CITY OF BLAKELY
Public Hearing
2014 Proposed Budget

November 26, 2013
6:00 p.m.

I. Call To Order

Mayor Anthony Howard called the meeting to order. Council members present were Mayor Anthony Howard, Councilman Charles Middleton, Councilman Al Hutchins and Councilman Andy Smith. Councilman Torre Mills was not present. Also present was the City Clerk Melinda Crook, and all City Department Heads. Councilman Hutchins gave the invocation and then the Mayor led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Purpose of Hearing

The purpose of the Hearing was to go over the 2014 proposed budget and answer any questions from the Council.

III. Discussion

The City Clerk went over each department's budget and informed the Council and public of changes that had been made from the previous year. The Clerk then explained the items by department in the SPLOST budget. The Clerk and department heads answered question from the Council and public.

The City Clerk and the department head explained, to the Council and public, some proposed rate changes in several areas. These rate changes consisted of:

- Garbage residential – 1.00 increase per month(15.00 to 16.00) with 1.00 increase on any additional cart (5.00 to 6.00)
- Garbage commercial –2.00 increase per month (28.00 to 30.00) with a 2.00 increase on any additional cart (10. To 2.00)
- Garbage dumpsters – 2.00 increase per yard (14.00 to 16.00)
- Landfill- Inert material – 10.00 per ton to 25.00 per ton, regular refuse 42.00 per ton to 44.00 per ton and tires- passenger 1.25 to 2.00 with an additional 1.00 w/rim, truck tires- 4.00 to 8.00 with an additional 2.00 w/rim, tractor tires – 30.00
- Water/Sewer- inverted the rate structure (the more you use the more you pay) and included a .50 per tier (1000 gallon) increase on both water and sewer

- Septic dump fees – 35.00 to 60.00
- Shop labor fees – 25.00 per hour to 45.00 per hour

The Council was present a spreadsheet comparison of our garbage, dumpster and landfill rates compared to surrounding areas and were informed that garbage (residential or commercial) had not been increased since 2006. The Council was informed that the water/sewer increase would be around 125,800 additional in revenue and that it had been several years since any increase had been made on those rates. The Council was also informed that inverting the rate structure was to help promote water conservation.

The Clerk was asked to incorporate the proposed changes into the budget for final review.

The Clerk then asked the Council about an increase for the employees and was informed to factor into the budget the same bonus as the previous year.

No changes were made to the proposed 2014 budget at this time.

There was a first reading of the Budget Ordinance providing for the soption of a budget for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2014.

IV. Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilman Charles Middleton and seconded by Councilman Andy Smith to adjourn the November 26, 2013 Proposed Budget Public Hearing. The motion carried.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor