



**City of Blairsville, GA**  
**Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting**  
**August 1, 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:**

Jody Cook, WWTP

**VISITORS:**

Pastor Marty Duncan  
 Darren Harper, DDA  
 Johnny Carroll, PD  
 Andrew Stewart, PD  
 Larry Stewart, WTP  
 Ottis Franklin, W/S  
 John Hamler, AP  
 Joan Mannheim  
 Chip McGaughey, EMI  
 Michael Collins  
 Gregg Marco, Bryan Thomas  
 Lily Avery, 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 Marty Duncan and Councilmember Robert Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Minutes Approval:** Motion was made by Betty Easter, seconded by Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017 regular meeting of the City Council.

**Public Comments:**

- Mr. Michael Collins asked for an update on preparations for the eclipse. Mayor Conley reported there will be a meeting at the Fire Station on 8/17/17; he reported all Blairsville Police Department officers will be working the day of the eclipse (8/21/17); all hotels and cabins are booked from Friday (8/18/17) through Monday (8/21/17). Mr. Collins asked if there would be road closures. Mayor Conley replied that no roads will be closed.
- Mr. Greg Marco asked if there was an idea of the number of people estimated to come to Blairsville. Mayor Conley stated an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 people are expected to be here.

**Unfinished Business**

- Truck Ordinance – The Truck Ordinance is a work in progress.

### New Business

- Department Head Reports
  - Larry Stephens, WTP: concrete has been poured for the storage building ramp. Motion was made by Tony Dyer, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve purchase of probe and piston set in the amount of \$2,182.68. Motion was made by Tony Dyer, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve purchase of forklift in the amount of \$7,500.
  - Ottis Franklin, W/S: had a good month; ran a new service line at Mock House. He reported thirty two of The Meadows Apartments will be ready to occupy on 8/3/17.
  - Johnny Carroll, PD: distributed July 2017 Blairsville Police Department report.
  - Darren Harper, DDA: stated the next DDA Board meeting will be 8/8/17; Blairsville Cruisers and Concert on the Corner will be 8/19/17; Eclipse is on 8/21/17; update on sale of parcel of Haralson Property – Mr. WC Nelson met with prospective buyer and negotiations are still in works.
  - John Hamler, AP: attended FAA/GDOT Avigation regional meeting in Athens; Mayor Conley and he had a conference call with GDOT and David Brown Transportation representatives regarding the airport's AWOS system and they have a solution to replace the system at no cost to the city; ribbon cutting for the new airport terminal is scheduled for Saturday, 8/19/17 at 10:00 a.m.
- Chip McGaughey, EMI, presented information regarding a Grit Removal System for the WWTP. Grit, or sand, coming into SBR pumps causes damage resulting in costly repairs. A Grit Removal System would eliminate the majority of the grit. Mr. McGaughey gave a rough cost estimate of \$750,000 to \$800,000 which includes the system, engineering costs and construction. One option to pay for this system is a GEFA loan. Currently a 20 year loan is 1.89% and a 10 year loan is .81% with a possibility of principle forgiveness. In order to get started an environmental study and a survey needs to be completed. Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the environmental study in the amount of \$3,500 and, on an hourly basis, the development of a preliminary cost estimate and topographic survey of the WWTP area to locate the best placement of the grit removal system.
- Motion was made by Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to adopt the 2017 millage rate at 1.945 mils.
- Motion was made by Tony Dyer, seconded by Buddy Moore with three (3) yeas and one (1) abstain (Councilmember Mahan) to approve increasing the Airport premises general liability and products/completed ops limits to \$5,000,000 for an annual premium of \$2,200 and to add Hangarkeeper's Legal Liability an annual premium of \$8,033.

- Two (2) propane bids were received. Freeman Gas proposed \$1.099/gallon from 9/1/17 through 8/31/18 and \$8.00 fee per each delivery. Heritage Propane proposed \$1.28/gallon for the same 12 month period. Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve Freeman Gas as the City's propane provider for 9/1/17 through 8/31/18.
- City Clerk Kaye McCann reported that Mayor Conley and she met with Andy Williams, President of Blairsville UCBI regarding fraud protection for the City's three (3) checking accounts and one (1) money market account. After a discussion regarding the fraud protection services this was tabled until next Council meeting.
- Motion was made by Tony Dyer, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to ratify the purchase of a 2018 Chevy Tahoe 4WD using the 2012 Dodge Charger as a trade in for the Police Department. Cost of the vehicle with trade will be \$23,274.79.
- Occupational Tax Certificate Applications:
  - Motion was made by Betty Easter, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the following Occupational Tax Certificate applications:
    - Melissa's Custom Cakes, LLC, 102A Cleveland Street, Melissa Roberts, Owner
- Sign Permit Applications:
  - Motion was made by Betty Easter, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the following Sign Permit applications:
    - Blairsville Dance Project, 417A Blue Ridge Street, Angela Puleo, Owner
- Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit Applications:
  - Motion was made by Tony Dyer, seconded by Buddy Moore with a unanimous vote to approve the following Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit Applications:
    - Christine Manno, Attorney at Law, 94 Town Square, Suite, K, Christine Manno, Owner
    - The Book Cellar, 112 Wellborn Street, A4, Shirley Maurer, Owner
    - AI Smoke Shop, 168 Highway 515 W, Ste D, Bhoomikaben Patel, Owner, pending water meter being set by property owner.

Motion was made by Buddy Moore, seconded by Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to adjourn meeting. 7:34 p.m.

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Kaye McCann, City Clerk

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Approved by City Council