



City of Blairsville, GA
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
January 8, 2019 – 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
Ottis Franklin, W/S
Johnny Carroll, PD

VISITORS:

Pastor Marty Duncan
PD – Asst. Police Chief Michael Baxter, Sergeant Shawn Dyer
AP – John Hamler, Aaron Mannheim
WTP – Danny Dillard, WWTP – Jody Cook
NGN – Shawn Jarrard
Cindy & Jason Neely, Patrick Malone
Maci Walls, Lisa Baxter, Haley Baxter, Katie Baxter
Tammy Vaughn, Gary Baxter, Rebecca Baxter
Greg Adams, Chris Wadle, Jason Henson, Joey Swanson
Daniel Liberatore, W.C. Nelson

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation was led by Pastor Marty Duncan 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 Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda.

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

- Regular City Council Meeting – 12/4/2018
- Executive Session Meeting – 12/4/2018

Public Comments: Mayor Conley asked for public comments. Jason Henson addressed the council requesting a PAPI system be put on the fast track for the Blairsville Airport. Mayor Conley reported there is a meeting coming up with officials to discuss projects at the airport.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

- Motion was made by Councilmember Betty Easter, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to appoint David Barrett as City Attorney for 2019.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to appoint Kaye McCann as City Clerk and Supervisor of Elections for 2019.
- Mayor Conley administered the Oath of Office to Assistant Police Chief Michael Baxter for Blairsville Police Chief effective 1/15/19, 2:00 p.m.
- Assistant Police Chief Michael Baxter administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Shawn Dyer for Blairsville Assistant Police Chief effective 1/15/19, 2:00 p.m.
- After discussion regarding Council liaison for Blairsville DDA Board, motion was made by Councilmember Betty Easter, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to approve appointment of Councilmember Tony Dyer to the Blairsville DDA Board. Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook will remain the Council liaison to the Union County Historical Society.

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- Department Liaisons were assigned as follows:
 - Airport – Councilmember Robert Moore
 - Streets – Councilmember Tony Dyer
 - W/S – Councilmember Betty Easter
 - Police – Councilmember Rhonda Mahan
- Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to appoint Councilmember Robert Moore as Mayor Pro Tempore.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to approve 2019 qualifying fee for office of Councilmember at \$108.
- Steve Rowe, President of Blairsville Union County Chamber of Commerce, provided an update of Chamber events for January and February and reported 18 members of the community will be participating in the upcoming Leadership Program which lasts about 2 ½ months.
- Department Head Reports –
 - AP – John Hamler stated FAA and GDOT officials have expressed condolences for the recent aviation accident. Forest Service is interested in housing two to three airplanes at the airport and renting office space at the previous terminal building located at 240 Airport Drive. Air Methods is interested in an extended lease and there is discussion about placing a jet-a fuel tank at the hospital making it more convenient for Air Methods to fuel. The tank would still be owned by City of Blairsville. There was concern expressed regarding liability. Mayor Conley stated hospital would assume liability. Councilmember Robert Moore asked City Attorney Barrett his opinion. Attorney Barrett expressed the lease agreement could be written to include language to this effect. Councilmember Tony Dyer asked how many tanks are located on the new terminal side of the airport. John reported the Av Gas tank is located there and now offers self-serve. Councilmember Dyer also asked about meeting with GDOT Aviation officials to discuss PAPI and what this is. John explained PAPI is a guidance system for night arrivals.
 - WTP – Danny Dillard stated repairs are being made to the Miller well and Devan Mahan attained his Class II Operators License in December.
 - PD – Asst. Police Chief Bear Baxter distributed December 2018 Police Department report and reported that 2018 was the 18th Shop with a Cop with over 1000 children participating since the beginning, 104 of which participated in 2018. He commended all emergency service personnel for their response to the recent plane crash. Assistant Chief Baxter gave an emotional thanks to Chief Carroll for what he's done for the department.
 - WWTP – Jody Cook stated the yearly maintenance on the pumps and generators has been completed.
 - W/S – Mayor Conley reported Ottis Franklin has returned to work but unable to attend the council meeting.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the 2019 Intergovernmental Agreements for Hotel/Motel Tax distribution as follows: Blairsville DDA – 25%; UC Historical Society – 25%; Blairsville-UC Chamber of Commerce – 40%. Exhibits A, B, C
- Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve Resolution R2019-01 to amend Alcoholic Beverage License Fee Schedule due to change in GBI fees. Exhibit D
- Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve Resolution R2019-02 reinstating the multi-year contracted services for 2019. Exhibit E
- Motion was made by Councilmember Betty Easter, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to approve annual contribution to the Union County Library in the amount of \$7,000.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to hire Bradley Glass as a full time police officer at a rate of \$18.00 effective 1/16/2019.

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Consent Agenda:

- Occupational Tax Certificate & Sign Permit Applications:
 - Enterprise Leasing Company of Georgia, LLC, 307 Cleveland Street, Suite C, Andy Taylor, Officer – Occupational Tax Certificate
 - Ambry's Attic, 94 Town Square, Suite K, Misty Sirianni, Owner – Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit
 - Skincare on the Square, 60 Rogers Street, Elizabeth Key, Owner – Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit
 - Zaxby's, 195 Hwy 515, Terry Payne, Applicant, Sign Permit

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Betty Easter, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to adjourn meeting. 6:55 p.m.

Kaye McCann, City Clerk

Approved by City Council