



**City of Blairsville, GA**  
**Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting**  
**March 5, 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:**

John Hamler, Airport

**VISITORS:**

Pastor Marty Duncan  
PD – Police Chief Baxter  
AP – Aaron Mannheim, W/S – Ottis Franklin  
WWTP – Jody Cook, DDA – Darren Harper  
WTP – Danny Dillard; Joan Mannheim  
Steve Rowe, BUCCC President  
David McCann; Jacob McCann  
Cassandra McVay; W. C. Nelson  
Shawn Jarrard, NGN

**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 Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the proposed 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 – 2/5/2019

**Public Comments:** Mayor Conley introduced Jacob McCann who presented a law enforcement flag to Chief Baxter. Jacob and his dad, David McCann, made the flag to give to Chief Baxter in recognition of his appointment as the City of Blairsville Police Chief.

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

**New Business:**

- Steve Rowe, President of Blairsville Union County Chamber of Commerce, reported upcoming events to be held at the Union County Community Center. The events include a fashion show during their Monthly Mingle on 3/13/19 at 12:00 p.m.; reception for the new CEO of Union General Hospital, Kevin Bierschenk, to be held on 3/14/19 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Eggs and Issues on 3/26/19 at 8:00 a.m. – Mayor Conley and Commissioner Paris will be guest speakers at this event.
- Department Head Reports –
  - PD – Police Chief Baxter distributed the February 2019 report stating there were 152 calls for service; maintenance crew and the detainees have been instrumental in renovation of police department; Asst. Police Chief Dyer and he will be attending Chiefs' Day at the Capital on 3/14/19.
  - W/S – Ottis Franklin reported a good month with no major problems.
  - DDA – Darren Harper has updated the DDA website to include all shops downtown; DDA Facebook page has added 236 new followers; advertising expense in the Vacation Guide is being shared with the BUCCC; provided a comprehensive list of events in the DDA handout.
  - WTP – Danny Dillard reported a good month; production has gone down since the repair of leaks by the maintenance department last month.

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- AP – Aaron Mannheim stated compliments of the Blairsville Airport are coming in from pilots landing at the airport.
- WWTP – Jody Cook reported a good month even with the rain although max flow was over what is allowed on State Permit just slightly.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve paying balance of USDA Loan 1996B with a balance as of 2/28/2019 of \$910,537. This is the highest interest loan the City has at 4.5%. The City will save approximately \$437,000 in interest.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve cashing in three Certificate of Deposits held as debt reserve requirement for the USDA 1996 loans. With the payoff of Loan 1996B we no longer have that debt service requirement. The funds in the amount of \$115,668 total will be returned to the Water/Sewer Fund.
- There was discussion regarding having more than 2 available signers on the City's checking account. No decision was made to make any changes at this time.
- After discussion regarding adding Mayor Pro Tempore to the Department-Board Liaison schedule approved in February's meeting a motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with four (4) yea and one (1) nay vote by Councilmember Robert Moore to do away with rotation schedule.
- City Clerk Kaye McCann explained TAVT (car tax) distribution. During recent audit of Union County Tax Commissioner records auditors found that a portion of the TAVT tax that was to be distributed to the City was distributed to the County in error. Tax Commissioner Lee Knight provided a report from April 2015 – December 2018 that reflected the amount that should have been distributed to the City during this period which was just over \$135,000. He began with January 2019's collection distributing correctly the amount owed directly to the City. After discussion a motion was made by Councilmember Betty Easter, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to forgive the entire amount the County received in error.
- Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Betty Easter with a unanimous vote to approve the amended budget for 2018. **Exhibit A**
- Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve the police department renovation estimates provided by Bridges Home Builders in the amount of \$45,869 and the estimates for the subcontractors in the amount of \$62,200. **Exhibit B**
- Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve adding vision care to the City's group insurance with the City paying the employee's portion of the coverage.
- Resolution No. 2019-03 Opposing HB 302, Preemption of Local Building Design Standards, was read by Mayor Conley. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to adopt this resolution.
- There was discussion about proposed HB 465, Water Customer Bill of Rights, and how this bill would affect the City.

### Consent Agenda:

- Occupational Tax Certificate & Sign Permit Applications:
    - Tri-State Tech Support, 307A Cleveland Street, Anthony Couto, Owner – Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit
- Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to approve Consent Agenda items.

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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 personnel matters and litigation. **Exhibit C**

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 Tony Dyer with four (4) yay votes and one (1) abstaining (Councilmember Rhonda Mahan) approving an additional \$.50/hour increase for Devan Mahan for obtaining his Class II Operator License. This will be retroactive to 2/1/19.

Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with four (4) yay votes and one (1) abstaining (Councilmember Rhonda Mahan) to offer Devan Mahan a 40 hour work week, if he consents. Devan was hired to work a 30 hour week.

Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to adjourn meeting. 7:54 p.m.

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Kaye McCann, City Clerk

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Approved by City Council

*Minutes will be in final form after they have been approved at the next regular scheduled Council meeting.*