

# City of Blue Ridge

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

## Special Called Council Meeting Minutes

December 28, 2020

4:00 p.m.

City Hall

## MINUTES

Present: Rhonda Haight – Mayor pro tem  
Mike Panter – Council member  
Nathan Fitts – Council member  
Harold Herndon – Council member  
Chris Mortimer – Assistant City Clerk  
Jeff Stewart - Zoning

1) Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Pro tem Rhonda Haight called the meeting to order.

2) Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro tem Rhonda Haight said a word of prayer.

Mayor Pro tem Rhonda Haight lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Charter Change- RH,MP

Mayor Pro tem Rhonda Haight explained what changes are being proposed. Changing the form of government so that we can have a City Manager. The public has raised concerns about making sure there is someone present full time to answer questions and for future growth with the city. It would have to be presented to the Speaker of the House and go through the General Assembly. She read the Resolution: Resolution pursuant to the City Charter and general law requesting a local act to amend the City Charter. A Resolution by City Council for the City of Blue Ridge, GA to request that the General Assembly adopt a local act amending the City Charter to provide for a City Manager and for other purposes. Whereas, the General Assembly possesses a constitutional statutory authority to enact changes to local acts which is establish or amend charters from Municipal corporations, and whereas after consideration of the proposed changes to the City Charter the City Council determines it to be in the best

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interest of the citizens, future citizens, and visitors to the City of Blue Ridge, Georgia. If this resolution passes. Now, therefore be it resolved, and it is hereby resolved by the City of Blue Ridge Georgia as follows: Requested change to the City Charter. The City Council of the City of Blue Ridge, as the governing authority of the City of Blue Ridge does hereby formally request that the honorable David E. Ralston, Speaker of the House of Representatives and State Representative of House District 7, and the Honorable Steve Gooch, Majority Whip and Senator for Senate District 51, Author-Sponsor in the General Assembly enact a local act which changes the Charter to provide for City Manager form of government with the City Manager acting as a chief executive officer and answering only to the City Council including but not limited to a change to the following sections:

Section 3.14B – Procedures

Section 3.21 – Chief Executive Officer

Section 3.22 – Powers and Duties of Mayor

Section 3.23 – Submission of Ordinances to Mayor

Section 4.10 – Department Heads

Section 6.24 – Operating Budget

Section 6.25 – Adoption

Section 6.28 – Capital Improvements

And any other such changes as may be needed. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed as requesting a local act that violates Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia, and prohibiting the General Assembly from utilizing different wording that carries out the intent of this Resolution. The City Attorney is hereby instructed to submit a Certified Copy of this Resolution to Speaker Ralston and Senator Gooch and the General Assembly for consideration and to coordinate any information required by the Office of Legislative Council, so ordained on \_\_\_\_\_ day.

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion that we approve the Resolution for the City of Blue Ridge, pursuant to the City Charter and general law requesting a local act to amend the City Charter to a City Manager form of government. Resolution# BR2020\_\_\_\_ and to begin process of transition from January 1, 2021 through January 2022. As of January 2022, the Charter would be in place.

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Council voted 4-0 motion passed.

MIKE( S ) RHONDA( X ) NATHAN ( M ) HAROLD ( X ) ROLL CALL VOTE

## Purchasing Approvals:

2. Playground Park Purchase- RH, MP

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Mayor Pro tem Rhonda Haight introduced what had been discussed in summary. The street department went in and did a lot of improvements to the drainage system. We have also been looking into funding. Council member Mike Panter explained that he has been speaking and coordinating with CityTurf about putting down the rubber and turf. The possible timeframe with no issues would be three weeks. Money would come from hotel/motel account.

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion that we approve the CityTurf playground estimate # 1449 in the amount of \$60,743.75.

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Council passed motion 4-0

MIKE(S ) RHONDA( X ) NATHAN ( M ) HAROLD ( X ) ROLL CALL VOTE

3) Executive Session (if needed)

Not needed

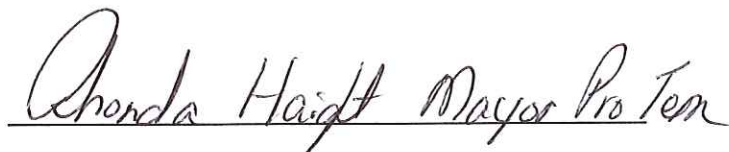
4) Adjournment

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to adjourn.

Council member Mike Panter seconded.

Meeting adjourned.

MIKE(S ) RHONDA( X ) NATHAN ( M ) HAROLD ( X ) ROLL CALL VOTE



Donna Whitener, Mayor

April 13, 2021

Approved



Chris Mortimer, Assistant City Clerk