

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
MARCH 22, 2016
TUESDAY, 10:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

MINUTES

Mayor Goodgame called the meeting to order.

Those present: Mayor Goodgame, Council President Lively, Councilors Carr, Howard, MacNair, and Steil, Attorney Dickerson, City Manager Lapeyrouse, Chief Mason, and City Clerk Cantrell.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Goodgame led the Pledge of Allegiance. Lynn Becker gave the invocation. A moment of silence was held for the terrorist attack in Brussels.

Mayor Goodgame recognized Attorney Dickerson and also special guests Mark Sparrow, Mark Wiles, and Stacia Kelly from the Georgia Forestry Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2016 Organizational & Regular Council Meeting, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councilor Lively made a motion to adopt the agenda, 2nd Councilor MacNair, unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Goodgame said that we had a major snow event this winter. We were not prepared for that type of event, but he believes our staff handled it as best we could with the equipment we had on hand. We also had a couple of sub-contractors come in and help with the snow removal. We purchased some additional equipment to better handle snow events including an additional spreader and a tank to make our own brine.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilor MacNair welcomed everyone to the meeting and said he is happy to see such a large crowd.

Councilor Howard also thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said that we need to pray for our leaders, at all levels from local to national.

Councilor Steil said that he and Councilor MacNair went to newly elected officials training and highlighted that they are learning each day as they work to make Sky Valley not only the highest and coolest city, but also the best city in Georgia.

Councilor Lively welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councilor Carr thanked staff for bringing the water to the meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES

Mayor Goodgame presented plaques to Martin Greene (2014 – 2015) and Robert Larsen (2012-2015) in recognition and appreciation for their time in serving as Council members. He also thanked Larsen for marking the trail from Sky Valley to Rabun Bald.

CITY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORTS – EXCEPTIONS AND QUESTIONS

City Manager Lapeyrouse said that a Spring Cleanup Day will soon be scheduled as part of Keep America Beautiful.

The City has been approved as an official Tree City. She also submitted a grant application through the Firewise program.

If you are not on our email list, you can sign up on the homepage of the city's website, www.skyvalleyga.com. City Manager Lapeyrouse highlighted numbers of visitors to the website and Facebook page.

Mayor Goodgame thanked the tenants, Patty Calderone and Denise West, who have graciously helped with guests stopping in the visitor center while we have not had it staffed over the winter. We are excited about the future of the visitor center.

City Clerk Cantrell gave the December 2015 unaudited financial report and said that the current, February report is included in the Council packets. Mayor Goodgame highlighted that these are in-house, unaudited numbers, and said that it has been our experience that the final year-end numbers change very little after the audit is completed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mayor's Proclamation – Georgia Arbor Day

Mayor Goodgame read a Proclamation declaring March 22, 2016 as Arbor Day in Sky Valley. After the Council Meeting today, we will be having a ceremony planting a tree at the Visitor Center.

- Ratify purchase approval of spreader and brine maker

Mayor Goodgame said that we received six prices for a spreader and purchased the least expensive one, \$4,073.75. We also received four prices for the salt brine maker, also purchasing the least expensive one, \$9,219. Purchases were via email and phone, and we need

to ratify approval. Councilor Howard made motion to ratify approval of these purchases, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

- Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement

Mayor Goodgame presented the annual agreement. Councilor Steil made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor MacNair, unanimously approved.

- Street Lighting

Mayor Goodgame said that at different occasions, we have been asked to have additional lighting on Sky Valley Way. From previous discussions about lighting, he understands that we have people who feel very strongly about this for lights and against lights. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that we did leave up the snowflake lights longer than usual as was requested in the last meeting. She has been in contact with Renee Moorehead at Georgia Power regarding additional lighting on Sky Valley Way. We installed four decorative light poles in 2011. Mayor Goodgame asked the City Manager to get firm proposals on additional lighting on Sky Valley Way consistent with our current decorative light poles. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that coming from the entrance down Sky Valley Way the last two Georgia Power poles do not have lights. She will find out if they can light those poles, and get a price to install light poles on Sky Valley Way to match our current lights. Citizen Helen Kleiber said that one of the reasons we chose those lights in 2011 was to be dark-sky friendly. Mayor Goodgame said that we will continue with the same light poles.

- Appointment to Marketing Committee to fill vacancy

Mayor Goodgame said that Laura Gurley resigned from the Marketing Committee after she was appointed as Chairman of the Rabun County TDA Board, and Debbie Curtis has volunteered to serve on the committee. Councilor Lively made a motion to approve adding Ms. Curtis to the committee, 2nd Councilor Steil, unanimously approved.

- LUCAS 2 Proposal

Mayor Goodgame said that this proposal came about after we lost a friend, Larry Hatchett, in Sky Valley. He and Officer Edwards were on-site while EMS performed CPR. They discussed acquiring a LUCAS 2, a machine that administers CPR. There is one in the county, but it is stored on the south end of the county. He asked Chief Mason to present information on this piece of equipment. Mason presented the information on how this piece of equipment works. He said that studies have shown that manual compressions are preferred over the LUCAS 2 and little evidence exists for their effectiveness adding that patients have not shown better outcome with the mechanical chest compressions. From his research, manual compressions are more effective unless the LUCAS 2 is being used by someone with paramedic or higher qualifications and uses the equipment on a regular basis. Councilor MacNair recommended that we talk to the paramedics in Dillard to get their input since they would be the ones to use it. Discussion followed about CPR training and defibrillators. The City has two defibrillators, one in each patrol car. Chief Mason is also a certified instructor who has recommended offering CPR training locally.

- Selection of Auditor for FY2015

Mayor Goodgame said that we have two proposals for the 2015 audit. We have used both of these firms in the past. He recommended accepting the proposal from Jack Greene, the lower proposal. Councilor Howard made a motion to approve Jack Greene, 2nd Councilor Steil, unanimously approved.

- Equipment Shed

Mayor Goodgame said that we included funds to build an equipment shed in the 2016 budget. We received several proposals to build a three-sided metal building at the city hall site. He said that the proposals are very complex and recommends postponing discussion of this until we can have a workshop to make sure we get what we want.

- Visitor Center Staffing

Mayor Goodgame said that he and the City Manager have met to discuss this several times, spoken with the tenants, previous volunteers, and reviewed the activity logs. He said that he would like to see a one-year trial of staffing the visitor center full time. We budgeted \$8,000 for a part-time person this year. We are proposing someone to work 35 hours a week, having someone from the city staff to be there one day, and having a volunteer work on Sunday afternoons. Councilor Lively made a motion to approve as presented, 2nd Councilor Howard. Councilor Carr asked if it should open at 10 instead of 9. Laura Gurley said that when she was working at the visitor center, she did see visitors there that early. (Gurley mentioned that Roger Brooks International recommends visitor centers to be open 360 days a year from 9 am until 7 pm and having information available outside. Discussion followed about the best hours for staffing. This includes adding an approximately \$5,000 to the budget to hire a fulltime person. Councilor Howard recommended discussing this at a workshop so that the council can become more familiar with the workings of the visitor center. The motion to staff the visitor center with a full-time employee passed unanimously.

- April & June Regular Meeting Dates

Mayor Goodgame recommended moving the April meeting to April 19th, and said that Councilor Carr had recommended moving the June meeting to June 22nd. After discussion of dates, Councilor Howard made a motion to change the April meeting to the 19th and keep June's meeting on the 22nd, 2nd Councilor MacNair, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Goodgame said that he will recognize people from the audience by raising their hand and requested that they state their names for the record.

Steve Messer said that on February 9th, he emailed the Mayor, Council, and City Manager an email with questions and concerns and expressed concern because he only received replies from the City Manager and Councilor MacNair. He said others including Masi and Bohannon also sent emails. Mayor Goodgame said that City Manager Lapeyrouse responded to the emails as some of the concerns in them were related to management and personnel matters. If there

are other Council related questions, they can be addressed by asking to be put on a future agenda.

Helen Kleiber said that this afternoon, there is a DOT meeting at the Rearden Theater at RGNS regarding the widening of Hwy 441 and encouraged everyone to go.

Vicki Heher said that she wanted to publicly thank Officer Edwards for his help and assistance when her house burned.

Ray Brooker asked if there was a light on the cell tower. City Manager Lapeyrouse said yes, there is a light on the tower.

Councilor Howard asked if the letter from the Hehers regarding the fire was placed in Officer Edward's personnel file. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that it was.


Councilor Howard made a motion to move into executive session, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

The purpose of the executive session: Meetings when discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer. O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6). (Except when receiving evidence or hearing argument on charges filed to determine disciplinary action or dismissal of a public officer or employee.)

Mayor Goodgame reconvened regular session. He stated that the interview committee to appoint a police chief has narrowed down the options to one person, R.C. Mason, and that the council can take action to make the appointment 14 days from today's date. A meeting will be scheduled, and the notice of this appointment will be will be posted at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

Councilor MacNair made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:



Hughel Goodgame, Mayor

Attested:



Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk