



**City of Blairsville, GA**  
**Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting**  
**March 12, 2024 – 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  
Councilmember Kayla Hemphill

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kaye McCann, City Clerk  
Chief Michael Baxter, Police Dept  
Aaron Mannheim, AP  
Joan Mannheim, City Hall  
Dan Firebaugh, AP  
Danny Dillard, WTP  
Jody Cook, WWTP  
Kristen Bentley, DDA

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Marvin Harkins, City Attorney  
Steve Rowe, BUCCC  
Shawn Jarrard, North Georgia News  
Brandon Bentley, Carol Krone  
Chip McGaughey, EMI  
Chris Wadle, Tracy Martin, Sonny Hinson  
Heather Cisneros, Alyssa Chilton, Kenya Patton

**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 6:02 p.m.

**Oath of Office** – Oath of office was administered to Councilmember Rhonda Mahan by City Attorney Harkins for the term of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027.

**Approve Proposed Agenda:** Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve agenda.

**Dispense reading and approve minutes:** Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to dispense reading of and approve minutes from the February 13, 2024 regular city council meeting.

**Public Comments:**

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve Ordinance 2024-01 to establish an Airport Advisory Board. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to approve the following board members: Christopher Wadle, Cory Payne, Sonny Hinson, Stan Vangilder, Tracy Martin as voting members and Airport Department Head Aaron Mannheim as a non-voting, ex officio member.
2. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer to change lease for Hangar A-6 with Air Methods for the tenant to assume liability of interior hangar maintenance and keep rental rate the same. Councilmember Robert Moore withdrew his motion. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to renew lease for Hangar A-6 with Air Methods for \$625 per month for five years keeping terms of lease the same.
3. Discussion of speed tables resulted in council directing mayor to research expense of pedestrian crossing lights at intersections on square.

**New Business:**

4. Steve Rowe, BUCCC, provided Chamber update including Coffee with a Cop on 3/26 at 8:00 am at Cabin Coffee, Clean Up Day on 4/20 and breakfast on 4/18 at 8:00 am at Community Center with Chris Clark, State Chamber President.
5. David Dyer, Union County Fire Chief, was not present.
6. Department Head Reports:
  - a. Chief reported in car computers with Chief's Association grant have been ordered.
  - b. Aaron Mannheim, AP, reported all is fine at airport.
  - c. Jody Cook, WWTP, reported all is good at plant.
  - d. Danny Dillard, WTP, reported all is good at plant.
  - e. Kristen Bentley, DDA, provided the DDA update; she received a scholarship to attend the national Mainstreet conference in May; working on updating DDA's bylaws.
7. City Attorney asked to attend first Airport Advisory Board meeting.
8. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with Councilmembers Hemphill, Mahan, Dyer and Moore voting yea and Councilmember Cook voting nay to approve R2024-04 to allow 2024

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Tuesday, March 12, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Sunday sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises on July 28, 2024. Motion passed.

9. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve the 2023 amended budget.
10. Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to open a twelve month CD with Bank OZK for \$1.7 million. Funds will come from cashing in the \$1 million CD and \$10,000 CD at United Community Bank in April and \$690,000 from general fund.
11. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to transfer the remaining ARPA funds to the General Fund.
12. Motion was made by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve the Complete Home Service estimate, #24-019 for flowerbed enhancement and cleanup.
13. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve part-time police officer new hire Kelly Ashcraft at \$17/hour.
14. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the GDOT estimate of \$139,086 for the city's portion of the repair to the sewer line damaged by the August 2023 storm.
15. Motion was made Councilmember Kayla Hemphill, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to authorize Mayor, City Clerk and City Attorney to execute GEFA Loan No. DW2022035 documents for Well Project approved in June 2023.
16. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to approve Crown Castle Small Cell Tower application for 310 Wellborn Street.
17. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to approve Crown Castle Small Cell Tower application for 19 Candler Drive.
18. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Kayla Hemphill with a unanimous vote to approve GDOT to bid Phase III of Highway 515 project to include water and sewer line relocation. The current pre-let estimate for this project is \$4,837,035 of which \$2,629,582.50 will be funded by GDOT and \$2,207,542.50 will be funded by the city.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

19. Occupational Tax Certificate & Sign Permit –
20. Alcohol License –
  - a. Boucher's Bayou Bites LLC; 253 GA 515 #1B; Alyssa Chilton, Applicant; Malt Beverage and Wine for Consumption on the Premises.

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore, with a unanimous vote to adjourn. 7:07 pm

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Kaye McCann, City Clerk

April 9, 2024

Approved by City Council