

MINUTES

The City of Blountstown, County of Calhoun, State of Florida, met in Regular Session Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. The following members of the City Council present were: Mayor Tony Shoemake, Councilman Bill Gaskin, Councilwoman Mert Stephens, Councilman Clifford Jackson and Councilwoman Sheila Blackburn.

Also present were: City Manager Traci Hall, City Attorney Jeff Carter, Police Chief Mark Mallory, Public Works Director Phillip Griffin, Fire Chief Ben Hall, and Council Secretary Joni Lambeth.

Also present were: Patrick Bell, Elizabeth Bell, Katie Hall, Titus Overholt, Deborah Duncan, Jennifer Parrish, and Desiree Johnson.

Mayor Tony Shoemake called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M. Councilman Jackson led the Invocation. Councilman Gaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Next Mayor Shoemake presented to the Council the Add-on bills. Councilwoman Stephens made a motion to adopt the Agenda with the Add-ons. Councilman Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next was the approval of August 08, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes and August 22, 2023, Sole Purpose Meeting. Councilman Gaskin made a motion to approve the August 08, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes and August 22, 2023, Sole Purpose Meeting. Councilwoman Stephens seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Monthly Bills were presented for action. Councilman Gaskin made a motion to approve the Monthly Bills. Councilwoman Stephens seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next was Proclamations and Awards.

There were no Proclamation and Awards.

The first item in Old Business was Capital Solutions Report. Mr. Patrick Bell stated he is waiting for the Senate forms to come out and once those are out, we will try and do Lake Hilda again. He stated that if anyone has any questions feel free to contact him.

Mayor Shoemake thanked Mr. Bell for helping with the new red light being put up.

Next in Old Business was Engineer's Report. Mr. Colton Purvis was not able to attend, but his report was included Mrs. Traci Hall, Mr. Philip Griffin, and Mr. Justin Ford would be able to answer any questions.

Next in Old Business was Wheeler Emergency Services. Mr. Titus Overholt stated the 0077 HMGP Generator Project is out for bid for the second time, due to no responses. Mrs. Hall stated the bids are due October 4th and was ran in the News Herald this time verses The Tallahassee Democrat. He stated the M0115 is in the final stage of review for exemption. Mr. Overholt stated the roof project has been completed. He stated regarding the extensions for FEMA, he was informed he did not have to submit another

for 2024 because 2023 is still in review, but he went ahead and submitted for 2024 just in case.

First in New Business was Florida Gas Utility – Lakeland Discounted Gas Agreement Opportunity. Ms. Katie Hall, the General Manager of Florida Gas Utility spoke to the Council about the opportunity to make extra revenue for a minimum of 5 years, by becoming a “Host City” to the City of Lakeland. She discussed how Lakeland is interested in discounted gas but unable to commit to a 30-year transaction and reviewed the no risk agreement. After discussion, the Council decided to approve Resolution 2023-05. City Attorney Jeff Carter read Resolution 2023-05 by title only. Councilman Gaskin made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-05, which authorizes and directs the execution of a Directive to FGU and authorizes a Gas Sale Contract with the City of Lakeland. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next in New Business was Ms. Deborah Duncan from the Lions Club. Ms. Duncan stated she was requesting permission to hold a Turkey Shoot at the Firing Range on November 11th and not sure of the time yet. She stated this would be the first year of doing this. Mr. Carter asked if she did not mind for participants to sign a release of liability. Ms. Duncan said absolutely. After discussion, the Council approved the Lion’s Club request to host the Turkey Shoot. Councilman Jackson made a motion to approve Lion’s Club to hold a Turkey Shoot at the firing range if attendees sign a release of liability. Councilman Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next in New Business was Sassi Frass Boutique regarding purchase of City Property. Mrs. Jennifer Parrish stated she is interested in buying or renting the old Dollar Store building the city is using as storage. She stated she would bring more revenue and bring curb appeal to the City. Mrs. Desiree Johnson co-owner stated their #1 goal is to grow and grow the city of Blountstown. After discussion, the Council decided to get back with Mrs. Parrish and Mrs. Johnson at the October Council meeting.

Next in New Business was the 2nd and final reading of Ordinance 2023-05-Parking Ordinance Amendment. Mr. Carter read Ordinance by title only. Councilman Gaskin made the motion to approve the 2nd and final reading of Ordinance 2023-05. Councilwoman Blackburn seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next in New Business was the 2nd and final Reading of Ordinance 2023-06-Abandoned Vehicles. Mr. Carter read Ordinance by title only. Councilman Gaskin made a motion to approve the 2nd and final reading of Ordinance 2023-06. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next in New Business was the 2nd and final reading of Ordinance 2023-07-Alcohol Ordinance Amendment. Mr. Carter read Ordinance by title only. Councilwoman Stephens made the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-07. Councilman Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next in New Business was DEP Effluent Wetlands Construction Grant. Mrs. Hall stated the grant through DEP has a deadline approaching for Deliverable 1 and we are still waiting on FDEP to issue permits so Dewberry can complete the design, therefore

we requested a time extension for the deliverable. Councilman Jackson made the motion to approve Change Order 1 and authorize staff to execute it. Councilman Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mayor Shoemake Opened Public Comments

There was no Public Comment.

Mayor Shoemake Closed Public Comments.

Mayor Shoemake opened the meeting for City Staff Reports.

Next City Attorney Jeff Carter updated the Council about the Neese's Property.

Mr. Carter stated that the settlement of Neese's Property will take place on September 28th. Mayor Shoemake asked if the owner can remove anything he wants to till the 28th? Mr. Carter stated yes. Mayor Shoemake asked if anything that is left on the property after that date belongs to the City? Mr. Carter stated there is a 10 day period after settled to redeem and pay the full amount of total fines of \$192,000. Mr. Carter stated any vehicles and boats will be towed. Chief Mallory stated he will have to get a quote for the towing.

Next Police Chief Mark Mallory stated that he spoke with the school about the Homecoming Parade route and there is no reason to cut over to Fuller Warrant Dr. to make the route faster and easier.

Next Councilwoman Stephens stated she has noticed a lot of chatter about parking in front of the Middle School and asked if we have a new Police Officer? Chief Mallory stated we passed a new Ordinance.

Next Fire Chief Ben Hall stated he's been working on a property on Church Street and the owner has been fined \$250 per day for 32 days so far. He stated a Code Enforcement hearing will be November 14th and see where we are at and if we need to do a clean and lien.

Chief Hall updated the Council about the car wash, the owner stated that a demolition is schedule.

Next Public Works Director Mr. Phillip Griffin provided the Council with an update about repairs to the dressing room on Magnolia Square which will be completed by October.

Next Mr. Gaskin stated that garbage is being thrown out on the side of the road at Highway 71 and Main Street, right before the guardrail. Mr. Griffin stated he would check that out.

Next City Manager Mrs. Traci Hall stated the City is receiving calls asking when the City will be observing citywide trick or treating, and wanted to verify that Tuesday, October 31st with an 8 P.M. curfew is fine with the Council? Councilwoman Blackburn stated she would like us to look at a different location for the future, like a lot or general location. After discussion, the Council decided on the previous plans.

Mrs. Hall stated that she received an email from a realtor in Atlanta, asking if the City wanted to sell the vacant corner lot beside City Hall for the development of a drive thru restaurant that's a National Chain? After discussion, the Council stated they will discuss more on this at next Council meeting.

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Mrs. Hall reminded the Council that October is Amnesty Month.

Mrs. Hall stated Monday, September 18th is the Tentative Budget Hearing at 5:01 P.M. at the Police Department and reviewed dates to remember.

Councilman Gaskin asked about the City's branding? Mrs. Hall stated we will have a presentation with 3 options, and she will get back with the Council to schedule a Special meeting.

Mayor Shoemake closed City Staff Reports

Mayor Shoemake opened for Council comments.

Next Councilwoman Stephens had no comments.

Next Councilman Gaskin suggested that we need to invest into a templet for business cards due to price.

Next Councilwoman Blackburn stated that it comes up every few meetings it seems like, about businesses in a residential location. She stated we are allowing it, then we are trying not to allow it. Mayor Shoemake stated we have Ordinances, but no one to go out and enforce it. The Council suggested ways to prevent home businesses from not meeting the requirements of Ordinances and how to take action. The Council decided to discuss more in next meeting.

Next Councilman Jackson had no comment.


Next Mayor Shoemake asked are we really wanting to keep that building (City's storage building) or not? Mrs. Hall stated that she is regularly called or stopped on the street, asking if we want to rent or sale that building. She stated if we do decide to sell it, that we would have to put it on the open market.

There being no further business Councilman Jackson made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Gaskin seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mayor Shoemake adjourned the meeting at 6:36 P.M.

BY:


Tony Shoemake, Mayor

ATTEST:


Traci S. Hall, City Manager