. Public Comments

Celia Bostwick came before the Mayor and Council to say thank you for the assistance from the Electric, Street, Sanitation and Police Departments during the Christmas on the Square and the night parade. She stated that the Electric Department was extremely helpful. She asked for an update on the Gateway project to which the Mayor stated he would get with her after the



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meeting. The Mayor then stated that the community was very receptive and thanked Celia for her work

Jerry Sasnett asked the Mayor and Council about the re-zoning from the previous month. The Mayor stated that the rezoning had been withdrawn.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to adjourn the January 3rd City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Travis Wimbush, Mayor