

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA  
FEBRUARY 21, 2012  
TUESDAY, 9:30 AM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

**MINUTES**

Mayor Martindale called the meeting to order.

Those present: Mayor Martindale, Council President Howard, Councilors Boyle, Larsen, Platt, and Whatley, Attorney Dickerson, City Manager Smith, Chief Dills, City Clerk Cantrell, and Tax Commissioner Mullins.

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

Council President Howard made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2012 Regular Council Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Larsen, unanimously approved.

Councilor Platt made a motion to adopt the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

**MAYOR'S REMARKS**

Mayor Martindale said he met with Ricky Chastain, Mike Young, and Mike's son. He said Mr. Chastain mentioned selling two-thirds of the unfinished clubhouse to the city. He said establishing a committee to explore uses of the clubhouse is on the agenda. Mayor Martindale said that it was a very cordial meeting. He said he also called Harrison Merrill and asked about the lodge. Mr. Merrill said that the person who was interested in opening it up for tubing and skiing fell away, however someone else is interested in it. Merrill wants to allow time for someone to purchase the lodge before he pursues demolition.

**COUNCIL REMARKS**

Councilor Whatley said that he and Robert Larsen attended Newly Elected Officials Training in Athens, GA over the weekend.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Chief's Report – given by Chief Dills

City Financial Report – given by City Clerk Cantrell

Tax Commissioner's Report – given by Tax Commissioner Mullins

Tax Sale for delinquent 2008, 2009, 2010 ad valorem taxes is Tuesday, March 6 at the Rabun County Courthouse.

- Update on Hotel-Motel Tax Collections

Building Inspector's Report – given by City Manager Smith

City Manager's Report – given by City Manager Smith

City Manager Smith announced that Tax Commissioner Mullins earned her Assistant City Clerk Certification from the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Georgia. The certification requires 101 hours of training and takes five years to complete. She led a round of applause congratulating Tax Commissioner Mullins for this accomplishment.

Councilor Whatley asked for an update on the gravel on Bayberry. Mayor Martindale said that the rock was on the road. City Manager Smith said that some additional stone will be needed.

Councilor Larsen asked for an update on Bear Trace. City Manager Smith said that Attorney Dickerson reviewed the subdivision requirements and a list of required actions has been given to Mr. Croxton. Once he completes this list, it will be brought back to the City for reconsideration.

These reposts are hereby incorporated by reference and attached hereto.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Approval of 2011 audit proposal

City Clerk Cantrell presented the audit proposal from Jack P. Green. The proposal includes the additional single audit as required for the city's GEFA loan. Councilor Larsen made a motion to approve the audit proposal, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

- Approval of 2012 agreement with Rabun County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Councilor Whatley said that although we do not see direct results of what the RCCVB does, they do a great deal of work to promote the entire county. Councilor Whatley said that the RCCVB has a committee that works with the filming industry. John Travolta and Robert DeNiro were in the County filming a movie, Killing Season. They are working to make Rabun County a Camera Ready community, which will be a big boost for getting additional movies filmed here. Councilor Whatley made a motion to authorize Mayor Martindale to enter into the contract, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Howard, unanimously approved.

- Appointment of Sky Valley Planning & Economic Development Committee

Council President Howard read the proposed mission statement for the Committee: To promote the continued growth of the City of Sky Valley, GA by marketing and advertising the natural beauty of our valley, the cooperative business environment of our government and the quality of municipal services available to businesses and full and part-time residents. Objectives: 1. Market and advertise the special assets of our community to attract new businesses and residents to Sky Valley. 2. Determine the concerns of our full and part-time citizens and enlist their support in developing a growth initiative for the City of Sky Valley. 3. Seek the cooperation of neighboring communities and utilize state and county resources to market and advertise the City of Sky Valley. 4. Provide support and cooperation to prospective and current businesses that convey an "open for business" attitude in the City of Sky Valley. 5. Promote the value of visiting and residing in Sky Valley through a wide area marketing effort. 6. Make recommendations to the City Council for expenditure of funds to support the marketing efforts of this Committee. 7. Remain open to all suggestions and avenues of pursuit that encourage growth in our community. Council President Howard recommended the following to serve on the committee: Chairman: Council President Howard, Ray Becker, Richard Butt, Linda Durrence, Al Lee, and the POA Chairman, currently Steve Brett. Barbara Kobacker has agreed to serve as secretary.

Councilor Larsen made a motion to approve the committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Whatley. Councilor Whatley asked the committee to add the five-year plan to their role, but no motion to amend was made. Councilor Larsen asked how the Planning and Zoning Commission could fit into this committee. City Manager Smith said the Planning and Zoning Commission is responsible for reviewing subdivision guidelines and makes recommendations to the Council on subdivisions, land use, and any variances requested to the current

zoning. Councilor Boyle asked if there will be term limits for those serving on the committee. City Clerk Cantrell said that committees and their members are appointed on an annual basis. Councilor Whatley asked Mayor Martindale if he was creating this committee and appointing its members subject to Council's approval. Mayor Martindale said he was. Mayor Martindale called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS**

Citizen John Hoppes asked if the City could ask Mr. Chastain to donate the unfinished clubhouse to the City. Mayor Martindale said the City has spoken with him about donating the pavilion, but not the unfinished clubhouse. He said one of the things this committee will do is research options for the clubhouse. Citizen Ben Chitwood asked about the septic for the pavilion. Mayor Martindale said that the septic was installed, but it has not been completed. Citizen Joel Dawkins asked if there was a decision on the POA's lease of the pavilion. Mayor Martindale said that from what he understands from Mr. Chastain, Mr. Chastain, the bank, and the POA will be able to negotiate an agreement without having to get a judge involved to make a ruling.

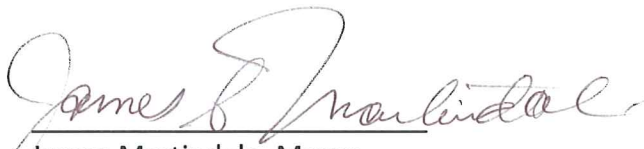
Councilor Whatley asked Attorney Dickerson if the Building Authority had been introduced to the legislation. Attorney Dickerson said it will be introduced at the end of the session, but that it is on track to be approved this session.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

Council President Howard made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:



James Martindale, Mayor

Attested:



Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk