



City of Blairsville, GA
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
April 4, 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
Martha Cone, Council
Betty Easter, Council
David Barrett, City Attorney
Kaye McCann, City Clerk

ABSENT:

Tony Dyer, Council
Johnny Carroll, PD
Jody Cook, WWTP
Larry Stephens, WTP

VISITORS:

Pastor Bill Honaker
Darren Harper, DDA
Ottis Franklin, W/S Maint.
John Hamler, Airport
Lily Avery, NGN
Mark Smith/Fetch Your News
Tony Dinatale

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation was led by Pastor Bill Honaker and Mayor Conley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Agenda Approval - Motion was made by Martha Cone, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

Minutes Approval - Motion was made by Martha Cone, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2017 regular meeting of the City Council.

Unfinished Business

- Second Reading - Mayor Conley called for a Public Hearing for the 2nd reading of Ordinance #2017-02 to amend Ordinance #2016-02 to include a section prohibiting brown bagging of alcoholic beverages for holders of an alcoholic license. Mayor Conley asked audience for questions or comments. There being none Mayor Conley closed Public Hearing. Mayor Conley asked Council if they had questions or comments. There being none, a motion was made by Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve Alcohol Ordinance No. 2017-02 to amend Ordinance No. 2016-02 to add Sec. 10-71 (k) prohibiting brown-bagging of alcoholic beverages for anyone holding an alcohol license under the provisions of the City of Blairsville Alcohol Ordinance No. 2017-02. Attachment A

- Truck Ordinance – The Truck Ordinance is continuing to be developed and will be presented to Council upon completion of a draft.
- Agreement between City of Blairsville and Notla Water Authority – Attorney Barrett presented the Council with an agreement between Notla Water Authority and the City of Blairsville to provide the City water along Pat Haralson Drive at a rate of \$2.50 per thousand gallons. After discussion on the wording of the third item of the agreement, Attorney Barrett will amend that item to include the word “proportionate” in reference to the rate increases to the City by Notla. The amended agreement will be presented at the regular Council meeting in May, 2017.

New Business

- Oath of Office for Superintendent of Elections – Attorney Barrett administered the Oath of Office for Election Superintendent Kaye McCann. Attachment B
- Tony Dinatale, Union County Schools Fishing Club – Mr. Dinatale reported to the Council a fishing club has been established for the UC High School and will include UC Middle School. As part of a fundraising opportunity the Club would like to place ten 55-gallon trash cans around the City; they will sell advertising opportunities which will be placed on the cans for a minimum of one year. There will be no cost to the City. If next year’s club decides not to continue with this fundraiser the cans will become City property. Councilmember Buddy Moore stated concerns regarding violations of Sign Ordinance. Attorney Barrett quickly reviewed current Sign Ordinance No. 2013-04 but will need more time to review the Ordinance to give a legal opinion. This will be tabled until next meeting.
- Department Head Reports
 - Sergeant Shawn Dyer, Police Department, distributed March 2017 Blairsville Police Department Report.
 - Darren Harper, DDA, distributed April 4, 2017 Blairsville DDA update and stated 3 new businesses are opening locations in Blairsville.
 - Ottis Franklin, W/S Maintenance, reported the Ross Ridge water tank has been replaced and 32 of the 73 water meters have been set at The Meadows Apartments behind Save A Lot.
 - John Hamler, Airport, stated there are now 20 on a waiting list for hangars; IT has completed the phone connections at the new terminal building; airport had an active weekend (March 25-26) with 47 planes using the airport, many purchasing fuel.

- Michael Adams, WWTP, End of Probationary Period – Mayor Conley referred the Council to the Employee Performance Review for Michael Adams completed by department supervisor, Jody Cook. Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote approve the recommendation of a \$1.00/hour increase effective April 1, 2017.
- WTP Utility Building Bid Proposals – Mayor Conley presented the Council with two (2) bids for utility buildings to be constructed at the Water Treatment Plant and used for chlorine storage. Laney Construction bid is \$31,900; Daunch & Hirschl Construction, Inc. bid is \$26,030. Mayor Conley reported the lower bid does not include items such as electrical, exhaust fans, and expansion joints that are included in the Laney Construction bid. Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Martha Cone with a unanimous vote to approve the bid presented by Laney Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$31,900.
- 2016 Amended Budget – City Clerk Kaye McCann presented the 2016 Amended Budget report to the Council, stating W/S Fund expenditures are higher than originally budgeted due to the payoff of the 1996 B Bond in 2016. Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the 2016 Amended Budget as presented. Attachment C
- Transfer cash from General Fund to Airport Fund – Mayor Conley reported a cash deficit in the Airport Fund of \$121,676.16 due mostly to the City's portion of the Airport Terminal Building. City Clerk Kaye McCann explained that because we have one (1) cash account to cover the General Fund, W/S Fund & Airport Fund this transfer is a journal entry only. Motion was made by Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the transfer from the General Fund to the Airport Fund of \$121,676.16 to cover the cash deficit in the Airport Fund.
- Mayor Conley reported property which adjoins property owned by Willis Realty (now the Marathon Station located at 16 Bracketts Way) was miscoded by the UC Tax Assessor's Office and was assessed to both Mr. Willis and to the actual owner, Mr. Bob Head. The tax assessor's office has corrected this error and Mr. Willis requested a refund of taxes he had paid the last three (3) years. Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the refund of 2013-2015 property taxes in the amount of \$246.96 to Willis Realty.
- Resolution 2017-01 to correct License Fee Schedule – Mayor Conley and City Clerk Kaye McCann explained that the current License Fee Schedule is not in compliance with the Alcohol Ordinance and needed to be updated. Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve Resolution 2017-01 to correct the License Fee Schedule according to Ordinance 2017-02 and update the Background Check and UC Sheriff's Department Fingerprint Fee. Attachment D

- Alcohol License Fees - Councilmember Buddy Moore referred the other Councilmembers to the License Fee Schedule Analysis, pointing out where the City's alcohol license fees were higher than the County's. Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to change the alcohol license fees in Resolution 2017-01 to mirror the County's fees. Attachment E
- Croy Engineering Invoice #15294 for Obstruction Clearing – Mayor Conley stated this invoice was generated and work implemented prior to the GDOT contract being finalized. Some of the work performed by Croy Engineering was necessary to begin prior to the contract. Motion was made by Martha Cone, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve payment of Croy Engineering Invoice #15294 in the amount of \$5,235.
- Croy Engineering Task Order No. 4 – Mayor Conley mentioned this task order will be part of a GDOT contract to be presented to Council in the future for discussion and approval.
- Georgia Unified Certification Program MOU for US DOT Recipients – Motion was made by Betty Easter, seconded by Martha Cone with a unanimous vote to approve Mayor Conley's signing of the MOU. Attachment F
- Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit Applications
 - Motion by Betty Easter, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve Sign Permit Application to Dixie Convexions, LLC, 40-B Town Square, Jody Atkins, Owner.
 - Motion by Martha Cone, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit Applications to Made by Mamz, 44 Blue Ridge Street, Ste C, Anna Burbage, Owner.
 - Motion by Betty Easter, seconded by Martha Cone with a unanimous vote to approve Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit Applications to Mountainside Treasures LLC, 294 M Hwy 515 W, Janis & Lonnie Horn, Owners.

Motion was made by Betty Easter, seconded by Martha Cone with a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting. Time 7:26 p.m.

Kaye McCann
City Clerk