



City of Blairsville, GA
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
December 12, 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 Kayla Hemphill
Councilmember Tony Dyer
Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook

ABSENT:

Councilmember Robert Moore
City Clerk Kaye McCann

STAFF PRESENT:

Chief Michael Baxter, PD
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
Brittany Holbrooks, North GA News
Brandon Bentley, Cassie Flowers
Chip McGaughey, EMI, Steve Rowe
Mitch Griggs, Wayne Wolke, Carol Krone
Kevin Kilpatrick, Dustin Barnes, Paige Thornton
Nathan Dean, Oliver Dean
Jerry & Elaine Stover, Sandy & Annie Asbill

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation was led by Steve Rowe and pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Jim Conley.

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

Approve Proposed Agenda: Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to approve agenda.

Dispense reading and approve minutes: Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to dispense reading of and approve minutes from the November 14, 2023 regular city council meeting.

Public Hearing:

Public Comments:

1. Jerry and Elaine Stover requested to have the water meter relocated from county property on the west side of Old Smokey Road to the east side of the road on their property. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to move the meter and waive the meter set fee.
2. Paige Thornton addressed the council regarding Boots to Boats fishing event for veterans.

Unfinished Business:

3. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to approve Ordinance No 2023-02 to codify city ordinances.
4. Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to approve Ordinance No 2023-03 to approve current 2024 budget but, per Councilmember Tony Dyer, amend certain line items prior to January 2, 2024 organizational meeting.
5. Traffic calming measures on Blue Ridge Street were discussed and the decision to expand traffic enforcement was made.
6. City Attorney Marvin Harkins reported has the 1st draft for a ground lease on the north side of the airport runway; a survey needs to be completed and Mr. Wolke is still working on his corporate filings.

New Business:

7. Steve Rowe, BUCCC, reported the Annual Banquet will be on January 19, 2024 and the Star Student presentation will be held on February 8, 2024.
8. UC Fire Chief David Dyer was not in attendance.
9. Department Head Reports:
 - a. Chief Baxter, PD, provided November activity report to Council and reported that Shop With A Cop held on December 9th had approximately 160 children participate.
 - b. Aaron Mannheim, Airport, reported on several maintenance issues including taxi line repainting, sweeping around hangars. Also requested clarification on towing planes and fee structures on hangars.
 - c. Jody Cook, WWTP, reported a leaking valve at Aviagen had been corrected.
 - d. Curtis Corn, W/S, reported that regular maintenance work will begin on the right of ways.
 - e. Kristen Bentley, DDA, reported the Holiday loyalty card promotion is complete and the Candy Cane Walk passport is underway with the drawing for \$200 to be held on December 20th. The DDA board has approved the 2024 budget, event schedule and work plan.
10. City Attorney reported the BOE annexation filings have all been submitted.

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11. Chip McGaughey, EMI reported on the need for water rate increases based on debt average ratio projections. Exhibit "A"
12. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve the 2024 Alcohol License received by December 31, 2023.
13. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan along with Councilmember Tony Dyer, Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook voted nay to approve Resolution R2023-05 for on-premise consumption on December 31, 2023.
14. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to rent hangar B-1 for \$650 per month.
15. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with unanimous vote to approve the 2023 audit service by Rushton and Company.
16. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the 3 year virus protection quote from NH&A for \$2,107.36.
17. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to approve full time police officer Joshua McCuen.
18. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve the 2024 workers' compensation renewal \$41,390.
19. No action was taken on the annual pay increase until the 2024 budget has been amended.

Consent Agenda: -No Items

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, with a unanimous vote to adjourn. 7:55 pm

Joan Mannheim Accounting Clerk

January 2, 2024

Approved by City Council