



Blakely City Council Minutes

Work Session

January 31, 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. Also present was the City Attorney Tommy Coleman and City Clerk Melinda Crook

There was discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding changes to the Civic Center rental agreement. The Mayor stated that he would like to take allowing alcohol out of the discussion and keep the Civic Center like all the other City owned properties. The Mayor suggested providing a key to the renter that gets returned to the FD at closing. There was discussion to leave the hours of operation the same which was to shut functions down at 11:00pm and be out by 12:00am. A cost of \$200 for half a day and \$300 for a full day was recommended with \$100 security deposit with \$50 being refunded and the balance kept to cover cleaning. He recommended that a change in the fees be discussed with the Council. It was discussed what, if any, charge would be for Mayor, Council or employee. The Council was in agreement that the charge be the same as a renter. Councilmember Hutchins recommended making the half day rental fee \$175 and a full day rental fee \$225. There was discussion on a name change from Civic Center to Community Center and/or get suggestions from the citizens on a name.

The Mayor requested the Council look at some street to submit for LMIG

The Mayor spoke to the Council about parking enforcement regarding Hilton Albany RR. He stated that a letter was sent about parking on RR ROW. He felt that notice should be given before enforcement/ticketing. The Mayor recommended that Tommy issue a letter to Hilton Albany RR about maintaining their ROW if they are requesting the City enforce parking. The Mayor stated that he wants transparency so that citizens know it is not the City. He stated that he did not want the citizens thinking that the City was targeting Church St. The City Attorney stated that it may be the RR responsibility to notify the public. There was some discussion about the Police process regarding this matter.

The Mayor informed the Council the cost of the MEAG bill for December. He stated that it was due to having to purchase supplemental power on the market and that discussions were taking place on cost recovery.

CITY of BLAKELY

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There was discussion between the Mayor and Council regarding the yearly per-diem (cost of living increase.) The Mayor stated that GMA could not do the salary study and that salary information had been gathered from Dept. of Community Affairs. He suggested a 4% increase for regular employees and a 3% increase for salaried employees due to them being able drive City vehicles home.

There was discussion on the Reddick building on Main St. Councilmember Clenney stated he was again receiving calls from the owners of the building adjoining this one. He stated that he had spoken with Kenneth. There was more discussion on how to proceed forward. The City Attorney stated that he would speak with Kenneth Jones on this matter.

The Mayor asked the Council to think about how they would like to proceed on the property, on College St. It was discussion about tearing down or see if it could be a burned as a training for the Fire Department.

The work session was adjourned.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor