

# City of Blue Ridge

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

## Special Called City Council Meeting

June 15, 2021

5:00 p.m.

City Hall

## MINUTES

Present:

Mayor: Donna Whitener

Council members: Mike Panter, Rhonda Haight,  
Nathan Fitts, Harold Herndon, and Robbie Cornelius

Zoning, 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

\*May 11, 2021 Regular Council meeting

Council member Mike Panter made a motion to approve the minutes

Council member Robbie Cornelius seconded the motion.

Motion passed. 5-0

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

\*May 18, 2021 Special called 11:00am (Purchasing Approvals)

Council member Mike Panter made a motion to approve the minutes

Council member Rhonda Haight seconded the motion.

Motion passed. 5-0

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

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\*May 21, 2021 Special called 4:30pm (Personnel)

Council member Mike Panter made a motion to approve the minutes

Council member Rhonda Haight seconded the motion.

Motion passed. 5-0

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

\*May 21, 2021 Special called 5:00pm (Parking)

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to approve the minutes

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

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

1. Cesar Martinez – DDA update and Blue Ridge Business Association Update  
Cesar Martinez said that Natalie Kissel, Community outreach, wants to start publishing some social media items on the City's Facebook page. After some council discussion it was decided that Natalie will give it to City Clerk, Kelly Crowder, for approval. Natalie Kissel also wanted to address that she would like for the council to have official City email addresses. The council also agreed to do that. Cesar Martinez had one more item he needed to discuss. He said that on Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup> at City Hall there was an incident, and the parking company wrote up an incident report. He stated he was going to read that incident report. (I have added the report to the minutes as Exhibit A) Mr. Martinez went on to say that he was appalled by this and that no one should be subjected to that kind of verbal abuse, those parking attendants were just there to do their job and they had no knowledge of anything that Mr. Fitts was ranting about. Mr. Martinez said that our parking management company had worked several festivals here at City Hall all without objection. Mr. Martinez asked what had changed in two years with them taking cash. He said there is one big thing that has changed, and it is the toxic vendetta filled politics that's plaguing our City Council. Mr. Martinez said of course the parking company can take cash, they have done it many times before and they issue traceable parking tickets as a receipt. Cash receipts for these events are 85% of the revenue generated at these festivals. He went on to say the verbal attack on these parking attendants by Mr. Fitts on Saturday May 25, 2021, is reprehensible and unacceptable from anyone, much less a City Council member. He said Mr. Fitts owes these attendants an apology, the Parking management company an apology, the City Council an apology, and the citizens of Blue Ridge an apology. Mr. Martinez said these ongoing attacks

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on the parking company that has done nothing but good things for the City is disgusting and it needs to stop. If you have proof of wrongdoing by this company then produce it, if not then move on.

Council member Nathan Fitts wanted to respond. He first said that he wanted to respond directly to Mr. Martinez and tell him that he owes the City Council an apology for not having authorization to approve it. Mr. Fitts said lucky for him he had 4 people with him, all affluent executives from Atlanta. He said he knew this parking company would make something out of this and asked if they would ride over to City Hall with him. Mr. Fitts said they came over to City Hall after he had numerous residents and downtown business owners calling him to complain after being told that they could park at City Hall for free. He said Cesar Martinez had no right to authorize them to use this parking lot, he told Mr. Martinez he did not run this town. Cesar Martinez responded and said he knew that because he was not top of the food chain like he was. Mr. Fitts said that he would never use a word like that. He said that he has 4 witnesses willing to sign affidavits and that 2 of them already have, they are willing to go to court and testify and he hopes that the Wojohn's workers are willing to do the same. Mr. Fitts said he did not say the things they said but would like to tell what he did say. He said that he pulled up and said he would like to park, and they told him \$10. He asked if they take cash. They responded that they did. Mr. Fitts said well that is interesting, he asked who gave them authorization to manage this parking lot. The attendant said he worked for the Parking Company. Mr. Fitts told them they were supposed to be managing the parking lot over by the gym. Mr. Fitts told them they were also not supposed to be taking cash. He said he told the attendant that he would call the owner Mr. Wojohn that he knew it was not the attendant's problem. Mr. Fitts said he did not spin off, that he sat there and called Zach Wojohn. He stated that he said Zach it is Nathan, and he was telling him upfront that he had 4 witnesses in the car, and he is on speaker phone, he asked him why they were charging for parking at the City Hall since it was supposed to be for downtown business owners and their employees. Mr. Fitts said the Zach Wojohn told him that he had the mayor on his side and that he did not have to answer to him and hung up on him. He said the Wojohn's can make up whatever they want and try to discredit him, but he could take it to court and prove it because he has witnesses. Cesar Martinez answered and said that festivals have always been where they charge for parking at City Hall several times and nobody had ever said a word. Nathan Fitts went on to ask Mr. Martinez if he knew if the Parking company was bonded. Mr. Martinez said he did not even know why that was relevant. Mr. Fitts said because it is in their contract and that they are in breach of their contract.

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Council member Mike Panter had a question for Cesar Martinez. Mr. Panter said that it was approved for \$40,000 for the bathroom to be redone maybe 3 months ago. He asked if Mr. Martinez had an update on it. Mr. Martinez said as far as he knew they were still waiting on the architectural design from the architect. Council member Nathan Fitts said the architect is waiting on the survey, which is supposed to be done next week.

Council member Nathan Fitts wanted to ask Cesar Martinez again who gave him authorization for the Parking company to use the City hall parking lot. Mr. Fitts said that he has had legal council to look at it that said Mr. Martinez did not have authorization. Council member Mike Panter asked if it was the City's legal counsel. Mr. Fitts said the City's legal counsel from the past 20 years, that the City's attorney would not answer the question. Cesar Martinez said that originally with parking for the festivals have always included City Hall, so there has always been a precedent to be allowed to do it without a special called meeting or legal counsel. Council member Rhonda Haight said what she would like to add would be communication. Mrs. Haight said she has not received an email from Mayor Whitener in over a year. She said if they had been told then the people calling them it would have helped to say yes, we are using the parking lot for the festival. Mayor Whitener said they were past public comment and Council member Nathan Fitts told her she did not have that authorization. Council member Rhonda Haight went on to say that communication is key, while Mayor Whitener told her she was out of order. Mayor Donna Whitener closed the public comment.

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

### 1. Special Land Use for 222 Ada Street, Blue Ridge, GA – JS

Mayor Donna Whitener opened the public hearing. All in favor had 10 minutes to present their case.

Pam Dooley, owner of 222 Ada Street spoke. Mrs. Dooley was there to request being able to rent on the weekends, asking for the special use permit. She went on to explain the use for the property. She is expanding her landscape business and is using it for her team to have a place to stay through the week as well.

All opposing had 10 minutes to present.

Richard Arnold, city resident and real estate agent. Mr. Arnold spoke about supporting the Ordinance. He mentioned that had it been approved to have short term rentals he could have

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sold more. He believes that since so many have been turned down you cannot set a precedence to let others.

No one else came for opposition.

Mayor Donna Whitener then closed the public hearing.

City Clerk, Kelly Crowder read the Planning Commission's vote:

Board member Dana Hunt made a motion for this request to be denied.

Vice Chairwoman Cindy Trimble seconded the motion.

All in favor. Denied.

Council member Mike Panter made a motion that we deny the request for Special Land Use for 222 Ada Street

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

## 2. Council Meetings Change of Date: Ordinance BR2021-10 (First Reading)

1<sup>ST</sup> reading; no vote

City Clerk, Kelly Crowder read the first page of the Ordinance.

## 3. Hiring: Police Officer-Captain Stuart

Discussion about hiring police officer Peter Tinkham. Police chief interim Robbie Stuart was out of town and salary based on rank and experience was unknown at the time of the meeting.

Based on the previously approved pay scale he can be hired in and approved per Mayor Donna Whitener.

Council member Harold Herndon made a motion to hire Peter Tinkham at the set salary scale for his rank and experience

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion

Motion passed 5-0

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

## 4. GMA Mandatory Training/Training – MP RH

Council member Mike Panter said that last month's meeting ended abruptly while discussing this matter. He asked if Council member Nathan Fitts had obtained documentation confirming his training.

Council member Nathan Fitts read a letter. (I have attached the letter as Exhibit B)

Council member Mike Panter finished by saying that based on the fact that Council member Nathan Fitts has not been able to provide the Mayor, council, or City attorney James Balli, with



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any documentation of his completion of the Georgia Mandated New Council training which is stated by State law O.C.G.A 36-45-1 requiring all municipal elected officials who take office after July 1, 1990 to complete the Newly elected official 6 hour class within 12 months of oath of office. Our Charter, section 2.17 #3 states failure at any time to possess any qualifications of office as provided by the Charter or by law. Mr. Panter said he feels uncomfortable putting the citizens of Blue Ridge, the Mayor, the Council, and himself potentially liable on any motion or vote with or against Mr. Fitts until the proposed Charter and State violation has been resolved. Not finishing your training in 3 ½ years is inexcusable.

Council member Mike Panter made a motion for Council member Nathan Fitts to recuse himself from any motion or vote until he is able to provide verification of his completion of the mandatory training.

A question from Donna Thompson in the audience. She stated she was unable to find what happens if a person does not do their training. Council member Mike Panter said it is up to the Council to make that decision.

No second; Motion failed.

Council member Rhonda Haight said that since that motion failed, she is also on this topic. She feels as though this council is in need of training. Mrs. Haight said she has been discussing with City Attorney, James Balli getting training set up for the Planning Commission and the City Council on Zoning matters. She said that Zoning is one issue that the City can find itself sued more quickly than any other area. She said that the Council has failed in how they conduct their meetings for zoning. Mrs. Haight said that attorney James Balli agreed that it is not up to council to encourage people to like or dislike a project. James Balli recommended Ethan Calhoun, with the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission to come and do a workshop for both the Planning Commission and Council. Mrs. Haight said she thinks the Council also needs training on the role of the Housing Authority.

An audience member Richard Arnold stood and asked Mike Panter about the paperwork that was given out. Council member Mike Panter had provided all of the council members training transcripts. Mr. Arnold wanted it explained to him because it did not look like any of the Council had done all of their training. Mr. Panter explained that if you looked at the State law, the only thing that was mandatory is the Newly Elected Officials training. Mr. Arnold asked if it was something that is not on this paperwork. Council member Mike Panter said it was in there if he would read it. Mr. Arnold said that Mr. Panter left those training transcripts to prove a point and he was asking for clarification on it and for Mr. Panter to snap back at him telling him to look it up is being irresponsible as a council person and that he was acting like an asshole.

Council member Rhonda Haight said back to the training she will set that up with Trevor Aiken (Housing Authority) Mrs. Haight also said the public would be invited because it would be good training for all.

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5. Bank accounts to be closed and balances transferred to Water & Sewer account - MP  
United Community Bank – Short Lived Assets account ending in 4437 balance \$15.19  
United Community Bank – W&S Reserve account ending in 7091 balance \$3,697.39  
United Community Bank – Bond Debt Service account ending in 5985 balance \$2,579.77  
United Community Bank – USDA Supervised account ending in 4349 balance  
\$103,034.28

Council member Mike Panter made a motion to approve these accounts and consolidate into the water/sewer dept.

Council member Robbie Cornelius seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

6. Veto pertaining to the Amendment of Ordinance BR2021-05 Short Term Rentals – KC  
City Clerk, Kelly Crowder read the veto (attached in the minutes) from the Mayor  
Council member Rhonda Haight wanted to discuss just getting rid of the Short term rental variance. It is either allowed or it is not.

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to table

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion

Motion passed 5-0

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

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

Council member Nathan Fitts said that he has had a lot of residents questioning him on this. He said they wanted to know who is accountable and why has it happened. Council member Nathan Fitts said he is not sure this investigation would be approved, and he did not want to waste tax payers money, however, the money that was not collected due to the negligence of the Mayor has far exceeded any amount that the City could ever spend on the investigation because she (the Mayor) has waited so long we cannot even go back and collect it. Mr. Fitts stated we did get a quote from Jarrard & Davis about doing an investigation. Mr. Fitts said the outside accounting firm that the City used told the Mayor things that she failed to disclose to the Council. Mr. Fitts thinks the investigation would be important.

Council member Mike Panter said that back in April, Council member Rhonda Haight read a prepared statement that she was unaware of past delinquent taxes in her 12 years in office. Council member Panter said that he questioned that, so he went back and dug and looked at the August 9 minutes (he gave everyone in the audience a copy of). Mr. Panter said it specifically states where the auditor presented in front of the Council August 9, 2016. Mr. Panter said he talked with Council member Harold Herndon, and he confirmed that as well. Mr.

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Panter said the auditor conferred that there was a delinquent tax issue and that taxes needed to be collected and FIFA's needed to be done. He stated that currently we are down to 18 properties which will be FIFA next month. Mr. Panter said that one of the issues was the previous clerk was trying to do everything by herself and now the job is separated. Mr. Panter stated that also with the accountant that we have in house that we are in a good place moving forward, he does not agree to spend more money doing an investigation. Council member Rhonda Haight said that when the auditor presented the budget, she never said delinquent taxes, she said there is a way to increase your budget, but never did she say it was from delinquent taxes. Mrs. Haight said even if she did speak about delinquent taxes and she was confused what about the rest of the years, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. Mrs. Haight said it is increasingly growing. Council member Haight said there is a policy going in place and next month we are going to start sending FIFA's. She said she feels like we need to follow a guideline like that county uses, they send out delinquent notices but if it is later than one year, they do the FIFA. Mrs. Haight said we need a written policy.

Council member Mike Panter said he was looking at the news article from Wednesday April 21, 2021. Mr. Panter stated you have a tax digest and then you have a levy, the levy is the percentage you collect. He said the city of Blue Ridge over the last 20 years has never been below 96% collection, if you look at the national survey it is about 95%. So, we have been above the collection. Mr. Panter said what took place in 2018 and 2019 was the county reevaluated the property values, the property values went up so everything that was outstanding increased. He stated that there was a mistake in the newspaper and where it mentioned 85% or 60%, he said he was talking about of the delinquent taxes that we gathered for that 7-year period. He said as of this article we had collected 85%, and right now we are somewhere around 95%. Council member Nathan Fitts said regardless of what the situation was our Charter says that they are to give us yearly written statements and budgets, why was the Council not told that. Mayor Donna Whitener said that they were given that. Council member Mike Panter wanted to say we are on the right track and getting everything cleaned up. We are above the national average.

Council member Rhonda Haight said there needed to be a policy in place and maybe in Ordinance form so that it cannot slip through the cracks. Mayor Whitener said there is an Ordinance in place for that. Council member Rhonda Haight said the only thing she could find and what Finance Director Alicia Stewart told them was the only thing that have is when they approve the Milage Rate that you send a delinquent notice within so many weeks, that it is up to the mayor to do that. Mayor Whitener asked Council member Harold Herndon, since he had been on the council for 12 years, if he has been told a few times that there were delinquent taxes that needed to be collected. Council member Harold Herndon said that when Finance Director Alicia Stewart did a recap on the budget that she gave that information to them. Council member Rhonda Haight told Council member Herndon that it was not true, and she had spoken to Tacie Jo, the Auditor, who presented them and that it had never been presented in a meeting. She said that she presented it to the Mayor and Finance Director Alicia Stewart at the exit interview.

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to table this until next month



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Council member Rhonda Haight seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

## 8. Ordinance BR2021-11 (FIRST READING)

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

First Reading; No Vote

## 9. Darvin Couch Hwy 76 Middle School Radar Certification - RH

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

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

(Council member Robbie Cornelius had stepped out for a moment)

## 10. Housing Authority Cooperation Agreement – RH

Council member Rhonda Haight said she wanted Travor Aiken with the Housing Authority to come up and take questions. She said basically this agreement allows the City to collect taxes with the PILOT program.

Travor Aiken said it was a typical agreement that HUD drafted up because housing authorities are tax exempt entities, per the State of Georgia they do not have to pay property tax for any property that they maintain for their units. The Housing Authority wants to partner with the City in order to accomplish any goals that are out there or to provide safe and affordable housing for the citizens. Since they are tax exempt, they came up with this Cooperation Agreement which would dictate services, the land that it is specifying which it would serve, that they would pay a PILOT which stands for Payment In Lieu Of Taxes. The City attorney and the Housing Authority have gone back and forth with the terminology, and they have gone back to the original 50-year-old agreement that is exactly the same as it was. Council member Mike Panter recommended it renewing every 10 years. Travor Aiken asked Mr. Panter what had happened previously that made him feel this way. Mr. Panter said nothing has happened he just did not feel comfortable with signing a 50-year contract. Travor Aiken answered a question that the Searles foundation and The Housing Authority had no correlation.

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to approve the Housing Authority agreement for a term of 50 years

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

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Motion passed 3-2

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

## **11. Recommended Changes to Zoning Ordinance (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading) BR2021-06 – JS**

Zoning, Land Development, and Project Manager went over the changes and read them one at a time.

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to work with Ordinance BR2021-06 and accept the recommendation for the meters. To change Utility Meter to Electrical meter.

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to accept the recommendations to Ordinance BR2021-06 in reference to square footage of R2 and R3 homes (from 12' to 24'), as an exclusion the multifamily development is affordable as determined by the GA Department of Community Affairs in IRS Section 42 then the GA Department of Community Affairs architectural manual will set the unit sizes for the multifamily developments for the year the property is zoned.

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion

Motion passed 5-0

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

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion on Ordinance BR2021-06 to accept the recommendation for the 5-foot setback.

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion that we remove stories from the verbiage in Ordinance BR2021-06 and that we go with the 35-foot recommendation allowing up to 6 feet on top for mechanicals and that we grandfather in any building that is over this size or setback if it is destroyed by fire or natural disaster.

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion

Motion passed 5-0

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

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Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion that for Ordinance BR2021-06 we add short term rentals in C-1, C-2, CBD, and M-1 zones.

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

## 12. Parking for 500 building-JS

Zoning, Land Development, and Project manager Jeff Stewart explained that a couple years ago there was a drainage issue behind the 500 building on Robert's Way, there was quite a bit of storm drains that had to be replaced. In the process there were 4 parking signs that were removed for the residents to park. The residents have asked for that back.

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to allow the 4 residential spaces at the 500 building to be striped on the street for residential parking.

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

## 13. Parking Contract-NF

Council member Nathan Fitts said the more he digs into this the more he finds, and he did not have it in him for the City of Blue Ridge to get taken advantage of. Mr. Fitts stated that he and Council member Rhonda Haight had spent over 20 thousand dollars of their personal money, nothing the City has paid for, their personal money to make sure that this city is getting good legal advice, that the things being done are ethical. He stated that he has a whole list of things that were twisted and manipulated to get to where they want to be. He said that all of that would be brought out. He said that there were a couple of things that, David Syfan who was the previous City attorney for over 20 years who specializes in government, sent for them to share. He said that the legal opinions that Mr. Syfan gave are very different from the opinion of the City Attorney, James Balli. Mr. Fitts said that to him there is no gray area, it is only black and white, and the law should be stated exactly as it is and not manipulated. Mr. Fitts read Mr. Syfan's email (attached to the Minutes as Exhibit C) Council member Nathan Fitts went on to say that he has had people tell him that they have never seen an Attorney for a municipality to take a contract from a parking company and not red line it and change it to make it in the City's best interest. Mr. Fitts said either James Balli failed to do his job in reviewing the contract or he tried to press it through, so they did not have time to research all this stuff. He said the city of Blue Ridge is the one getting taken advantage of and he will make a motion every single council meeting from now on until this is corrected because it is illegal. Mr. Fitts said there were plenty of other issues that have come up that he and Council member Rhonda Haight have had to pay

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\$20,000 out of their pocket because of bad legal advice. Council member Rhonda Haight said that for the Council to overlook this would be criminal on their part. She then read the questions that she sent Attorney David Syfan (attached into the Minutes as Exhibit D) Council member Haight then read an email that she said James Balli sent, she stated that he said the Council could have very easily voted to utilize the purchasing policy but did not. She read that he said in conclusion he did think that they should seek clarification on the parking contract. She said she asked Mr. Balli if they were only to get funds just from Events and he would not answer the question. Council member Haight said she thinks the Council should put this out for an investigation and that they could either hire Jarrard & Davis or have GMA to look at it. She said she talked to GMA and they would not give individual advice, but they would as a group. She said they could review the whole process and it would cost about \$1500 because they do put a lot of legal time into it. Mayor Donna Whitener asked who she spoke with at GMA. Mrs. Haight said she could not remember her name, but she was an attorney with GMA. Council member Nathan Fitts told the Mayor that she was not supposed to be discussing this because she made a direct sale to them and made money off them. Council member Rhonda Haight asked the Mayor if she was opposed to them looking at this. Mayor Whitener said that we should get it all together and send to them for review. Council member Nathan Fitts then asked the Mayor if she knew about our own purchasing policy because he said she let them vote on something that violated her own policy. Mayor Whitener said the policy had been changed about 10 times. Council member asked what everyone thought we should do about this. She said that City Attorney James Balli was not present when this was voted on. Mrs. Haight stated that it was voted on at a Town Hall meeting and she listened to it and said that Zach Wojohn was there. She said Mr. Wojohn even said this was for events only. Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion that we send all the information from parking to the Georgia Municipal Association and get clarification on the Contract and if it should be put out to bid (based on the 2 different attorneys' opinions) and the fees they are allowed to keep. Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

Discussion was made about sending the 2 contracts, audio tape from the approval of the Contract, the correspondence from both attorneys and the owners of Executive Parking (Zach and Shelli Wojohn)

Mayor Whitener also wanted to clarify that it is GIRMA, not GMA, the insurance branch of government. Council member Rhonda Haight said yes, exactly.

## 14. Distribution Replacement inventory -BH

Council member Mike Panter made a motion to table this item #14 Distribution Replacement Inventory until next month



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Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

## Purchasing Approvals:

### 1. Handrail on sidewalk, Angela Delorme and Dry Creek – JS

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve Appalachian Fence LLC to install 115 ft plus 2 sections down steps of 3 of metal fencing on the sidewalk and the drain wall for a total cost of \$7550

Council member Rhonda Haight seconded the motion.

Moton passed 5-0

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

### 2. Pressure reducing valve for Ingles area – SP BH (Quote change)

The recommendation is for the Empire estimate # 1303-1548 in the amount of \$17,851.20 It has isolation valves on each side and the vault is somewhat bigger to work in.

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve up to \$20,000 for pressure reducing valves for the Ingles Area from any vendor meeting the requirements

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion

Moton passed 5-0

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

### 3. Pro-Stripe estimate #1481 P.O # 28989 - JS

Thermoplastic striping crosswalks on Mountain Street

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to approve estimate 1481 in the amount of \$5,625.00

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

### 4. Ratify Fire Hydrant purchase of 6 total \$9900 P.O#28652- BH

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to ratify the purchase of the Fire Hydrants in the amount of \$9900 P.O 28652

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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



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## 5. Duplicating Products (New copier company contract)-JS

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to approve the lease from Duplicating Products at \$221.00/month for a term of 60 months

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

## 6. Purchasing of New Excavator with Old Trade in for the Water Department \$20400 P.O #29003-BH

Council member Mike Panter made a motion that we purchase the new Excavator and trade in the old for the Water department for \$20,400

Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0

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

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

#### 1. Delinquent taxes and tax levy – MP

Council member Mike Panter said this has already been discussed.

#### 2. Park and Rec Update – MP

Council member Mike Panter wanted to remind that the World Series softball would be next weekend June 25-27 and there would be around 50-60 teams. Games will start Friday morning around 8 am. and will run until about 10 pm each night. They will finish up around 6pm on Sunday. We will be closing the street by the playground from Ted Weaver's to the church on Friday from about noon until 9pm.

#### 3. World Series – MP

See above comments

#### 4. Downtown Playground – MP

Council member Mike Panter said this weekend they will get the shades put up. Once that is finished, they will finish the outside of the park and the landscaping.

#### 5. R-Cut funding-RH

Council member Rhonda Haight wanted to get an update. Mayor Donna Whitener said it was bid out and they got the additional money. She stated it was LMIG money. Zoning, Land Development, and Project manager Jeff Stewart said that Colditz trucking out of Blairsville, GA was the low bidder. GDOT sent the \$150,000. North Georgia college sent the check for \$35,000.

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The State through LMIG money sent another \$35,000 the remaining \$978 was funded by the college.

Donna Thompson from the audience was asked by Council member Nathan Fitts to come to the podium to speak on the information she obtained.

Mrs. Thompson said this information came from the legal department for GDOT. It was the same information Jeff Stewart gave.

Two from the audience made a comment on the RCUT discussing who should have funded this. Brian Pritchard and Donna Thompson.

#### 4) Executive Session

Council member Rhonda Haight made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss land  
Council member Nathan Fitts seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to come out of Executive Session.

Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

All in favor.

#### 5) Adjournment

Council member Nathan Fitts made a motion to adjourn.

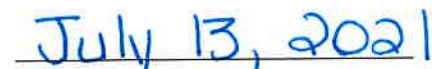
Council member Mike Panter seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Meeting Adjourned.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor



\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved



\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

# City of Blue Ridge

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