



City of Blue Ridge City Council Meeting MINUTES

March 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 Check 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. February 15, 2022 (Council Meeting)

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

b. March 1, 2022 (Downtown parking)

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

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

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

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

City Attorney discussed the following ordinance to be voted on:

- 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. (SECOND READING)

A motion to approve was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member

Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to enrich the quality of life in Blue Ridge for all our citizens. We pledge to work in partnership with our residents, all stake holders and the Fannin County government to protect, preserve and secure the quaintness of our small-town community and to enhance the natural beauty of our environment.

Bivins, passed unanimously. Adopted as Ordinance No. BR2022-04.

City Attorney discussed the following ordinance to be voted on:

- b) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 10 ("BUSINESS REGULATIONS"), ARTICLE V ("SHORT-TERM VACATON 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. (SECOND READING)

A motion to approve was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Arp, passed unanimously. Adopted as Ordinance No. BR2022-05

City Attorney discussed the following ordinance for the first reading:

- c) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22 ("TRAFFIC CODE"), ARTICLE II ("PARKING SCHEDULES") OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA BY REPEALING AND REPLACING, IT ITS ENTIRETY, SECTION 22-51 ("RESTRICTED PARKING"); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (FIRST READING)

City Attorney discussed the following ordinance for the first reading:

- d) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA, ESTABLISHING GENERAL PURCHASING REGULATIONS PURSUANT TO CITY CHARTER SECTION 6.31 ("PURCHASING"); PROVIDING FOR SEVERBILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (FIRST READING)

6. Consent Agenda:

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

- a) Motion to approve an invoice in the amount of \$66,800 to Brannen Ford for two (2) 2022 Ford Explorers as included in the 2022 budget.
- b) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR ON THE CITY'S BEHALF YO EXECUTE THE ATTACHED INMATE BOOKING AND HOUSING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE FANNIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
BR2022-12
- c) A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, STATE OF GEORGIA, TO APPROVE THAT CERTAIN MODIFICATION TO THE DECEMBER 3, 2020 LOAN FROM THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY IN THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT OF \$5,000,000.
BR2022-08
- d) A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE

Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to enrich the quality of life in Blue Ridge for all our citizens. We pledge to work in partnership with our residents, all stake holders and the Fannin County government to protect, preserve and secure the quaintness of our small-town community and to enhance the natural beauty of our environment.

RIDGE, STATE OF GEORGIA, TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT WITH THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,500,000.

BR2022-09

7. **Action Agenda Items (Items requiring the approval of the City Council): None**

8. **Reports:**

Mayor Haight discussed the City Administrator Monthly Briefing report.

9. **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) John Tucker – Liquor Store
- d) Shannon Marren – Copper Express
- e) Henry Fehrmann: Not present at meeting.
- f) Martin Velasquez
- g) Elliot Wilborn – Alcohol Ordinance

10. **Executive Session (if needed):**

A motion to enter into executive session was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Bivins, passed unanimously. Executive session opened at 5:29 pm.

A motion to adjourn executive session was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Bivins, passed unanimously. Executive session adjourned at 6:35 pm.

11. **Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Kay, passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to enrich the quality of life in Blue Ridge for all our citizens. We pledge to work in partnership with our residents, all stake holders and the Fannin County government to protect, preserve and secure the quaintness of our small-town community and to enhance the natural beauty of our environment.

Rhonda Haight

Mayor, Rhonda Haight

Amy Mintz

City Clerk, Amy Mintz

April 19, 2022

Date



Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to enrich the quality of life in Blue Ridge for all our citizens. We pledge to work in partnership with our residents, all stake holders and the Fannin County government to protect, preserve and secure the quaintness of our small-town community and to enhance the natural beauty of our environment.