MINUTES

The City of Blountstown, County of Calhoun, State of Florida, met in a Workshop on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 4:00 P.M. at the City Council Meeting Room. The following members of the City Council were present: Mayor Tony Shoemake, Councilman James Griffin, Councilman Clifford Jackson, Councilwoman Mert Stephens, and Councilwoman Sheila Blackburn.

Also present were: City Manager Traci Hall, Captain Adam Terry, and Public Works Director Jeremy Norris.

Also present were: April Bailey, Benjamin Walden, Kristy Terry, Doris Traylor, Howard Johnson Jr., Carla Peacock, Trevor Burch, and Randa McCroan.

Mayor Shoemake called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. Councilwoman Stephens led the Invocation. Mayor Tony Shoemake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Shoemake advised that purpose of the Workshop was to discuss City Christmas Decorations, Paving List and City Property.

Mayor Shoemake stated this year the City has had a lot more residents putting up lights and more participation. Mayor Shoemake stated Main Street had a lot to do with participation, with the contests. Mayor Shoemake stated the Council would like to discuss what next year could look like. Mayor Shoemake stated he would like to see lights hung across Highway 20 next year and something at the entrances and exits of the City.

Councilwoman Stephens stated she would like to see the Main Street Organization, Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, Merchants and the City working together on Christmas Decorations in town. After discussion, Mrs. Terry suggested partnering with the High School Carpentry to see if they would make items for the City to display at cost. Mrs. Traylor suggested getting the merchants in town to sponsor an item for the City to put on display in town.

Councilman Griffin stated to make sure the State will allow the City to have these decorations on State Roads. Council Griffin stated if not a lot of work will be done making decorations with no where to put them. Mayor Shoemake stated the State will be contacted to ensure the decorations can be used on State Roads.

Councilwoman Blackburn stated she had been in contact with a local business owner that has suggested a character in Magnolia Square a few nights a week before Christmas to better utilize that space. Mayor Shoemake suggested having a small jazz band made up of a few people to play Christmas Music at Magnolia Square. Councilwoman Blackburn stated she would to see the lights in the Magnolia Square trees put up better next year. Mayor Shoemake suggested having a group of volunteers or organization in charge of putting the lights in the trees at Magnolia Square next year instead of the prisoners.

Councilman Griffin stated he would like to see Mr. Walden from Benjamin Walden Creations put lights up and decorate City Hall next year.

Councilwoman Blackburn stated she would like to see Lake Hilda utilized more with Christmas Decorations.

Mr. Walden presented Council a packet of ideas with Christmas Decorations for the City next year.

Councilman Griffin stated making Christmas Trees out of pallets.

Mayor Shoemake stated in the past there have been discussions about an old truck in the City for decoration. Main Street /Chamber of Commerce stated that is an idea they would like to entertain in the future. Mrs. Terry suggested having the truck parked in Magnolia Square and making it a seasonal idea for people to stop and take photos with as they pass through the City.

Mayor Shoemake asked Main Street /Chamber of Commerce if they would be interested in working with the City and putting a Christmas Tree in Magnolia Square. After discussion, Main Street /Chamber of Commerce stated they would be interested in participating in putting a Christmas Tree in Magnolia Square.

Main Street, Chamber of Commerce, and Council discussed lights that could be put up in the City and prices.

Mrs. Hall stated depending on what is done in Magnolia Square. The Electric Department Supervisor has stated we are at our max, as far as electrical outlets in Magnolia Square. Mrs. Hall stated more outlets/receptacles can be put there once the City has an established plan for Magnolia Square. Mrs. Terry stated the Wild Flower Festival is in the near future on Magnolia Square, and there are not capabilities for the food truck vendors to hook up their trucks at Magnolia Square, they have to use their own generators. Mrs. Hall stated if someone could get the size needed for the food truck vendors the City would put plugs for them to use at Magnolia Square. Mr. Norris stated the food trucks will need at least a 30 amp plug in. Mrs. Terry stated as the City is planning to do more activities in Magnolia Square the plugs for vendors would be a great addition to that area.

Councilman Griffin suggested getting a tree from his land and shaping it for the Christmas Tree in Magnolia Square. After discussion, it was decided to look at the current tree the City has in storage and see how much it would cost to get it repaired and go from there.

Mayor Shoemake suggested a group of volunteers getting together to form a Christmas Decorating Committee to start making plans and working on those plans for the future.

Mrs. Terry suggested presenting cut outs or Christmas lights to the merchants for purchase so the City would look more uniform and match.

Mrs. Traylor presented a homemade ornament idea to show Council for next year.

Mayor Shoemake stated the Christmas Decorating Committee should get together to discuss ideas to form a plan and the City will have another workshop in coming months to discuss.

Mr. Walden stated on Tuesday, January 23rd, Main Street will have a meeting at 5:30pm at the Methodist Church in the Conference Room to discuss Christmas Decorating ideas, if anyone would like to attend.

Next on the agenda was a Paving List. Council discussed Azalea, East of South Pear, Ray Avenue, Dogwood, Juniper, West Sherry, Orange, Railroad, Sutton into Johnson, South Main, and Elmore Streets for paving. Mayor Shoemake stated Mrs. Hall will put the paving list together and send Council to prioritize and bring to the next Council meeting.

Next on the agenda was City Property. Mrs. Hall stated Mr. Gainer, owner of Bay Ford, has accepted the City's counter offer of $250,000.00 and "Chicken Corner". Mrs. Hall stated she has made contact with the City Attorney, who then made contact with Mr. Gainer's Attorney. Mrs. Hall stated the City Attorney will be contacting her soon. Councilwoman Blackburn asked if grant money was used for the purchase of the pole barn. Mrs. Hall stated no grant money was used for the purchase. Mayor Shoemake asked if the City would get to keep the pole barn currently on "Chicken Corner" Mrs. Hall stated she asked and the City will get to keep the pole barn currently on "Chicken Corner".

There being no further business Councilman Griffin made the motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Stephens seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mayor Shoemake adjourned the meeting at 5:09 P.M.

BY: Tony Shoemake
Tony Shoemake, Mayor

ATTEST: Traci S. Hall
Traci S. Hall, City Manager