

# City of Blue Ridge

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

City of Blue Ridge  
Council Meeting Minutes  
City Hall  
480 West First Street  
June 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Donna Whitener  
Council Members Robbie Cornelius,  
Nathan Fitts, Kenneth Gaddis,  
Rhonda Haight and Harold Herndon  
City Clerk Kelsey Ledford  
City Attorney James Balli  
Zoning, Land Development and  
Project Manager Jeff Stewart

1) Call Meeting to Order:

Council Member Nathan Fitts made a motion to call the meeting to order. The motion was seconded by Council Member Robbie Cornelius. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

2) Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Robbie Cornelius offered a word of prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

a) Council Member Rhonda Haight made a motion to approve the May 8, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes (includes Executive Session Minutes). The motion was seconded by Council Member Nathan Fitts. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

b) Council Member Rhonda Haight made a motion to approve the August 1, 2017 Special Called Council Meeting Minutes Amendment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harold Herndon. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

4) Approval of Agenda or Motion to Amend Agenda (if applicable)

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

5) Brian Higgins—Farmer’s Market:

Brian Higgins did not attend the meeting. The Mayor and Council briefly discussed the letter he submitted to the City last month in regards to how he would like the Farmer’s Market utilized (attached).

6) Cesar Martinez – Blue Ridge Business Association :

Cesar Martinez read a letter he prepared for the Mayor and Council (attached). Council Member Kenneth Gaddis asked what infrastructure the Council has lacked. Mr. Martinez did not

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comment. Mayor Donna Whitener discussed the money that has been spent this year on infrastructure. There was some discussion in regards to the question of the Blue Ridge Business Association applying for grants/loans on the City's behalf.

7) Joe Webb—SPLOST:

Joe Webb discussed SPLOST and his opinion in regards to how the City could fund some of its needs.

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

8) USDA Community Facilities Program Backhoe Purchase—Tammy Decker:

Tammy Decker with the United States Department of Agriculture was present to present the Letter of Conditions to the Mayor and Council in regards to the Community Facilities Program. The program is funding the purchase of a backhoe for the City. Council Member Nathan Fitts made a motion to accept the Letter of Conditions (attached). The motion was seconded by Council Member Rhonda Haight. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

9) Building Board of Appeals Appointments:

Council Member Nathan Fitts made a motion to reappoint Vincent Davis and Mark Burger to the Building Board of Appeals. The motion was seconded by Council Member Robbie Cornelius. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried. The Certificate of Appointments are attached.

10) Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment:

Council Member Robbie Cornelius made a motion to replace her original appointment to the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, Gene Holcomb, with John Soave. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rhonda Haight. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

11) 2017 Budget Amendment No. 3 (Final Amendment for FY2017):

Mayor Donna Whitener and Finance Director Alicia Stewart presented the Council with 2017 Budget Amendment No. 3 (attached). Council Member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rhonda Haight. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

12) Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Direct Installment Program for the Purchase of a Restroom Trailer:

Council Member Kenneth Gaddis announced that the City had chosen to purchase the tank-less restroom trailer from Montondo. Mayor Donna Whitener proceeded to read the Georgia Municipal Association Direct Installment Program Resolution (attached). Council Member Nathan Fitts made a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gaddis. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

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13) Georgia Department of Administrative Services Surplus Property Program:

Mayor Donna Whitener requested that the topic be tabled until more information could be gathered. Council Member Rhonda Haight made a motion to table. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gaddis. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

14) Carter & Sloope Task Release No. 14 (Water System Improvements to Serve the Mountain Hideaway Subdivision):

The Mayor and Council were presented Task Release No. 14 (Water System Improvements to Serve the Mountain Hideaway Subdivision) from Carter & Sloope (attached). Council Member Kenneth Gaddis made a motion to approve Task Release No. 14. The motion was seconded by Council Member Robbie Cornelius. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

15) Storm Drain on Ada Street:

The Mayor and Council were presented with a cost estimate for storm drain repairs on Ada Street from Carter & Sloope in the amount of \$77,325.00 (attached). Council Member Kenneth Gaddis made a motion to allow Mayor Donna Whitener to seek funding for this project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nathan Fitts. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

16) McKinney Street Sewer Replacement:

Council Member Kenneth Gaddis gave a summary of the McKinney Street Sewer project. He explained that the City would be relocating the services and installing new City lines versus replacing the ones currently in place. He continued to explain that Utility Director, Rebecca Harkins, would need to seek an additional quote for the project as required by the City's Purchasing Policy. Council Member Kenneth Gaddis made a motion to seek an additional quote and discuss the project at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nathan Fitts. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

17) Municipal Court Contracted Probation Service:

Mayor Donna Whitener explained the current probation and community service program versus Appalachian Pretrial and Probation Program (APPP). Council Member Rhonda Haight made a motion to approve the contract with APPP (attached). The motion was seconded by Council Member Nathan Fitts. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

18) AirMedCare Membership:

The Mayor and Council requested that a representative from AirMedCare be present at the next meeting to answer some questions, prior to approving the City's membership. Council Member Rhonda Haight made a motion to table the topic. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nathan Fitts. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

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### **Purchasing Approvals:**

19) Waste Water Treatment Plant Basin Covers:

The Mayor and Council were presented with Task Release No. 15 (WWTF Improvements—Metal Building Cover for Basin) from Carter & Sloope (attached). Council Member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve Task Release No. 15. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gaddis. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried. Council Member Kenneth Gaddis made a motion to proceed with Carter & Sloop's recommendation in the amount of \$55,138.00, which includes Allen & Sons' quote in the amount of \$35,500 and Arco's quote in the amount of \$19,638 (attached). The motion was seconded by Council Member Rhonda Haight. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

20) Water Quality on Mountain and East First Street:

The Mayor and Council were presented a quote from Holloway Trenching in the amount of \$19,625 (attached) and a quote from T. Stanco, Inc. in the amount of \$21,450 (attached), in regards to improving the water quality on Mountain and East First Street. Council Member Kenneth Gaddis made a motion to accept the quote from Holloway Trenching. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nathan Fitts. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

21) Paint Invoices at the City Pool:

The Mayor and Council were presented invoices from Recreonics for paint bought for the City Pool in the total amount of \$9,608.04 (attached). The Mayor and Council discussed the topic of whether or not the Park Supervisor had the authority to approve purchases in that amount. Council Member Rhonda Haight made a motion to approve payment of the presented invoices. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nathan Fitts. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

22) pdblowers, Incorporated Invoice No. 48637 (Emergency Purchase for Waste Water Treatment Plant):

The Mayor and Council were presented with Invoice No. 48637 from pdblowers, Incorporated in the amount of \$5,037 (attached) for the emergency purchase of a blower at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Council Member Rhonda Haight made a motion to approve the invoice. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gaddis. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

23) The Steedley Firm Invoice No. 640:

The Mayor and Council were presented with Invoice No. 640 from The Steedley Firm in the amount of \$7,129.07 (attached). Council Member Rhonda Haight made a motion to approve the invoice. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nathan Fitts. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

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24) Johnson Paving Utility Patching Invoices:

The Mayor and Council were presented with Invoices from Johnson Paving: Invoice No. 2539 in the amount of \$2,450, Invoice No. 2540 in the amount of \$1,525, Invoice No. 2541 in the amount of \$1,200 and Invoice No. 2545 in the amount of \$1,825 with a grand total of \$7,000 (attached). Mayor Donna Whitener explained that all of the invoices were for regular paving maintenance of the City streets and requested that a section be added to the City's Purchasing Policy that would eliminate Council approval on regular maintenance due to water leak patches. Council Member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve the invoices as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rhonda Haight. The Council voted 5-0. Motion carried.

**Discussion Agenda Items (Items for discussion only):**

25) Executive Session (if needed):

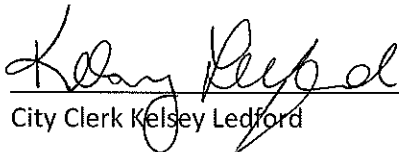
An Executive Session was not needed.

26) Adjournment:

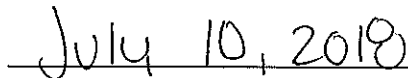
Council Member Kenneth Gaddis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rhonda Haight. The Council voted 5-0. Meeting adjourned.



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Mayor Donna Whitener



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City Clerk Kelsey Ledford



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Approved