



**City of Blairsville, GA**  
**Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting**  
**February 5, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**City of Blairsville City Hall**  
**62 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, GA 30512**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Rhonda Mahan, Council  
Danny Dillard, WTP

**VISITORS:**

Pastor Bill Honaker  
PD – Police Chief Baxter, Asst. Police Chief Dyer  
AP – John Hamler, W/S – Ottis Franklin  
WWTP – Jody Cook, DDA – Darren Harper  
UCFD – David Dyer, NGN – Shawn Jarrard  
Steven Rowe, BUCCC  
Brittany Combs, Anna Deyton, Sam Combs  
Union Leadership Group:  
Al Haywood, Lesa Byrd, Rhonda Hood, Crystal Dockery,  
Kitty Mauzy, Jaime Levins, Daniel Liberatore, Shawn Kight,  
Josh Davis, Jeff Davis, Oleg Malyshev, Michael Gay,  
Jerry Nelms, Wes Cook, Derek Carter, Shawna Rich, Margie  
Porter, Holly Brothers, Scotty Jarrard

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Invocation was led by Pastor Bill Honaker and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Robert Moore.

**Call Meeting to Order:** Mayor Conley called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Conley welcomed the Union Leadership group.

**Agenda Approval:** Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the proposed agenda.

**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 – 1/8/2019

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments

**Unfinished Business:** There was no unfinished business.

**New Business:**

- Steve Rowe, President of Blairsville Union County Chamber of Commerce, reported the BUCCC Business of the Year was awarded to ServPro during the Chamber's Awards banquet and Mayor Conley swore in new board members; the Night of the Stars banquet will be February 21 at the Union County Community Center at 6:00 pm – Mr. Rowe invited all to attend.
- Department Head Reports –
  - W/S – Ottis Franklin said it was a good month in spite of the cold weather; they are currently replacing the culvert on Woodside Drive.
  - PD – Police Chief Baxter distributed the January 2019 report; he stated they are transitioning from Chief Carroll's retirement last month; he reported two officers have received their Intoxilyzer Certification.
  - Airport – John Hamler reported they are revising the airport traffic log for more accurate numbers; maintenance is being done on the hangars and tractor; airport runway inspection is scheduled for March 24 with Alan Hood and Steve Brian (GDOT).

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- WWTP – Jody Cook stated it was a good month and the plant is running good. Councilmember Tony Dyer asked about the Grit System and if it would be operational this year. Mr. Cook and Mayor Conley stated the drawings were being finalized and the system probably wouldn't be operational until 2020.
- DDA – Darren Harper has revised the DDA website and updated the mobile app; DDA's Facebook page has 286 new followers in the last 28 days; there are 49 scheduled events through December; next merchant meeting will be held next week.
  
- Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve a transfer from the General Fund to the Airport Fund to offset the cash deficit of \$19,506.71.
  
- Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve part-time new hire for Airport, Cologera "Charly" Ledbetter at \$12/hour.
  
- Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve part-time new hire for Police Department, Damon Hood at \$15/hour.
  
- Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve Council Department-Board Liaison rotation schedule as proposed. **Exhibit A**
  
- Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve pay increase of \$2.83/hour for Police Chief Baxter retroactive to 1/16/19.
  
- Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve pay increase of \$7.37/hour for Assistant Police Chief Dyer retroactive to 1/16/19.
  
- Motion was made by Councilmember Betty Easter, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve pay increase of \$.50/hour for WTP Operator Devan Mahan for successfully obtaining Class II Operator License.
  
- Motion was made by Councilmember Betty Easter, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve an hourly rate adjustment to \$18.50/hour for Officer Bradley Glass retroactive to 1/16/19.
  
- Mayor Conley started discussion of remodeling the building purchased by the City in 2018 (96 Blue Ridge Street) to convert to the Blairsville Police Department. Councilmember Tony Dyer had approached Mayor Conley about turning the building into the police department and eventually expanding the Council Room at City Hall. Mayor Conley discussed the idea with Chief Baxter and thought it a good idea as there is need for more room and for privacy for the PD. The building has been gutted with the assistance of detainee services.

### **Consent Agenda:**

- Occupational Tax Certificate & Sign Permit Applications:
  - Sunations Tanning Salon, 19 Cobalt Street, Suite J, Brandy Walters, Owner – Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit
  - Dixie Confexions, 417-F Blue Ridge Street, Jody Atkins, Owner – Sign Permit
  - Law Office of Daniel R. Duello, LLC, 340 Young Harris Street, Daniel Duello, Owner – Occupational Tax Certificate

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

Prior to adjourning Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook asked for more information about Union Leadership. Daniel Liberatore and BUCCC President Rowe stated the Chamber has held this 12-week class since 2003. The training is to expose area business leaders to more in depth knowledge of local government and other area businesses. This training session has one of the largest classes with 18 in the class.

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Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to adjourn meeting. 6:43 p.m.

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Kaye McCann, City Clerk

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Approved by City Council