



City of Blairsville, GA
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
March 6, 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:

John Hamler, AP

VISITORS:

Pastor Terry Stewart
PD-Johnny Carroll, Shawn Dyer
W/S – Ottis Franklin
WTP-Danny Dillard
WWTP – Jody Cook
DDA – Darren Harper
Daniel Davenport, Judy Lanier
Pat Malone
Shawn Jarrard/NGN
Jason Beck/Fetch Your News

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation was led by Pastor Terry Stewart and Councilmember Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call Meeting to Order: Mayor Conley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Agenda Approval: Motion was made by Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the proposed agenda.

Minutes Approval: Motion was made by Betty Easter, seconded by Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2018 Regular Meeting of the City Council.

Public Hearing: Mayor Conley called for a Public Hearing and 1st reading of Environmental Health Ordinance #2018-01 to amend Ordinance #2010-02. There being no comments from the public Mayor Conley asked the Council if there were any questions. Councilmember Cook asked for further clarification on the ordinance. City Clerk McCann explained the changes in the ordinance came about due to the Georgia Department of Community Health transferring all powers, functions and duties to the Georgia Department of Public Health who replaced the Chapter numbers in the current ordinance from Chapter 290 to Chapter 511. Ordinance #2018-01 is amended to reference the new chapter numbers. There being no further comment the public hearing was closed.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Unfinished Business:

- Conley Property Annexation – Mayor Conley and City Attorney Barrett gave an update on the annexation. There is delay in the annexation due to the inability to obtain a necessary easement from property owner Daniel Davenport for the annexation. Councilmember Cook addressed Mr. Davenport asking if he was agreeable to having his property annexed. Mr. Davenport stated he is

agreeable to the annexation requesting that water/sewer utilities come across his property. After discussion between Mayor Conley, City Attorney Barrett and Mr. Davenport, Councilmember Dyer made a motion to kill annexation of Conley property. Motion was seconded by Betty Easter with yea votes from Tony Dyer and Betty Easter and nay votes from Rhonda Mahan, Robert Moore and Mary Ruth Cook. Mayor Conley and City Attorney Barrett will set up a meeting with Mr. Davenport and Conley's (current property owner) and developer to discuss where the sewer will be located on Conley property where Mr. Davenport could have access to it.

- Credit/Debit/E-Check payment option – City Clerk McCann reported the meeting with the United Community Bank representation and reported her recommendation of Revopay for processing credit/debit/e-check payment options for customers. Motion was made by Tony Dyer, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to contract with Revopay as a payment option for all city fees and taxes.

New Business:

- Department Head Reports –
 - PD – Chief Johnny Carroll distributed February 2018 Police Department report. Sergeant Shawn Dyer reported to the Council that upon the recent outcome of the GBI audit of the police department operations, it was recommended that cell phones be purchased by the City for police officers to use for official business and hotspot devices be installed in police cars for access to GCIC records. The cost from Verizon for six cell phones and eight hotspot devices is \$564.57 per month. Sergeant Dyer also stated that during the audit it was observed that supplies are located in the evidence room to which access is restricted to him and Asst. Police Chief Baxter. It was recommended that a storage cabinet be obtained for the squad room, providing an area for supplies and a separate locked area for evidence to be held until it can be transferred to evidence room. Sergeant Dyer has found a metal cabinet for approximately \$2,000. Motion was made by Robert Moore, seconded by Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote approving cell phones and hotspot devices and for the locked storage cabinet.
 - DDA – Darren Harper distributed report dated 3/6/2018. He reported that he has developed a smartphone app for Blairsville restaurants and shops in the DDA Downtown District but will eventually include all restaurants and shops in the City limits. App will enable users to look up information such as telephone numbers, hours of operation and restaurant menus for the businesses.
 - W/S – Ottis Franklin reported it has been a quiet month; Cook Street Project has begun.
 - WTP – Danny Dillard stated everything is running well; Devan Mahan, previous WTP employee, has returned to work extended schedules. This will allow the plant to operate longer and free up usage of wells.
 - WWTP – Jody Cook reported ammonia slightly exceeded average allowable permit limits due to pump issues and procedure changes from a local business. The pump has been repaired and Jody is working with business for alternative procedure to correct the issue.
 - AP – Mayor Conley along with a Croy Engineering consultant met with four property owners regarding easements for the obstruction clearing. Three of the property owners signed the easement agreement while there are negotiations with the fourth

property owner.

- Motion was made by Robert Moore, seconded by Tony Dyer with four yeas and Rhonda Mahan abstaining to ratify the hiring of Devan Mahan as full time WTP operator to work a minimum of 30 hours per week.
- 2017 Amended Budget – Motion was made by Betty Easter, seconded by Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve the 2017 Amended Budget as presented. Exhibit A
- After presentation of a full face window envelope option to mail water bills motion was made by Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve using full face window envelope for mailing water bills.
- IT Consultant Service Contract – Motion was made by Robert Moore, seconded by Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve contract quote from Total GeekTek for IT maintenance and upgrades for equipment in all City departments.

Consent Agenda:

- Occupational Tax Certificate & Sign Permit Applications
 - Southern D'Signs LLC, 294 G Hwy 515, Lynne Phipps and Janie Lloyd, Owners
 - Solidity Fitness dba Crawdaddy's Crossfit, 128 Industrial Blvd, Hope Crawford, Owner
 - Hello Beautiful, 38 Merchant's Walk, Unit A, Rebecca Medori, Owner

Motion was made by Robert Moore, seconded by Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Dyer addressed need to move forward with paved public parking, public restrooms and green space development on property located behind City Hall. He asked DDA Manager Harper to discuss this with the DDA Board. Councilmember Dyer also asked for review of part time police officers hourly rate of pay for next month's agenda. He also would like to recognize Sheriff Mack Mason in appreciation for his cooperation since becoming sheriff. He recommended presenting a plaque to Sheriff Mason; Councilmember Mahan suggested inviting Sheriff Mason to the next Council meeting.

Motion was made by Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to adjourn meeting.
7:43 p.m.

Kaye McCann, City Clerk

Approved by City Council