

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA  
JUNE 23, 2015  
TUESDAY, 10:00 AM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

**MINUTES**

Mayor Goodgame called the meeting to order.

Those present: Mayor Goodgame, Council President Carr, Councilors Greene, Howard, Larsen, and Lively, City Manager Lapeyrouse, Chief Dills, and City Clerk Cantrell.

Pam Spears gave the invocation. Mayor Goodgame led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilor Lively made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2015 Regular Council Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Council President Carr, unanimously approved.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**MAYOR'S REMARKS**

Mayor Goodgame said he really appreciates the stories told by Pam Spears during the invocation and especially the one about vision.

Mayor Goodgame thanked the Council and city staff for all their help and hard work. He said this has been a wonderful Council to work with and he hopes they all run again.

Ray Becker, who serves on the Rabun County Water and Sewer Authority Board, fell and broke two bones and had to have surgery. He asked everyone to keep the Beckers in their prayers.

We are still working on cell service. We have contacted a company regarding the mini cell network, and we did not hear back from them so we will contact someone else. He has not heard back from Verizon despite sending many emails.

There was a great cabaret performance at the Sky Valley Club last week.

**COUNCIL REMARKS**

Councilor Howard said the City looks beautiful and he greatly appreciates all the work the city employees do. He said he has heard a few people say it is hard to open the door on the garbage compactor. City Manager Lapeyrouse explained how to open the door.

Councilor Larsen and Councilor Lively both said they enjoyed the cabaret performance at the Club.

Council President Carr said a resident asked if we could put pictures of all the city employees on the website. City Manager Lapeyrouse said we could work on that.

#### **CITY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORTS – EXCEPTIONS AND QUESTIONS**

City Manager Lapeyrouse reminded everyone about the personal transportation vehicle, PTV, regulations.

City Manager Lapeyrouse said that we are having trouble with underground garbage cans being in disrepair. If the liner is no longer functional, please discontinue using them. When the liner doesn't come out of the can, our garbage collectors are having trouble because when they try to remove the bags from the can, they rip and garbage scatters making a mess for them to clean.

Marketing Director Gurley reported that she was hired by the City in April for 20 hours a week. In addition to implementing the City's marketing plan, she is responsible for coordinating volunteers for the visitor center. She has been working with the Tourism Development Authority on the Skywalk Celebration and has been staffing some of the events. She said it is a huge event for the County, bringing in people from all over the Southeast.

Rabun County was named the Farm to Table Capital of Georgia.

Gurley said that the recent Beer Festival and 5K were a success, and it was a great day. The beer representatives, runners, and beer festival attendees were all very pleased with the event and said they hope we have it again. We are also in full swing working on the FallFest.

Gurley said that she is sending a monthly email with local events in Sky Valley, Rabun County and surrounding areas. We have a very high open rate, and the emails really help drive traffic to the City and Club website. She spoke about the different visitors that have been in and added that the most requested information is about waterfalls.

Gurley announced that we have an Explore Rabun frame at the waterfall so people can take their picture with the frame at the waterfall.

Gurley said that we also get leads from the Northeast Georgia Travel Association. This is a website where people can request information, and it is forwarded to us allowing us to mail information about our upcoming events and things to do in Sky Valley.

Gurley said that she knows our efforts are working. She relayed a story of how someone saw an ad for the Craft Beer Festival in Atlanta and came to spend the weekend.

Don Haney asked how many visitors we are having at the Visitor Center. She said we are averaging five a day. A resident asked if we are partnering with other people. Gurley said that we have brochures for local activities such as the zipline, rafting, waterfall and hiking guides. We are working to gather menus from local restaurants and to partner with other destinations.

Mayor Goodgame said he was asked if the beer festival was the type of event that would hit our target market. He said that he was there all day, and there were people of all ages there, and most of the people he saw were not from Sky Valley which is exactly what we want.

Mayor Goodgame said that our next focused marketing is to work on partnering with surrounding locations such as Heaven's Landing and local restaurants.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Windstream Memorandum of Understanding – Easement

City Manager Lapeyrouse said this is the final agreement that includes an official survey. Councilor Greene made a motion to approve the Windstream easement, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Larsen. Council President Carr expressed concern with the green boxes, the service boxes on the rights of way, because some of them are leaning and some are open. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that they seem responsive if we give them specific locations that need addressed. Carr asked if the police could make a list of boxes that need attention when they make their rounds. Councilor Larsen said he noticed they replaced a couple boxes close to his house. The motion approved unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Award Bid for 2015 Paving Project

Mayor Goodgame said that there is a bid sheet in the packets. He explained that after riding around the city with a paving consultant and Councilor Greene, Chair of the Maintenance and Public Works Committee, the priority list was updated and the 2015 priority list was established. Mayor Goodgame said that the bids came in higher than what we had budgeted. He said that after speaking with City Manager Lapeyrouse, he recommends approving Colwell Construction and for us to pave according to our priority list. Councilor Lively made a motion to approve the Colwell bid, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Greene. Councilor Larsen asked about the "X" on the bid tally sheet for Colwell's sub contractor affidavit. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that the affidavit was in their bid package but was not signed. They delivered a signed affidavit so their bid packet is complete. Mayor Goodgame said that he recommends us paving as much as we can in order of our priority list up to and not to exceed the budgeted amount. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Goodgame introduced Clay Fisher, from TruVista. Mr. Fisher said that they have completed the fiber installation. Don Haney asked how many people use TruVista in Sky Valley. Mr. Fisher said that right now, it is around 300 people. They are anticipating new services being made available to consumers by early September. TruVista is operated by Chester Telephone Company. Mayor Goodgame said that an additional benefit of TruVista upgrading to fiber optic

is that it will allow Verizon to install a 4G tower, and for us to install an mini wireless network if we need to.


Ray Brooker asked about the financial report. Mayor Goodgame said that we will have a completed audit for 2014 presented at the July meeting. He explained that we are having some trouble with the new financial software program we switched to last year. We are also posting department reports on the website and not reading them at the meetings.

Rebecca Dean asked if there is any way we can have the covered bridge area on Hwy 246 cleaned. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that she did send a letter to the property owner requesting an agreement to allow the city to maintain it and make it safe and she has not heard back from them.

Councilor Larsen said there is a cable along the side of the 10<sup>th</sup> fairway that goes up to Valley View. He thinks it was a television cable. Mr. Fisher said he will look at it on his way out and will let us know if it what type of cable it is.

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

Respectfully submitted:

  
Hugh Goodgame, Mayor

Attested:

  
Mandi Cantrett, City Clerk