



City of Blairsville, GA
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
September 5, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.
City of Blairsville City Hall
62 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, GA 30512

PRESENT:

Jim Conley, Mayor
Rhonda Mahan, Council
Buddy Moore, Council
Tony Dyer, Council
Betty Easter, Council
David Barrett, City Attorney
Kaye McCann, City Clerk

ABSENT:

Larry Stephens, WTP

VISITORS:

Pastor Bill Honaker
Darren Harper, DDA
Michael Baxter, PD
Ottis Franklin, W/S
John Hamler, AP
Joan Mannheim, Accounting
Jody Cook, WWTP
Shawn Jarrard, NGN
Mark Smith/Fetch Your News

Call Meeting to Order: Mayor Conley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation was led by Pastor Bill Honaker and Councilmember Robert Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Approval: Motion was made by Betty Easter, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

Minutes Approval: Motion was made by Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2017 regular meeting of the City Council.

Public Comments:

- No Public Comments

Unfinished Business

- Truck Ordinance – The Truck Ordinance is a work in progress.
- City Clerk reported to the Council that the County does not currently pay for fraud protection on their bank accounts; Bank of Ozarks and Southern Bank and Trust covers their commercial customers from any kind of fraud without charging fees; Park Sterling offers fraud protection at additional cost much like United Community.

New Business

- Department Head Reports
 - Ottis Franklin, W/S: reported Kimsey Street is paved; Advanced Digital Cable is adding on additional meters.

- Jody Cook, WWTP: reported the #1 SBR tank is in operation and #2 SBR pump is being repaired; UCMS students will be touring the plant on 9/26/17.
- Michael Baxter, PD: distributed August 2017 Blairsville Police Department report; reported approximately 120 calls in August with no substantial increase in calls due to the eclipse traffic.
- John Hamler, AP: reported about 150 people attended the new Terminal Building opening; approximately \$3,500 in fuel sales day before eclipse and \$5,500 in fuel sales the day of eclipse; they have completely moved to new terminal as of today; reported Chris Dyer has turned in his resignation effective 9/15; he has been with the City ten years and wants to further his aviation career; the Jet A fuel truck has been used daily. Mayor Conley stated with the fuel pumps still being at the old terminal there is a need for a vehicle ie: golf cart for use by the Airport staff. He has discussed with Larry Garrett the possibility of leasing a golf cart from the County and will report back to the Council when he has a price. John also reported there will be a credit card machine at the new and old terminal to better accommodate customers.
- Darren Harper, DDA: distributed the DDA report dated 9/5/17; he stated the next Blairsville Cruisin' Car Show will be 9/9/17 and the date of the next movie night is still to be determined. Mr. Harper updated the Council on the property across from Cook's restaurant – the buyer is Steve Cocherham and Mr. Harper shared the building design with the Council. He also shared the design of the remodeling of the “dance studio” building on Merchant's Walk owned by Chris Wadle.
- Mayor Conley called for Public Hearing on Alcohol Ordinance 2017-03 to amend to include sections regulating signage advertising or promoting alcohol sales. There being no public comments Mayor Conley closed public hearing and asked for comments from the Council. Councilmember Moore requested that more work be done on the ordinance once Union County has finalized their amended alcohol ordinance. He also requested to look specifically for provision for special outdoor events.
- Motion was made by Robert Moore, seconded by Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve GDOT FY 2018 Contract to fund Avigation Easement and Land Acquisition for RPZ Obstruction Removal-Rwy8 and 26; DBE Plan Update (18-20); and RPZ Obstruction Removal for Rwy 8 and 26 at the Blairsville Airport. The City's portion will be \$41,833. Attachment A
- City Clerk McCann presented the 2018 group health insurance renewal from GMA. To remain on the current plan there will be a 13% increase. After researching alternative plans through GMA, a closely related plan will decrease premiums to the City by about \$10,000 for 2018. Motion was made by Robert Moore, seconded by Betty Easter to change the group health insurance offered to employees from a PPO 90/70 - \$500 deductible to a POS 90/70 - \$500 deductible.

- Mayor Conley brought before the Council the topic of changing the Blairsville Municipal Airfield from Robert E. Colwell Airfield to Jack Tarpley and Charles Hill Airfield. The Council decided to leave the name as is.

- Occupational Tax Certificate Applications:
 - Motion was made by Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve the following Occupational Tax Certificate applications:
 - Harry Normal, Realtors, 63 Murphy Highway, David Allstead, CFO.

- Sign Permit Applications:
 - Motion was made by Robert Moore, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the following Sign Permit applications:
 - Ingles Markets, 207B Highway 515, Chad Priest, Applicant.

Motion was made by Robert Moore, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to adjourn meeting. 7:10 p.m.

Kaye McCann, City Clerk

October 4, 2017
Approved by City Council