



Blakely City Council Minutes

February 7, 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 Margaret Davis, Councilmember Al Hutchins Jr., Councilmember Ray Jarrett 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 for those lost and asked that the community keep Brooks and Miracle Carter in their prayers. Charlie Sol gave the invocation. The Mayor and Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to amend the agenda adding the proposed amended alcohol ordinance. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

II. Recognition of Aspire Shining Stars

The Mayor stated that members of the Aspire competed in the Special Olympics. He stated that they brought back the gold. He stated that the members were Johnny White, Farron Weaver, Nick Lee and Jason Fincher. He stated that three of the four were present and that Nick Lee was awarded a bronze medal, Johnny White was awarded a gold medal and Farron Weaver was awarded a gold medal. They were given a recognition certificate from the Mayor and Council

III. Mayor's Spotlight

The Mayor stated that January's spotlight was Asst. Chief Tonya Tinsley. He spoke of an incident in 2022 at the Courthouse with someone needing Narcan which possibly saved the person's life, along with many other items and accomplishments of Ms. Tinsley.

IV. Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the January 3rd work session and regular minutes along with the January 31st work session and regular session minutes. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

V. Citizens And Delegations

No one was on the agenda

VI. Administrative Committee

Will Caudill – Updates

Chief Caudill have his monthly report stating that there was a total of 707 calls for January. He gave the breakdown. He then informed the Mayor and Council that notification had been

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received that the APEX trainer grant had been awarded to the City the previous month and that the online training would be beginning in February. He then informed the Mayor and Council that a Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative Grant in the amount of \$142,560 and will be submitting the paperwork this week. He explained what the new grant will furnish. He then spoke on another grant that is pending, from the state, in the amount of \$215,000. He then informed the Mayor and Council of an officer injury Sunday night. He gave some details of the incident and stated that she was struck by a vehicle. He stated that this portion was turned over to GBI. He stated that the officer was treated, discharged and still in some pain.

Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates

Matt Hromalik gave a breakdown of the E911 call volume for January. He stated that there was a total of 4,066 calls for the month.

VII. City Attorney's Report

CDBG Documents and Resolution

The City Attorney Tommy Coleman stated that this resolution is stating that the City has to make provisions for non-English speaking individual to understand what is taking place. He stated that this is a requirement for CDBG. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to approve the LAP resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Alcohol Ordinance

The City Attorney stated that the ordinance has been amended since the first presentation. He went back through these changes (definition of restaurant, bar, clarification of what each can sell, hours of operation, adding license renewal cost, security, items about minors taken directly from the GA law, some editorial changes.) A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the second reading of the ordinance as present by the City Attorney. Councilmember Hutchins asked Chief Caudill if he was good with the ordinance to which Chief Caudill stated he was. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

The Mayor asked the City Attorney about the legality of the enforcement of the RR. The City Attorney stated that he had looked into this item. He stated that these were not items that need to be addressed by the Mayor and Council but is a law enforcement issue. He stated that is up to the Police Dept and what they want to do in this matter. He stated Asst Chief Tinsley had given a good plan at the last meeting on they deal these types of matters on other properties.



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VIII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk presented December 2022 preliminary financial reports to the Mayor and Council. She did a powerpoint presentation of the financials for the public. The Clerk then presented budget amendments and adjustments for the Mayor and Councils review. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the budget amendments and adjustments as presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present. The City Clerk then presented a letter stating that the Mayor and Council would follow the Uniform Relocation Act if so needed for the 2022 CDBG. She stated that there were two areas that would require easements but that the two property owners had already provided letters that they would donate the property. The Mayor and Council agreed that they would follow the URA and the Mayor signed the letter.

IX. New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Approve Alcohol License Renewals

The Mayor stated that an updated alcohol license renewal sheet had been provided to the Council for their review. It was stated that these were businesses that had presented since the January meeting. He stated that he had been informed that all of these had gone through the complete process. Councilmember Jarrett asked Chief Caudill if he had any problems with the list, to which he had stated he did not have a copy of the list present. The Mayor asked the Building Official if Chief Caudill had been presented a list to which the Building Official stated he had just completed the list right before 5:00pm. After review Chief Caudill stated that he had an objection to Club Gold Rush getting distilled spirits but not on beer. The Mayor made clarification on what Club Gold Rush was requesting. There was discussion between the Mayor and Chief Caudill on Club Gold Rush and upon clarification Chief Caudill stated that he was good with the list as present. Councilmember Davis question the Building Official if the 4th Out had presented a local person on their application to which the Building Official responded that they had. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the alcohol licenses as presented. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Harris house on College Street

The Mayor asked the Council for a decision on how to proceed with the house at on College St that was donated to the City upon clearing the property taxes. There was discussion between the Mayor and Councilmember Jarrett about what recommendations were made on this location. A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to demolish the Harris house on College St. Answering Councilmember Jarrett's question the Mayor stated that the Fire Department would look at the house and if found to be able to burn it safely they would do so. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present



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The Mayor introduced Susanne Reynolds as the new Economic Development Director. Ms. Reynolds said a few words. Councilmember Hutchins questioned where she was from to which Ms. Reynolds said she was from Colquitt.

The Mayor presented a resolution on Civility and asked the Council to review and consider. He informed the Council that this had been presented to the Department Heads in a meeting. He stated that he doesn't just want this to be introduced and passed as a formality if everyone is not wanting to adhere. He stated that GMA would come and do training.

The Mayor informed the Council that there would be a re-opening/ribbon cutting at the Civic Center on Thursday and asked that they attend. He then stated that there would be a Town Hall meeting from 5-7pm for the public and items would be brought back to the Council.

The Mayor stated that with February being Black History Month there would be a Black History program Saturday at 3pm.

The Mayor reminded the Council that Friday at 9:30am Sanford Bishop would be in Camilla regarding a 3.9 million dollar grant that would be a 55%/45% match, if they wanted to attend.

The Mayor reminded the Council that he had asked for some streets that they would like looked at for repaving through TSPLOST. The streets listed were S. Bay, Elm St., N. Howell St., E. South Blvd (the east end), Rose Dr., Chattahoochee, River St (where it forks off and continues.) The Mayor stated that he would get quotes to present to the Council so it can be determined on

The Mayor informed the Council that LMIG had to be submitted by February 1st and Tom Sawyer and Lakewood had been submitted. He then informed the Council that the LMIG had been approved.

The Mayor asked the Council if they were in agreement to present to the community a survey regarding renaming of the Civic Center. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to rename the Civic Center Al Hutchins Jr. Community Center. The Mayor asked the Council if they would like to see what the communities recommendations would be for the renaming. Councilmember Jarrett stated that his decision was based on the fact that Councilmember Hutchins has put in a lot of time and has done a lot for the City and for him and would like to stay with his motion. The motion carried by unanimously by Councilmembers present.



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A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the payroll change for an employee at the City Shop. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

Councilmember Hutchins thanked the Council for the renaming of the Civic Center. He then spoke of his history regarding the center. He stated he had been a life guard there for seven years, how he got basketball on the corner and brought karate to the center. He spoke of how the center was built for the children and that is where they would go instead of down Church St. He stated that to save the children then again need to be separated. He spoke of the actions of children today. He then stated that the Unsung Hero's banquet will be taking place at the center in February. He stated that there is a donation of \$15 and that there will be a meal and entertainment. He said this has been going on for 18 yrs.

The Mayor asked that prior to the next meeting the Council determine if quotes need to be gotten from Oxford for they want the City employees to do speed bumps.

X. Public Comments

Mike Newberry addressed the Council to speak about this year's Peanut Proud and to ask for the City's assistance as they have provided every year. He stated that the City is a big part on keeping Peanut Proud continuing. He spoke on the use of the conference room at the Government Building and how much better it has made their job.

A citizen came before the Mayor and Council asking if the Police Department are aware of different scenarios when minors are involved. She questioned if officers need more training and maybe a grant could be gotten for training. She spoke on what had happened with her 17yr old and that upon her making some calls found out the legal age is 18yrs old. She stated that officers should know the law to enforce the law.

Celia Bostwick spoke about the litter and stated that the signs have helped. She spoke about an adopt a highway program and briefly explained what she found out regarding this program.

Exie Smith addressed the Mayor and Council and thanked them and Lane Davis for the work that had been done at the center, now the Al Hutchins Jr Community Center.

The owner of Club Gold Rush addressed the Mayor and Council about his financial information and of no inspection of business building regarding seating relating to his alcohol license application.

XI. Adjournment



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A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to adjourn the February 7th City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Travis Wimbush, Mayor