



City of Blairsville, GA
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
August 7, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.
City of Blairsville City Hall
62 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, GA 30512

PRESENT:

Jim Conley, Mayor
Rhonda Mahan, Council
Robert Moore, Council
Tony Dyer, Council
Betty Easter, Council
Mary Ruth Cook, Council
David Barrett, City Attorney
Kaye McCann, City Clerk

ABSENT:

VISITORS:

Pastor Bill Honaker
PD-Sergeant Shawn Dyer
DDA – Darren Harper
W/S – Ottis Franklin
WTP-Danny Dillard
AP-John Hamler
WWTP – Jody Cook
Michael Collins
John Hill, Chad Deyton
W. C. Nelson
Mark Smith/NGN

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation was led by Pastor Bill Honaker and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mark Smith.

Call Meeting to Order: Mayor Conley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Agenda Approval: Mayor Conley amended agenda to include Executive Session to discuss matters related to acquisition of real estate.

Minutes Approval: Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the following minutes:

- Regular City Council Meeting – 7/3/2018
- Called City Council Meeting – 7/13/2018
- Called City Council & DDA Board Joint Work Session – 7/24/2018

Public Hearing:

- 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2018-04 to amend Water/Sewer Ordinance – Mayor Conley called for public comments. There being no comments and no questions from Council, Public Hearing was closed. Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve Ordinance No. 2018-04. “Exhibit A”
- 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2018-05 to Fix Salary, Compensation and Expenses of the Mayor and Council of the City of Blairsville – Mayor Conley called for public comments. There being no comments and no questions from Council, Public Hearing was closed.
- 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2018-06 to Restate GMEBS Master Defined Benefit Retirement Plan – Mayor Conley called for public comments. There were no comments. Councilmember Tony Dyer asked for a brief summary of changes. Mayor Conley closed Public Hearing.

Public Comments:

- There were no public comments

Unfinished Business:

- There was no unfinished business

New Business:

- Department Head Reports –
 - PD – Sergeant Shawn Dyer distributed July 2018 Blairsville Police Department Crime Report Summary. Sergeant Dyer reported the radio system used by the police department is outdated. The UCSO and the BOE is changing to a digital system. The approximate cost for the police department to change to digital is \$18,000. Part of this will be paid by GMA Safety Grant and Mayor Conley stated the rest can be paid by SPLOST. Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve purchase of digital radio system.
 - DDA – Darren Harper distributed DDA August 7, 2018 report. He stated the DDA Board has asked for the City Council’s support for additional cross walks at Blue Ridge Street near City Hall and Pat Haralson Drive at Young Harris Street as well as sidewalk improvements down Blue Ridge Street from the Square to Merchant’s Walk. Councilmember Tony Dyer asked for update on Haralson Property contracts; Mr. Harper replied the three parcels are still under contract.
 - W/S – Ottis Franklin reported no major problems; preparing to install additional water lines on Merchant’s Walk; new Sears building is making progress.
 - WTP – Danny Dillard stated nothing new to report.
 - WWTP – Jody Cook reported two sulfur dioxide cylinders are leaking and being repaired.
 - AP – John Hamler distributed pictures of new fuel farms.
- Discussion of Haralson Drive and Bob Head Street intersection – Councilmember Robert Moore stated the difficulties at this intersection. Councilmembers discussed options such as 4-way stop, right turn only from Young Harris Street, traffic light which may be costly and a round-a-bout. Mr. Nelson commented the original design was for a 4-way stop; Mayor Conley stated DOT recommended the current design. Mayor Conley will reach out to DOT and request a study of the intersection.
- Award propane services for FY 9/2018 – 8/2019 – Motion was made by Councilmember Betty Easter, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to award City’s propane services to Freeman Gas at a price of 1.299 per gallon plus a \$6 environmental fee on each delivery.
- FY 2018-2019 FAA Supplemental Discretionary Funding application – Mayor Conley reported engineering design fee for the projects included in the FAA application will be \$52,258. If the FAA application is not approved most of this fee will be recovered in future GDOT contracts. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the fee and funding application. “Exhibit B”
- GDOT Funding of Airport Projects for FY 2019 – Mayor Conley stated the total cost for the airport projects for GDOT’s fiscal year 2019 would be \$158,100; the city’s cost would be \$8,310 with the balance coming from federal and state funds. Motion was made by Councilmember Betty Easter, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve the tentative allocation for FY 2019. “Exhibit C”
- Annexation of Board of Education Property – Mr. Hill stated on July 17, 2018 the Board of Education signed a petition to the City Council requesting annexation of 86.12 acres (“Exhibit D”). Mayor Conley stated Sole Commissioner Paris is in agreement with the annexation and City Attorney Barrett will begin the annexation process. Mayor Conley informed the Council the City

will lose water revenue as the result of the annexation but will gain road mileage which should create an increase in LMIG funding for road improvements. School Board police officers will be sworn in as Blairsville police officers.

- 2018 Millage Rate Approval – Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve the 2018 millage rate at 1.945 mills, same as 2017.

Consent Agenda:

- Occupational Tax Certificate & Sign Permit Applications:
 - Hear Again, LLC, 411 Hwy 515, Suite D, Robert Morrison, III, Owner – Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit
 - Jasmine Thai Massage, 98 Cleveland Street, Bunlom Domanski, Owner – Occupational Tax Certificate
 - Twisted Pizza, 417 Blue Ridge Street, Larry Chambers & Ken Hagerty, Owners – Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit
 - Home Depot, 17 Hwy 515, Anchor Sign, Inc/David Jackson, Applicant – Sign Permit
 - Waves for Weight Loss, Inc dba The Nifty Thrifty, 112 Wellborn Street, Unit C & D, Elizabeth Dyer, Owner – Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit
 - The Pink Flamingo, 35A Blue Ridge Street, Jessica Owens, Owner – Occupational Tax Certificate
 - Bank OZK, 217 Hwy 515 W, Lockwood Identity Inc dba SignArt/Sherri Hartsell, Applicant – Sign Permit

Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit applications.

Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a roll call – Rhonda Mahan, here; Betty Easter, here; Tony Dyer, here; Mary Ruth Cook, here; Robert Moore, here – to enter into executive session to discuss real estate. “Exhibit E”

Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a roll call – Rhonda Mahan, here; Betty Easter, here; Tony Dyer, here; Mary Ruth Cook, here; Robert Moore, here – to exit executive session.

Motion was made by Councilmember Betty Easter, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to adjourn meeting. 7:27 p.m.

Kaye McCann, City Clerk

Approved by City Council