



City of Blairsville, GA
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
September 4, 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:

Darren Harper, DDA
John Hamler, AP

VISITORS:

PD – Asst. Police Chief Baxter
W/S – Ottis Franklin
AP – Aaron Mannheim
WTP – Danny Dillard
WWTP – Jody Cook
Steve Rowe, BUCCC
Mike Collins, Loretta Durden
David Dyer, UC Fire Chief
Pat Malone
Mark Smith/NGN

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation was led by City Attorney David Barrett and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Robert Moore.

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

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

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

- Regular City Council Meeting – 8/7/2018

Public Hearing:

Public Comments:

- Mike Collins, owner of Michaelees, asked for update on Haralson Property projects and parking lot. Mr. Collins requested something be done for parking until permanent parking lot can be completed.

Unfinished Business:

- Mayor Conley called for public hearing and second reading of Ordinance No. 2018-05 to Fix Salary, Compensation and Expenses of the Mayor and Council of the City of Blairsville. There being no comments from the public Mayor Conley closed the public hearing. Motion was made by Councilmember Betty Easter, seconded by Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve Ordinance No. 2018-05. “Exhibit A”
- Mayor Conley called for public hearing and second reading of Ordinance No. 2018-06 to Restate GMEBS Master Defined Benefit Retirement Plan. There being no comments from the public

Mayor Conley closed the public hearing. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve Ordinance No. 2018-06. "Exhibit B"

- Mayor Conley provided the Council with an email from Jonathon Peevy of GDOT regarding intersection of Pat Haralson Drive and Young Harris Street/Bob Head Street. Mr. Peevy suggested having an engineering study completed. Councilmember Robert Moore directed Mayor Conley to obtain the cost of having an engineering study completed.
- City Attorney David Barrett provided an update on the annexation process of the Board of Education property (UC High School). Because the plat provided by the BOE included property owned by the County, Mr. Barrett met with Sole Commissioner Paris and received his approval of the annexation. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to proceed with the annexation. This annexation allows the BOE Police Officers to be sworn in as Blairsville Police Officers.

New Business:

- Department Head Reports –
 - PD – Asst. Police Chief Baxter distributed the August 2018 Crime Report Summary and reported there have been no issues at any of the events held in town recently. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the hiring of Joshua Bergen as a part-time police officer.
 - W/S – Ottis Franklin gave an update for the W/S Maintenance Department
 - WTP – Danny Dillard provided an update for the WTP.
 - AP – Aaron Mannheim stated Joel Gooch presented a gift to the Airport of a framed American Flag; Mrs. Hones (widow of Gary Hones) also gave the Airport books to place in the terminal.
 - WWTP – Jody Cook reported he is obtaining prices for a drop ceiling at the WWTP as the lighting fixtures are coming out of the ceiling due to the fixtures not being installed correctly.
- Mayor Conley reported to the Council that Mr. Andy Ernst has approached him about renting a space in the old terminal building to conduct his flight instruction school. Mayor Conley reported that the Civil Air Patrol and some of the older pilots still use the old terminal and did not recommend renting this space. Council agreed with Mayor Conley.
- City Clerk Kaye McCann reported that 2019 health insurance premiums are going up by just under 4% from 2018. She reported that the change from a PPO to a POS for 2018 has had no negative effect on employees of which she is aware. She was asked to find out if there is a tiered premium plan for EE/SP, EE/CH and EE/Fam.
- After discussion regarding traffic on Jackson Street and Jones Street a motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve adding speed bumps on these two streets.

Consent Agenda:

- Occupational Tax Certificate & Sign Permit Applications:
 - Walgreens, 363 Blue Ridge Street, Lighting Maintenance Inc./Julie Smith, Applicant – Sign Permit
 - Cone & Associates CPAs, Inc., 9 Cook Street, John T. Cone, Applicant – Sign Permit
 - Mountain Health Food, 51E Earnest Street, Evelyn Thomas, Owner – Occupational Tax Certificate

Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve Consent Agenda items.

Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter 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 C”

Motion was made by Councilmember Betty Easter, 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 exit executive session.

Council unanimously agreed to ask Blairsville DDA Board to reconsider acceptance of the real estate contract for parcel of Pat Haralson property located at Pat Haralson Drive and Bob Head Street (across from Cook Restaurant). The contract was declined by the Board during an August meeting.

Council unanimously approved the purchase of property located at 96 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, GA. “Exhibit D”

Asst. Police Chief Baxter commented about the intersection at Pat Haralson and Young Harris Street/Bob Head Street recommending no changes be made.

Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to adjourn meeting. 7:35 p.m.

Kaye McCann, City Clerk

Approved by City Council