

Mayor
Rhonda Haight

City Council
Angie Arp, Mayor Pro Tempore
Jack Taylor
Christy Kay
Bill Bivins
William Whaley



City Administrator
Eric M. Soroka

City Clerk
Amy Mintz

City Attorney
Chuck Conerly

City of Blue Ridge
City Council Meeting
Minutes
November 14, 2023

6:00 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 6:00 PM. Present were Mayor Rhonda Haight, Council Members William Whaley, Angie Arp, Jack Taylor, Christy Kay, Bill Bivins (VIA phone call), City Attorney Chuck Conerly and City Administrator Eric Soroka.

2. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Council Member Whaley.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

a. October 17, 2023 – Council Meeting

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

- a. Veterans Recognition of Blue Ridge Police Officers for Military Service (Chief Stuart)

Presentation led by Chief Stuart.

- b. Challenge Coin Presentation (Chief Stuart)

Presentation led by Chief Stuart.

Mayor and Council break at 6:13 PM

Mayor and Council resume meeting at 6:20 PM

6. Consent Agenda

City Administrator explained the following items to be voted on:

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

- a. A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, STATE OF GEORGIA, TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT NO. DW2023032 WITH THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$600,000. **BR2023-30**
- b. A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, STATE OF GEORGIA, TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT NO. DW202331 WITH THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$350,000. **BR2023-29**
- c. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA APPROVING THE CONTRACT AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN FANNIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC. AND THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR ON THE CITY'S BEHALF TO EXECUTE THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT

AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. BR2023-31

7. Action Agenda Items (Items Requiring the Approval of the City Council)

City Administrator explained the following:

- a. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION ON HOUSING AUTHORITY'S REZONING APPLICATION OF 4.10 ACRES FROM MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-2) TO HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-3).

A motion to deny the request was offered by Council Member Bivins, seconded by Council Member Arp, passed unanimously.

- b. A ZONING ORDINANCE/ACTION AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA, BY REZONING A PARCEL OF LAND WITHIN THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, BEING TAX PARCEL BR03-030 OWNED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE AND BEING APPROXIMATELY 4.10 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE DEED(S) ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO THIS ZONING ORDINANCE ("PROPERTY"), AND REZONING THE PROPERTY FROM MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ("R-2") TO HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ("R-3"); REPEALING CONFLICTING ZONING ORDINANCES APPLICABLE TO THE PROPERTY; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

No action needed. 7A denied.

- c. A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA TO ADOPT A BUDGET FOR ALL FUNDS OF THE CITY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024; TO ADOPT THE BUDGET ATTACHED TO THIS RESOLUTION AND WITH SAID BUDGET FOR ALL FUNDS INDICATING THE SUM OF ESTIMATED REVENUES, AS

WELL AS THE SUM OF EXPECTED EXPENDITURES; TO PROVIDE FOR A BALANCED BUDGET FOR THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR; TO PROVIDE THAT NOTHING CONTAINED WITHIN THIS BUDGET RESOLUTION, AS WELL AS THE ATTACHED PROPOSED BUDGET, SHALL PRECLUDE THE CITY COUNCIL OF BLUE RIDGE FROM AMENDING ITS BUDGET DURING THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR SO AS TO ADAPT TO CHANGING GOVERNMENTAL NEEDS DURING THE BUDGET PERIOD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. **BR2023-26**

A motion to approve was offered by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Whaley, passed unanimously. Adopted as BR2023-26.

8. Discussion Agenda Items

None

9. Reports

None

10. Public Comment

Do not misconstrue this as a question-and-answer session with the Mayor/Council. Limit 3 minutes per person. Please state name and address before comments. All comments should be addressed to the Mayor.

- a. Donna Thompson
- b. Greg Arnold
- c. Jim Callender

11. Executive Session (If Needed)

Not needed.

12. Adjournment

Mayor Haight adjourned the meeting at 6:38 PM.

Rhonda Haight

Mayor, Rhonda Haight

Amy Mintz

City Clerk, Amy Mintz

December 12, 2023

Date

