



City of Blairsville, GA
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
February 13, 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

ABSENT:

Councilmember Rhonda Mahan
Councilmember Kayla Hemphill

STAFF PRESENT:

Kaye McCann, City Clerk
Chief Michael Baxter, Police Dept
Shawn Dyer, Police Dept
Aaron Mannheim, AP
Dan Firebaugh, AP
Curtis Corn, W/S
Rod Carey, W/S
Jacob McCann, W/S
Danny Dillard, WTP
Joan Mannheim, City Hall
Amberly Fell, City Hall
Kristen Bentley, DDA

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marvin Harkins, City Attorney
Steve Rowe, BUCCC
David Dyer, UC Fire Chief
Shawn Jarrard, North Georgia News
David McCann, Cassie Flower, Carol Krone
Brandon Bentley, Bob Kinnie
Chris Wadle, Danny Hemphill, Steve Thompson
Arlene and Aria Mederos, Heather Cisneros
Krystal Fairless

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 –

Approve Proposed Agenda: Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer 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 January 2, 2024 regular city council meeting.

Public Comments:

1. Chris Wadle presented recommended adjustments to Ordinance 2024-01 to create an Airport Advisory Board.

Unfinished Business:

2. City Attorney Harkins presented 1st reading of Ordinance 2024-01 to create an Airport Advisory Board. Revisions include removing an elected official as a board member; removing the airport manager as a board member; changing the number of members from three to five.

New Business:

3. Steve Rowe, BUCCC, provided Chamber update.
4. David Dyer, Union County Fire Chief, reported 10% of calls received in 2023 were in city limits.
5. Department Head Reports:
 - a. Chief Baxter and Assistant Chief Dyer reported a grant for approximately \$19,000 was approved from Georgia Chiefs Association for new in car computers. Also presented were vehicle proposals with the best deals coming from King Ford for the following:
 - i. 2024 F150 - \$42,560, trade in 2017 Ford Explorer for \$8,000 for net cost of \$34,560
 - ii. 2024 F150 – \$2,000 and trade in 2023 F150Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to accept the GCA grant and approve the vehicle purchases.
 - b. Curtis Corn, W/S, reported they have started the line inventory as required by EPA
 - c. Danny Dillard, WTP, reported geologist has begun looking for new well site.
 - d. Kristen Bentley, DDA, provided the DDA is in good standing with DCA; provided update on DDA events.
 - e. Aaron Mannheim, AP, reported a military helicopter fly in.
6. City Attorney discussed Crossing Creek RV Park sewer project and maintenance bond. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote for Crossing Creek to provide a bond or other surety in the amount of 25% of the project cost for 12 months.

7. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Robert Moore with Councilmembers Dyer and Moore voting yay and Councilmember Cook voting nay to approve R2024-02 to allow 2024 Sunday sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises on July 28, 2024. Motion failed as City Charter states "...the affirmative of three councilmembers is required for the adoption of any ordinance, resolution, or motion..."
8. DDA Director Bentley reported language had changed in the state code regarding DDA Directors and she wanted to update the resolution enacting the DDA. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve R2024-03 Resolution to amend the resolution enacting the DDA.
9. After discussion of the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement a motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve the 2024 Statewide Mutual Agreement and appoint Chief Michael Baxter as the designated fiscal officer for the purpose of reimbursement sought for mutual aid.
10. City Clerk McCann provided an explanation of the significant changes to the amended City of Blairsville Handbook. City Attorney also mentioned that traditionally the handbook has been adopted in ordinance form but could be done in resolution form. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to adopt handbook in resolution form and to approve the handbook as amended with one revision – to change the penalty for a positive alcohol test greater than .04g% BAC for regular part and full-time employees completing probation period from a suspension for not less than 2 months to not less than 1 month.
11. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve the GMEBS Restated Adoption Agreement for Defined Benefit Retirement Plan.
12. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve the Prostripe estimate #1571 dated 1/30/2024 for paint striping on the north side (taxi way lines, tie down spaces and parking lots) and south side (taxi way lines, hangar bay lines, tie down spaces, helicopter pad area) of terminal.
13. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to table the renewal of Hangar A-6 lease until the next meeting.
14. Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to table the discussion of the two speed tables on Blue Ridge Street.
15. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to approve Amberly Fell as the Utility Billing Clerk new hire.
16. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve Nathan Edwards as a Police Officer new hire.
17. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve end of probation for Jacob McCann with a \$1.00/hour increase.
18. A called work session will be held on Tuesday, February 27 at 6:00 pm for the purpose of discussing airport issues with Airport Department Head Aaron Mannheim.
19. Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to terminate the lease agreement with Hank Harms for Hangar C-1.

Consent Agenda:

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

20. Occupational Tax Certificate & Sign Permit –
 - a. Michelle Vaughn Law Firm; 360 GA-515W; Tyler DiNatale, Applicant; Sign Permit
 - b. CSRA Probation Services, Inc; 185 Wellborn Street, Suite 7; Ginger D. Kent, Applicant; Occupational Tax Certificate – new owner
 - c. DFA Dairy Brands Fluid, LLC; 516 Beasley Street; Tiffany Overton, Application; Occupational Tax Certificate – new owner
 - d. The Massage Place; 94B Pat Haralson Drive; Jennifer Dockery, owner; Occupational Tax Certificate – massage therapy
 - e. Sweet Pea's Downtown Eatery; 53 Merchants Walk, Unit B; Lauren Ross, applicant; Occupational Tax Certificate – restaurant
 - f. The Grateful Hiker; 94 Town Square, Suite E; Mary Bastin, owner; Occupational Tax Certificate – store and hiker support services
 - g. The Old Soft Shoe; 40 Town Square, Suite G; Joshua Palmer, owner; Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit – shoe repair services
 - h. RJ's Fine Cigars; 112A Wellborn Street; Jonathan P. Hacker, owner; Occupational Tax Certificate – cigar store/lounge

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6:00 P.M.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore, with a unanimous vote to adjourn. 7:34 pm

Kaye McCann, City Clerk

March 12, 2024
Approved by City Council