



**City of Blairsville, GA**  
**Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting**  
**November 14, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**Blairsville City Hall**  
**62 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, GA 30512**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Mayor Jim Conley  
Councilmember Rhonda Mahan  
Councilmember Robert Moore  
Councilmember Tony Dyer  
Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook

**ABSENT:**

Councilmember Kayla Hemphill

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kaye McCann, City Clerk  
Chief Michael Baxter, Police Dept  
Aaron Mannheim, AP  
Joan Mannheim, City Hall  
Jody Cook, WWTP  
Curtis Corn, W/S  
Rod Carey, W/S  
Jacob McCann, W/S  
Kristen Bentley, DDA

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Marvin Harkins, City Attorney  
Chief David Dyer, UC Fire Department  
Brittany Holbrooks, North Georgia News  
David McCann, Brandon Bentley  
Cassie Flowers, Johnny Collins  
Lynn Pike, Kevin and Chrissy Ashcraft  
Gary St. Lawrence, Mike Wagner  
Wayne Wolke, WC Nelson, Courtney Waller

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Invocation was led by Mayor Conley and pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Robert Moore.

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

**Approve Proposed Agenda:** Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve agenda.

**Dispense reading and approve minutes:** Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to dispense reading of and approve minutes from the October 10, 2023 regular city council meeting.

**Public Hearing:**

1. Public hearing and 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Budget Ordinance No 2023-03 to adopt the 2024 operating budget.

**Public Comments:**

2. Kenya Patton was not present. Mayor Conley addressed speed reduction measures at Town Square and Blue Ridge Street. Chief Baxter and City Attorney Harkins recommended traffic study. Mayor Conley will contact a traffic study engineer. This is tabled until future meeting.
3. Kevin Ashcraft from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints presented a proclamation to Mayor Conley and the Council for Family Week for the week of Thanksgiving.

Gary St. Lawrence addressed the council regarding regulations to be an elected official for the City of Blairsville. He will be contacting state representatives to pursue changing the city residency regulation to allow residents in the county to run for city office.

**Unfinished Business:**

4. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to include elected officials to participate in the city's group medical, dental and vision plans with elected officials participating paying 100% of the premium.
5. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve Ordinance No 2023-01 to annex Board of Education property into the city limits. Exhibit "A"
6. After discussion regarding hangars at the airport, motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote authorizing city attorney to negotiate a ground lease agreement with Mr. Wolke for a hangar located on the north side of the runway. This agreement will be presented to council at the December meeting for approval.

**New Business:**

7. Steve Rowe, BUCCC, was not present
8. UC Fire Chief David Dyer announced grand opening of Fire Station #13 on 11/17 at 11:00 am.
9. Department Head Reports:
  - a. Chief Baxter, PD, provided October activity report to Council and reported that the speed limit on Hwy 515 through the city will be reduced to 40 mph.
  - b. Aaron Mannheim, Airport, provided an update on airport operations.
  - c. Jody Cook, WWTP, reported all was good at the plant with no issues.

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- d. Curtis Corn, W/S, reported leaks seemed to have slowed down; department has been performing routine maintenance; provided on update on Bonnell.
  - e. Kristen Bentley, DDA, announced the DDA Board is recommending Johnny Collins as a board member to begin January 1, 2024. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve the recommendation.
- 10. City Attorney had nothing to report.
  - 11. DDA Board recommendation approval was made during the DDA Director's report.
  - 12. City Attorney announced the completion of the city's codification. 1<sup>st</sup> reading was held of Ordinance 2023-02 to codify the city's ordinances.
  - 13. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the 2024 Occupational Tax Certificate renewals.
  - 14. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve Pro Pump Solutions, Inc quote for a pump impeller at WWTP - \$7,394 to be paid with SPLOST funds.
  - 15. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with unanimous vote to approve the 2025-2029 Airport CIP.
  - 16. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve EMI's recommendation for hydrogeologist firm Ground Water Services, Inc in the amount of \$43,000.
  - 17. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve Wagner Brothers proposal for fall flower swaps in five flower beds and clean-up of flower bed by Cabin Coffee in the amount of \$9,075.
  - 18. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve the 2024 council meeting dates.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore, with a unanimous vote to approve the following:

- 19. Fellowship of the Hills; 991 Pat Haralson Drive; Connie Overbay, Applicant; Sign Permit
- 20. CFVNCO LLC DBA Workout Anytime Blairsville; 294 Hwy 515 W; Nick Fisk and Vannie Nguyen, Owners; Occupational Tax Certificate & Sign Permit – Gym/Fitness Center

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore, with a unanimous vote to adjourn. 7:16 pm

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Kaye McCann, City Clerk

December 12, 2023

Approved by City Council