

**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**  
**RECAP**

**February 20, 2024**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Blue Ridge City Hall**

**480 West First Street**

**Blue Ridge, Ga 30513**

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1. **Call Meeting to Order 6 PM**
2. **Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance LED BY COUNCIL MEMBER WHAELY**
3. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting APPROVED**
  - a. January 16, 2024 – Council Meeting
4. **Approval of Agenda or Motion to Amend Agenda (if applicable)**

**Amended to remove items 6D,7B and to move item 6C to action items.**
5. **Public Hearings**
  - 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

**Our Mission Statement**

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INCREASE THE TAPS FOR WATER AND SEWER AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **SECOND READING BR2024-02 APPROVED AS BR2024-02**

- 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.**

**6. Consent Agenda APPROVED**

- 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.

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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 6B.**

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 LAON 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)**

- a. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA AWARDED 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 APPROVED**
- b. A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLUE RIDGE,

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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

**DOWNTOWN RESTROOM PROJECT REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

c. PURCHASING POLICY **FIRST READING**

**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) Entered into at 6:70 PM. 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 9:04 PM**

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