



City of Blairsville, GA
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
January 2, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.
Blairsville City Hall
62 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, GA 30512

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Jim Conley
Councilmember Robert Moore
Councilmember Tony Dyer
Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook
Councilmember Kayla Hemphill

ABSENT:

Councilmember Rhonda Mahan

STAFF PRESENT:

Kaye McCann, City Clerk
Chief Michael Baxter, Police Dept
Aaron Mannheim, AP
Joan Mannheim, City Hall
Rod Carey, W/S
Kristen Bentley, DDA
Dan Firebaugh, Airport

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marvin Harkins, City Attorney
Steve Rowe, BUCCC
Shawn Jarrard, North Georgia News
Brandon Bentley
Jon Moon, Willie Woodruff, Jr, Siraj Kherani
Carol Krone, Andy Ernst, Gerald Griggs
Chris, Andrea & Brynn Wadle, Joey Swanson
Chuck West, Greg Adams, Steve Thompson
WC Nelson

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation was led by Steve Rowe 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.

Oath of Office – Oath of Office was administered to Councilmembers Cook and Hemphill by City Attorney Harkins for the term of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027.

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

Dispense reading and approve minutes: Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to dispense reading of and approve minutes from the December 12, 2023 regular city council meeting.

Public Comments:

1. Chris Wadle presented to Council for consideration a proposal for an Airport Advisory Board. City Attorney Harkins will draft an ordinance to create the advisory board.

Unfinished Business:

2. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to adopt the Budget Ordinance No. 2023-03.
3. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve a 5% annual pay increase effective 1/1/2024 for all full-time regular employees and part-time police officers meeting the requirements to receive annual pay increase.

New Business:

4. Motion was by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to appoint Marvin Harkins as City Attorney for 2024.
5. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to appoint Kaye McCann as City Clerk for 2024.
6. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve the following:
 - a. Mayor Pro Tempore Councilmember Robert Moore
 - b. DDA Board Liaison Councilmember Rhonda Mahan
 - c. UC Historical Society Board Liaison Mayor Jim Conley
 - d. Airport Liaison Councilmember Robert Moore
 - e. Police Department Liaison Councilmember Tony Dyer
 - f. Streets Liaison Councilmember Kayla Hemphill
 - g. Water/Sewer Departments Liaison Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook
7. A hearing was held regarding a violation of the city's alcohol ordinance on December 13, 2023 when a clerk at the 434 Foodmart, LLC sold alcohol to an underage minor. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to issue a fine of \$150 and an alcohol license suspension retroactive to

Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 2, 2024
6:00 P.M.

December 13, 2023 through January 2, 2024.

8. Steve Rowe, BUCCC, provided a Chamber update including Coffee with a Cop on 1/9 at Cabin Coffee; Annual Banquet at Rolands Center-Young Harris College on 1/19; Star Student Banquet at Community Center on 2/8
9. David Dyer, Union County Fire Chief, was not present.
10. Department Head Reports:
 - a. Chief Baxter, PD, reported approximately 1400 calls for 2023.
 - b. Aaron Mannheim, Airport, provided an update on airport operations. During the update Mr. Mannheim was instructed to provide a list to the council at the next meeting of practice and procedures that are not in compliance with city ordinances. A motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill to have a work session to discuss the issues however the motion was removed.
 - c. Rod Carey, W/S, reported on routine maintenance being completed.
 - d. Kristen Bentley, DDA, provided an update on annual assessments due by 1/15; special session with downtown business owners on 1/10 at the Chamber from 8:00-10:00; she is working on updating the DDA's website.
11. City Attorney reported the city's ordinances are live on Municode and the link is on the city's website.
12. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve the 2024 donation to the Union County Public Library for \$11,000.
13. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to approve the purchase of a street sweeper from Tymco in the amount of \$204,470 to be paid from Streets budget and SPLOST.
14. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve the 2024 donation to the Union County Fire Department in the amount of \$10,000.

Consent Agenda:

Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, with a unanimous vote to approve the following:

15. Occupational Tax Certificate & Sign Permit –
 - a. Luke's Place; 307 Cleveland Street, Suite L; Alexis Noe, Owner; Occupational Tax Certificate for Nonprofit Corporation.
 - b. Chenoa's Hometown Salon; 165 Kimsey Street; Chenoa Abercrombie, Owner; Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit for hair salon
16. Approve 2024 Intergovernmental Agreements for Hotel/Motel Tax distribution – 40% to Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce; 25% to Union County Historical Society and 25% to Blairsville Downtown Development Authority
17. Resolution R2024-01 to renew existing multi-year contracts

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore, with a unanimous vote to adjourn. 7:18 pm

Kaye McCann, City Clerk

2/14/2024
Approved by City Council