



Blakely City Council Minutes

Work Session

January 3, 2022, City Hall, 5:00 P.M.

The Mayor called the work session to order. Mayor Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Margaret Davis, Councilmember Al Hutchins, Councilmember Ray Jarrett and Councilmember Brad Clenney were all present

There was discussion between the Mayor and Council more about the changes in the alcohol license ordinance and the hours of operation. The Mayor stated that presently there is a lot of confusion on this ordinance

There was discussion about vacation not taken and carried over in previous years. There was then discussion on how to handle excess vacation this year. He stated that no employee has been denied taking time off. The Mayor stated that Councilmember Clenney recommended to meet the employees with excess time halfway, pay half and loose half. The Council felt that this was fair

The Mayor discussed with the Councilmembers a lease with Wade Ford for ten Ford Ranger pickup trucks and two Police explorers. He discussed the full cost of the lease and the yearly payment. The Councilmembers were in agreement with entering in the lease with Wade Ford. The Mayor stated that this is a five year program. He stated that at the end of the five years the City would own the vehicles or flip the ten vehicles for new ones and these turned back in and sold to go toward new ones. He stated six would be regular and four would be 4x4's.

There was discussion between the Mayor and Council about the Department Heads being able to driving City vehicles home. The Mayor stated his reasons for stopping the Department Heads from driving the vehicles home.

There was discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding changes to the Civic Center rental agreement. There was discussion on the rental cost and the possibility of allow alcohol. The Mayor asked the Councilmembers to review the current agreement and consider suggested changes. A cost of \$200 for half a day and \$300 for a full day was recommended with \$100 refundable deposit. He recommended that a change in the fee for non-profits come before the Council. There was discussion on if there was any liability regarding alcohol being allowed. There was discussion about a renter having to get the one day alcohol license if they wanted to have alcohol for sale or provided free of charge. Councilmember Clenney recommended that if a renter wanted alcohol that they get a special events liability insurance policy that would be for one or two day and would have to provide a COI to the City before the function. It was

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discussed what, if any, charge would be for Mayor, Council or employee. The Council was in agreement that the charge be the same. There was discussion about security requirements at the Civic Center and should it be left in or taken out due to not having the staff to cover security. There was also discussion on changing the name due to this not being a Civic Center it is more like a Community Center.

The Council were given payroll changes for Administration to review.

The Mayor spoke on the 51 Lakewood Dr property. He stated that the property was being cleaned up and being in compliance with court order. The Mayor presented pictures of the McCoy property and Cawthorn structure. There was further discussion about the applications submitted through the ARPA grant the Council had approved.

There was discussion regarding the event center alcohol license

The work session was adjourned.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor