



City of Blue Ridge
City Council Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Blue Ridge City Hall
480 West First Street
Blue Ridge, Ga 30513

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Mayor Rhonda Haight called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Present were Mayor Rhonda Haight, Council Members William Whaley, Angie Arp, Jack Taylor, Christy Kay, Bill Bivins, City Attorney Chuck Conerly, City Administrator Eric Soroka and City Clerk Amy Mintz.

2. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance:

Led by Council Member Whaley.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

a) December 21, 2021 (Council Meeting)

A motion to approve was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Taylor, passed unanimously.

b) December 21, 2021 (Public Hearing)

A motion to approve was offered by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Whaley, passed unanimously.

c) January 18, 2022 (Council Meeting)

A motion to approve was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Taylor, passed unanimously.

d) January 26, 2022 (Special Called)

A motion to approve was offered by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Whaley, passed unanimously.

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

A motion to approve the agenda was offered by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Whaley, passed unanimously.

5. Called Public Hearings (rezoning or appeals authorized by Ordinance):

City Attorney discussed the following ordinance for the first reading:

- a) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 ("ADMINISTRATION") ARTICLE III ("DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS") DIVISION 7 ("CITY PLANNING COMMISSION") OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA TO CHANGE THE MANNER BY WHICH MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION ARE APPOINTED (FIRST READING)

City Attorney discussed the following ordinance for the first reading:

- b) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 10 ("BUSINESS REGULATIONS"), ARTICLE V ("SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS"), SEC.10-198 ("EFFECTIVE DATE; TOLLING; SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT; NONCONFORMING GRANDFATHERED USE") OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA TO ELIMINATE THE USE OF SPECIAL LAND USE PERMITS FOR SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. (FIRST READING)

City Attorney discussed the following resolution to be voted on:

- c) A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, STATE OF GEORGIA, TO RATIFY AND AFFIRM THE ADOPTION OF CHAPTER 111 ("STORMWATER MANAGEMENT") OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA

A motion to approve was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Taylor, and passed 4-1, with Council Member Bivins voting no.

6. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Taylor, passed unanimously, and the following items were approved:

- a) Motion to approve Invoice in the amount of \$10,711.84 to Municode for City Code Books.
- b) Motion to approve invoice in the amount of \$33,400 to Brannen for 2022 Ford Explorer for the replacement of a damaged vehicle in the Police Department.
- c) Motion to approve the scope description and price quote in the amount of \$10,608.75 to Patriot Rail for work associated with the Depot Street Drainage Improvement Project.

7. Action Agenda Items (Items requiring the approval of the City Council):

- a) Motion to authorize the Mayor, City Administrator and City Clerk to act as signatories for checks issued from or withdrawals made from accounts made by the City.

A motion to approve the action item was offered by Council Member Arp, seconded by Council Member Bivins, and passed unanimously.

8. Discussion Agenda Items:

Mayor Rhonda Haight opened the floor up for discussion on the following item:

a) **Downtown Parking**

The Council discussed the downtown parking issue and reached consensus to hold a public meeting on this item to develop a parking plan and possible Ordinance.

Audience members Cesar Martinez, John Kiefer, and Angelina Powell spoke and voiced their concerns on this item.

9. Reports

The Council discussed the process and procedures for reporting issues within the city.

10. Public Comments

- a) Downtown Development Authority Update: Vice-Chairman Cesar Martinez offered update.
- b) Blue Ridge Business Association Update: President Cesar Martinez offered update.
- c) Harold Michael – Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles
- d) John Tucker – Liquor Store: Not present for meeting.

11. Executive Session (if needed)

A motion to enter into executive session was offered by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Bivins, passed unanimously. Executive session opened at 5:56 pm.

A motion to adjourn executive session was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Taylor, and passed unanimously. Executive session adjourned at 6:39 pm.

A motion was offered by Council Member Whaley to approve the sublease of a portion of the train caboose to Freedom rail with provisions, seconded by Council Member Taylor, passed unanimously.

A motion to adopt resolution BR2022-07, amending the moratorium in the central business district, was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Arp, passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Taylor, passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Rhonda Haight

Mayor, Rhonda Haight

Amy Mintz

City Clerk, Amy Mintz

March 15, 2022

Approved

