

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
MARCH 8, 2011
TUESDAY, 9:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

MINUTES

Mayor Martindale called the meeting to order.

Those present: Mayor Martindale, Council President Moore, Councilors Boyle, Howard, Kleiber, and Platt, Attorney Dickerson, City Manager Smith, City Clerk Cantrell, Chief Dills, and Building Inspector O'Donovan. Also in attendance, John Washington, Rindt-MucDuff Associates.

Pam Martindale gave the invocation. Mayor Martindale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council President Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15 Regular Council Meeting, 2nd Councilor Howard. Councilor Howard noted three typographical corrections to be made. The minutes were unanimously approved with these corrections.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council President Moore made a motion to adopt the agenda and to add a presentation by Sean Brady, Rabun County Economic Development under new business, 2nd Councilor Howard, unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Martindale thanked the audience members for attending the meeting.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilor Kleiber said that some members of the Chapel were making a prayer shawl for Ouida Hotch. However, with her passing, they are giving it to her family. She asked that anyone who would like to participate to contact her so they can add a section to the shawl.

Councilor Howard said that he attended newly elected officials training last month. He said that other cities are facing far worse financial woes than Sky Valley and gave examples of some of the issues others are facing.

Council President Moore gave an update on House Bill 385 that changes franchise fees stating that if passes, it will cost the City a great deal of income.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief's Report – given by Chief Dills

Neighborhood Watch meetings will be the last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM. Meetings will be held at different homes. Notices will be emailed and posted at the postal facility. The website is www.skyvalleywatch.com. City Manager Smith asked Chief Dills to email the information to either her or City Clerk Cantrell so information can be sent to the distribution list.

City Financial Report – given by City Clerk Cantrell

Tax Commissioner's Report – given by City Clerk Cantrell

Building Inspector's Report – given by Donal O'Donovan

Inspector O'Donovan requested homeowners not give the contractor final payment until they have an approved final inspection.

City Manager's Report – given by City Manager Smith

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- Sean Brady – presentation for the Rabun County Economic Development Authority
A copy of this presentation is incorporated herein.

- Water bill adjustment – Brassie Knob

City Manager Smith presented information received from Brassie Knob requesting an adjustment to their water bill from November 2010. They had an adjustment approved by Council March 2009, and as per the water ordinance, were told only one adjustment is allowed every five years. The request for adjustment was given to the Mayor and Council, and she received the request from Councilor Boyle. Water Operator Godwin explained what happened with the leak. He said that they did not have a pressure-reducing valve at the time of the leak, but they have one installed now. Council President Moore made a motion not to make any adjustment, 2nd Councilor Boyle. Councilor Boyle requested the letter to them include that they received an adjustment in the last five years. Councilor Kleiber said that they have not made any efforts to keep up to date on what is going on in the City. The motion passed unanimously.

- Approval of recoating Sky High water tank

City Manager Smith presented a quote from Pittsburg Tank and Tower Maintenance on repairs to the Sky High tank. She said that the City can choose individual items from the list and can pay over the course of a year. This will be an operating expense. Water Operator Godwin said, at minimum, the exterior of the tank needs recoated. He looked at the interior of the tank and saw paint flakes, but he has not been inside the tank to see what the exact condition of the interior is. Engineer Washington recommended looking at the structural integrity of the tank. This type of tank typically has a 50-year life span. Water Operator Godwin said he asked Pittsburg Tank to look at the tank and tell him what, if any, repairs or maintenance needs done. City Manager Smith said it had been about three years since the tank has been inspected and said that the tank should probably be inspected again to see what work needs done. Councilor Platt said that tank is probably 35-years old. The Council discussed having the tank inspected and getting a recommendation on what should be done. Mr. Washington said that he could write a scope of work for the City with names and contact numbers of companies who do this type of work. Councilor Howard asked if the inspection will tell the City how long the tank will last. Mr. Washington said that his list can include items specific to testing the integrity of the tank. He said that the tank is approaching the end of its life span. Councilor Boyle made a motion to authorize having an inspection done on the Sky High tank based on the engineer's recommendation, 2nd Platt, unanimously approved.

- Saddleback Circle Drainage Study

Engineer Washington presented the drainage study prepared for Saddleback Circle. He said he noticed a great deal of landscaping and items on the right-of-way. Some homeowners have put culverts under

their driveways diverting water, but the road has no drainage or crown to direct water. There were no convenient locations to direct the water away from homes. In several places, there was a foot or more of grade change between lots. These were the major issues to consider when looking at options to divert water. One option available is curb and guttering, however this option is very difficult to install after landscaping and trees are well established in a community and is challenging to retrofit. A second option would be to install a gutter that matches up to the edge of the paving and direct the water away from the road. He explained the concern with this is getting water into the gutter because there is no crown in the road. The third option is not to make changes, leave the road as is, and put a collection point at the end of the road to get the water diverted away from homes and the road. He said that the City has to look at the overall cost and see how effective this will be, using this study as a pilot for the community. He recommended installing a trench grate and asphalt curbing at the end of the road to try to contain the water and re-divert it. He said the gravel driveways will always have gravel run into the roadway, but that requiring an asphalt buffer to the right-of-way would help. Cost estimates are included with his proposal. Councilor Howard asked if the trench grate would go all the way across the road. Washington replied that the grate would run all the way across the road at the end of the road. The grates have about a 50-percent effectiveness because they will get leaves and limbs in them and require maintenance. The trench grate does not affect the water running down the road, but is a starting point. Council President Moore asked if the Miami curb could be installed across driveways because it really seems to help. Mr. Washington said he will be happy to address any future questions that come up and prepare detailed information if the Council wants to get pricing on one of these options. City Manager Smith said the City can apply for an Immediate Threat and Danger Program grant if we can identify a risk or public safety threat caused by the water drainage. Washington said that to receive the grant, the City would have to identify an immediate risk or threat to qualify for the grant. Councilor Boyle made a motion to authorize City Manager Smith to get estimates for the grate system based on RMA's recommendation, 2nd Councilor Platt. City Manager Smith said that the grant is a maximum \$50,000 with the City contributing at least 10- percent of the funds, however to apply for the grant, the City will need to identify the threat and have a plan to correct the problem. Councilor Boyle made a motion to authorize City Manager Smith request prices for option three. Councilor Boyle asked if water runoff to people's homes causing dampness might count. Washington said that to be more likely eligible, we will need to identify a new, unforeseeable problem that we need to repair. Mr. Washington said City Manager Smith will need a scope of work showing exactly what the Council wants to do so she can request proposals. The contractor will need to know specifically what to price. He said we would need to put together a site plan showing details of the Miami-curb and the guttering we need to know exact driveway measurements. Council President Moore recommended having a workshop to meet with City Manager Smith and Mr. Washington. Council President Moore made a motion to have a workshop to look at this in detail, 2nd Councilor Platt. Councilor Boyle withdrew his motion. The motion to have a workshop passed unanimously.

- Ratify property purchase agreement

Mayor Martindale said that the property owner said he would reduce the price by \$500 if the City would pay in full instead of making payments. It is 1/10 acre and the current owner is having the contract drawn up. Councilor Kleiber made a motion to approve the purchase of the sign property for \$9,500, 2nd Moore, unanimously approved.

- Approval of front entrance maintenance agreement

City Manager Smith said that Steve Mason, who did the maintenance last year, emailed her a price for the annual maintenance of the front entrance. She said she had not received any other estimates. Mayor Martindale said that if we change the landscaping, it might change the maintenance needed.

Councilor Boyle recommended postponing this until next month. City Manager Smith asked if the pre-emergence work needs done, and if so, do they want Steve Mason to do it. Councilor Boyle made a motion to authorize City Manager Smith to have Steve do the pre-emerge work, and spend up to \$100, Councilor Platt recommended having UGA's School of Environmental Design prepare a plan. Councilor Boyle amended his motion to include that the City purchases the materials, 2nd Councilor Platt. Al Lee said that Lee Collenback did the maintenance at Valley View, and that he might be interested in giving a proposal to maintain the entrance. The motion passed unanimously.

- Approval of Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Ordinance Update as Required

City Manager Smith said that for the City to be a local issuing authority, the City must adopt updates. Council President Moore made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Kleiber, unanimously approved.

- Tree limb removal procedure policy – requested by John Hoppes

City Manager Smith said that Mr. Hoppes requested the City adopt a policy that it will not trim limbs over 13 feet. City Manager Smith said that she does not know of anything trimmed that should not have been. Councilor Platt said that in some places, the trees almost create a canopy because they haven't been trimmed more and asked if it created a fire concern because the trees are able to connect with trees on the other side of the road. Councilor Boyle said that he thinks City Manager Smith should send a letter to Mr. Hoppes thanking him for his concern, that the Council is concerned with the appearance of the City. Council President Moore said that we should include in the letter that we would make an effort not to cut limbs any higher than necessary. Councilor Kleiber said that when the roads are less shaded, it helps the snow melt. The Council agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr. Hoppes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

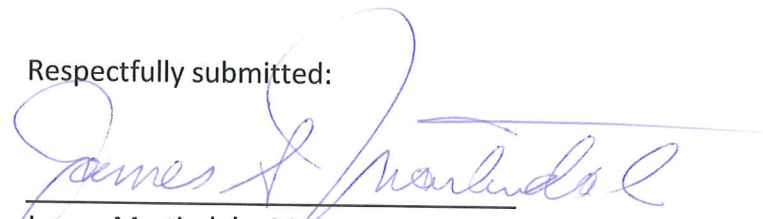
PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Charlie Horowitz said that the McClure property was no longer listed by a real estate agent, and that the property might be valuable for the City to add some commercial property. He said that the owners said they would take \$450,000, but that he thinks they would take less.

ADJOURNMENT


Councilor Platt made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Council President Moore, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:



James Martindale, Mayor

Attested:



Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk