

Mayor
Rhonda Haight

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



City Clerk
Amy Mintz

City Attorney
Chuck Conerly

**City of Blue Ridge
City Council Meeting**

Minutes

February 20, 2024

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, City Attorney Chuck Conerly and City Clerk Amy Mintz.

2. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Council Member Whaley.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

a. January 16, 2024 – Council Meeting

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 amend the agenda to remove items 6D and 7B and to move item 6C to 7B was offered by Council Member Arp.

Removal of 6D - Whaley (Y) ARP (Y) TAYLOR (Y) KAY(Y) BIVINS (Y)

Removal of 7B - Whaley (N) ARP (Y) TAYLOR (Y) KAY(Y) BIVINS (Y)

Move 6C to 7B - Whaley (Y) ARP (Y) TAYLOR (Y) KAY(Y) BIVINS (Y)

Motion passed.

5. Public Hearings

Chuck explained the following to be voted on:

- a. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 24-3 ("WATER AND SEWER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT") OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA TO INCREASE THE SURCHARGE TO BE PAID BY APPLICANTS FOR WATER AND/OR SEWER SERVICES AT A LOCATION NOT PRESENTLY SERVED OR FOR EXPANDED SERVICES TO A SITE PREVIOUSLY BEING SERVED; TO INCREASE THE TAPS FOR WATER AND SEWER AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **SECOND READING BR2024-02**

A motion to adopt was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Bivins, passes unanimously. Adopted as BR2024-02.

Chuck explained the following for the First Reading:

- 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 PARCELS 0045-20E, 0045-20C01, AND 0045-20C02 OWNED BY CHNA HOLDINGS LLC AND BEING APPROXIMATELY 4.14 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 MANUFACTURING ("M-1") TO COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL ("C-2"); REPEALING

CONFLICTING ZONING ORDINANCES APPLICABLE TO THE PROPERTY; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. **FIRST READING BR2024-07.**

Scott Kelley and Jackie Self spoke in favor of the rezoning.

6. Consent Agenda

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

- a. MOTION TO REMOVE CITY ADMINISTRATOR ERIC SOROKA AND CITY CLERK AMY MINTZ AS SIGNATORIES AND TO ADD COURT CLERK BARBARA GERALD, UTILITIES DIRECTOR REBECCA HARKINS, AND CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER GINA QUINTON AS ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES FOR CHECKS ISSUED FROM OR WITHDRAWALS MADE FROM ACCOUNTS MADE BY THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE.
- b. A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, STATE OF GEORGIA, TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT FOR THE DRINKING WATER SRF SERVICE LINE PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,500 FROM THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY, GRANT NO. DWLSL2022023, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **BR2024-04.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, STATE OF GEORGIA, TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT NO. GF2023011 WITH THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000
BR2024-05. **MOVED TO 7B.**

MOTION TO ADOPT THE GMEBS RETIREMENT PLAN RESTATED AGREEMENT. **REMOVED**

FROM THE AGENDA.

- c. A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, STATE OF GEORGIA, TO APPROVE THAT CERTAIN SECOND MODIFICATION TO THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 LOAN FROM THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY, LOAN NO. CW2021037, ORIGINAL AMOUNT OF \$3,500,00. **BR2024-01**

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

Matt Smith explained the following:

- a. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA AWARDING AND LETTING A BID/CONTRACT FOR C&S PROJECT No. B7970.010, DOWNTOWN BLUE RIDGE STORM SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, TO NORTH GEORGIA CONCRETE, INC. AT THE LOW BID PRICE OF \$3,892,362.38; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE NOTICE OF AWARD AND ASSOCIATED CONTRACTS; PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR SAID BID AWARD; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **BR2024-06**

A motion to adopted was offered by Council Member Bivins, seconded by Council Member Taylor, passed unanimously. Adopted as BR2024-06.

- b. A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, STATE OF GEORGIA, TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT NO. GF2023011 WITH THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000. **BR2024-05**

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

DOWNTOWN RESTROOM PROJECT REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

c. PURCHASING POLICY FIRST READING BR2024-08

Motion for the Mayor to be substituted for the City Administrator in the existing purchasing policy ordinance until a new purchasing policy is passed.

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. Troy Shirbroun
- b. Cesar Martinez
- c. Josh Snider

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 opened at 6:40 PM.

A motion to adjourn executive session was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Taylor, passed unanimously. Executive adjourned at 9:02 PM.

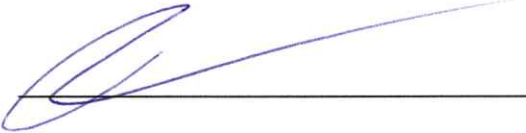
A motion to hire Heather Burke as the accounts payable clerk was offered by Council Member Whaley, seconded by Council Member Taylor. Passed Unanimously.

A motion to retain an independent investigator to investigate allegations made against a city council member for violating the City Charter and to allow the City Attorney to make a recommendation to the Council as to who the investigator should be was offered by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member Whaley. Motion

passed with Council Member Bivins recusing.

12. Adjournment

Mayor Haight adjourned the meeting at 9:04 PM.



Mayor Rhonda Haight



City Clerk Amy Mintz

March 19, 2024

Date

