

City of Blue Ridge

480 West First Street • Blue Ridge, Georgia • (706) 632-2091

City Council Meeting

July 13, 2021

5:00 p.m.

City Hall

MINUTES SUMMARY

Present: Mayor Donna Whitener

Council members: Mike Panter

Robbie Cornelius, Rhonda Haight,

Nathan Fitts

Zoning and Land Development and Project Manager: Jeff Stewart

City Clerk: Kelly Crowder

1) Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Donna Whitener called the meeting to order.

2) Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Council member Robbie Cornelius led the prayer and the pledge

3) Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

June 15, 2021 Minutes

Council member Mike Panter made a motion to approve the minutes

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (M) NATHAN (S) RHONDA (X)

4.) Approval or Amendment of Agenda

A workshop was supposed to have started at 4pm to include training from

Ethan Calhoun, Assistant Planning Director. The legal organ did not receive the email about the workshop therefore the agenda had to be amended to add him in order to comply with the law.

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Council member Mike Panter made a motion to allow Ethan Calhoun to speak.

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (M) NATHAN (S) RHONDA (X)

Council member Mike Panter made a motion to remove items 13 and 14 off the agenda since those items have already been addressed.

Council member Rhonda Haight and Nathan Fitts said it was illegal to do so.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Ethan Calhoun came to podium to conduct the training session.

Public Comments (for all speakers who have signed up the previous week):

1. Cesar Martinez – DDA update and Blue Ridge Business Association Update
2. Hope Killingsworth – Amplified Music Ordinance
3. Brian Higgins – Discuss downtown signage including comparing pricing and materials
4. Donna Thompson – “Unresolved Agenda Items”
5. Brian Prichard – Parking Contract

It was decided in the meeting to have a Town Hall meeting on July 29, 2021 at 6:00pm

To discuss the Alcohol Ordinance and the Noise Ordinance

Action Agenda Items (Items requiring the approval of the Council):

1. Council Meetings Change of Date: Ordinance BR2021-10 (2nd Reading)

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to pass the Ordinance BR2021-10 in changing the council meeting to the 3rd Tuesday @ 5:00pm every month.

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (M)

2. Veto pertaining to the Amendment of Ordinance BR2021-05 Short Term Rentals – KC

(Tabled from last meeting)

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to table this until next month

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (M)

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3. Request for outside investigation regarding delinquent taxes – NF MP

(Tabled from last meeting)

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion that we do not do an investigation based on the conversation tonight.

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (M) RHONDA (X)

4. Ordinance BR2021-11 (2nd READING)

An Ordinance to establish the rules and regulations for the operation of Sexually Oriented Businesses.

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion that we pass Ordinance BR2021-11 to establish the rules and regulations of sexually oriented businesses.

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (M)

5. Veto pertaining to the Ordinance BR2021-06 Zoning – KC

City Clerk Kelly Crowder read the letter from the mayor on the reasons for the veto

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to override Mayor Whitener's veto

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (X) NATHAN (S) RHONDA (M)

6. GMA Mandatory Training - MP

Council member Mike Panter made a motion to remove this item.

Council member Robbie Cornelius seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (S) MIKE (M) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (X)

7. Darwin Couch Hwy 76 Middle School Radar Certification - RH

(Tabled from last meeting)

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to table this until next month.

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (X) NATHAN (S) RHONDA (M)

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8. Distribution Replacement inventory – Water document #1 -BH

Council member Mike Panter made a motion to approve water document #1

Council member Rhonda Haight seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (M) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (S)

9. Utility Contract - BH

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to table this item

Council member Mike Panter seconded.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (M)

10. Bank account name change “CDBG account ending in 7820 to be changed to “American Rescue Plan Funds” and Resolution – MP

Council member Mike Panter made a motion to consolidate the account ending 7820 to the name American Rescue Plan Funds

Council member Rhonda Haight seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (M) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (S)

Council member Mike Panter made a motion to approve the Resolution BR2021-12

Council member Rhonda Haight seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (M) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (S)

11. Resolution to Appoint Election Officials – DW

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to approve Resolution BR2021-13

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (X) NATHAN (S) RHONDA (M)

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12. Ordinance BR2021-02-A (Amendment to BR2021-02) - DW

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to accept Amended Ordinance BR2021-02-A

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (X) NATHAN (S) RHONDA (M)

13. Legal Opinion on Parking Contract from David Syfan – NF

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to remove item #13 as far as voting.

Council member Rhonda Haight seconded the motion

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (X) NATHAN (M) RHONDA (S)

14. Hiring of third-party firm to conduct Parking Contract and bid review – RH NF

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to put the parking contract out for bid and before sending it out for bid the entire council review the terms of the contract so that it is a non-ambiguous contract that pays them for the 7days work that the company will receive and for council to agree to the terms of the contract

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion

Motion did not pass

Mayor Donna Whitener had to break the tie with a NO

ROBBIE (NO) MIKE (NO) NATHAN (S) RHONDA (M)

15. Reinstating Moratorium – RH MP

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to remove this item from the agenda

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 3-0

ROBBIE (-) MIKE (S) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (M)

16. DDA Appointment - DW

Council member Robbie Cornelius made a motion to appoint mike to the DDA board

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (M) MIKE (X) NATHAN (S) RHONDA (X)

17. GICH Participation (UGA) – RH MP

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Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion that the City of Blue Ridge participate in the GICH program

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (M)

18. Police Department – RH

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to remove Shawn Searce off of the probation period and this will be effective with pay period that began on June 26, 2021.

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (M)

19. Utility Fees – BH

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to proceed with Utility fees as outlined

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (M) RHONDA (X)

Purchasing Approvals:

20. Ratify Ronnie Thompson Ford purchase P.O #29005 \$36,836.84 – BH

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to ratify the Ronnie Thompson Ford purchase P.O 29005 in the amount of \$36,836.84

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (X) NATHAN (S) RHONDA (M)

21. Sidewalk on Depot Street – JS

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to approve the sidewalk quote in the amount of \$8050.00

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (M)

22. GMA Lease – AS

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Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve the GMA Lease in the amount of \$121,180.49 for 5 years with interest of 2.88%

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (M) RHONDA (X)

23. Ornamental Fence on East Main street sidewalk –P.O #28993 \$6,072.00 JS

Council member Mike Panter made a motion to approve up to \$7000 for the ornamental fence on East Main street.

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (M) NATHAN (S) RHONDA (X)

24. Task release #33 Carter & Sloope, LLC P.O #28994 \$ 5500 - JS

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve Task release #33 in the amount of \$5500

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (M) RHONDA (X)

25. Task release #34 Carter & Sloope, LLC P.O #28995 \$29,000 – JS

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve Task release #34 in the amount of \$29,000

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (M) RHONDA (X)

26. Kor Kat (Playground shades) – MP AS

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve the invoice to Kor Kat in the amount of \$16,178.03

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (M) RHONDA (X)

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27. Water stock P.O #28987 \$5,455.28 – NF

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve the water stock in the amount of \$5,455.28

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (M) RHONDA (X)

28. College Street Cemetery fence – RH

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to approve the fence for the cemetery to Iron Mountain fence in the amount of \$7230

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (X) RHONDA (M)

29. Sidewalk at Angela Delorme – JS

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve the sidewalk at Angela Delorme's office to Outerlements in the amount of \$13,450.000 with the work to be done in November.

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (M) RHONDA (X)

30. Revisit Track hoe from Mason Tractor (no trade in) - BH

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve the purchase from Mason Tractor for the Track hoe without a trade-in and adding the trailer. The track hoe amount is \$47,400.00

And the trailer in the amount of \$7995.00

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (M) RHONDA (X)

Discussion Agenda Items (Items for discussion only):

1. Farmer's Market – RH MP
2. Speed tables on State Street – JS
3. Traffic flow at the intersection of Old US Hwy 76 and Collins – RH

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4. Update on World Series – MP
5. Update on Downtown playground/tennis courts- MP
6. Water/sewer infrastructure update – BH
7. City Attorney – Legal Opinion Review, Concern & Questions – NF
8. Agenda Items for Council meetings – more detail for public – NF

Adjournment

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to adjourn

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion

Motion passed 4-0

ROBBIE (X) MIKE (S) NATHAN (M) RHONDA (X)