

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
JULY 15, 2013
MONDAY, 2:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

MINUTES

Council President Howard called the meeting to order.

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

Hays Howard gave the invocation. Council President Howard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections or additions to the minutes of the June 17, 2013 Regular Council Meeting, the minutes stand approved.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councilor Whatley asked to add two items to the agenda, update on the lodge and information kiosk. There being no other additions to the agenda, the agenda stands adopted.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

COUNCIL REMARKS

Council President Howard thanked the police for their response to a call at the Club. He said Officer Baumes was on patrol. He addressed concerns over the response time and explained how the police procedure works. The officers leave flags in the roads from the entrance to the incident location. He said the officer was on site within five minutes and the first responders were there within 12 minutes.

Connie Larsen thanked the police department for their fast response to a call at her house and for their help.

Council President Howard read a letter from Citizen Bill Otis regarding the old lodge. This letter is hereby incorporated by reference and attached hereto.

Council President Howard said that he spoke to Mayor Martindale before he left for his trip regarding an information kiosk at the overlook. He reported that he is gathering information on this and will report back at a future meeting. Mr. Merrill had told Mayor Martindale that he has a price from Tom Adams regarding the demolition of the lodge. Mayor Martindale had not heard back from Mr. Merrill since trying to contact him last week on Wednesday. Council President Howard asked Attorney Dickerson for legal advice on how to proceed with this issue of the demolition of the lodge.

Councilor Carr reported that she attended the annual Georgia Municipal Association convention in Savannah. She attended a class called Taxation 101 and the district caucus luncheon.

Councilor Platt said she has received several phone calls from summer residents with complaints about Windstream, the local phone and internet provider. She said that they feel they are being treated

differently than fulltime residents by the company. Council President Howard said that his internet went out Sunday, and he called them. He said the earliest response time he received was this Friday afternoon. The Windstream representative said that the response calls are computer generated. Councilor Whatley said that TruVista (the local cable company) said they were adding internet service.

Councilor Whatley said that after the last meeting he met with Bill Futral from Macon County regarding the mutual aid agreement with Macon County. Mr. Futral will present the agreement to the Macon County Commission and follow up with the Sheriff. Councilor Whatley said that he will continue to follow up on this.

Councilor Larsen thanked everyone for all the cards and calls with well wishes for his recovery.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief's Report – given by Chief Dills

Chief Dills showed and explained how the police department leads emergency responders to a location in the city. They use bundles of pink ribbons laid in the road. He asked that if anyone sees these in the road, to leave them. The police department will remove them after the call.

City Financial Report – given by City Clerk Cantrell

Tax Commissioner's Report – given by Tax Commissioner Mullins

Building Inspector's Report – given by City Manager Lapeyrouse

City Manager's Report – given by City Manager Lapeyrouse

Councilor Carr thanked the City for putting an extra truck at the dump site for the July 4th holiday weekend.

Citizen Ray Becker asked if the water department knew that the Club would loan them a golf cart to access well houses from the golf cart path instead of a truck. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that they were aware of it and are working to reallocate vehicles so that a smaller truck can be used at times. She said that sometimes, such as delivering chemicals, or if a pump has to be pulled that a larger truck has to be used.

POA REPORT – President Sam LaMonte

Mr. LaMonte reported on the 4th of July events. With the weather, they had to cancel the fireworks. They would like to have the fireworks over Labor Day weekend, on Sunday, September 1. He said the tentative plan is for a dinner to be provided from the Club, and they will get details out as soon as possible. He said he will work with the City and the Club regarding this event and would like to have some joint advertisements.

The POA's Beautification Committee has come up with a list of priorities. He reported that they are working on a proposal for the entrance and will present it to the City as soon as possible. There are so many signs at the entrance, and they wonder if the event announcement signs can be placed farther back from the road. There are several signs at the intersection of Highway 106 and Old Mud Creek at the Junction store in North Carolina. Discussion followed regarding how and who can help with this.

Mr. LaMonte asked about the waterway and property across from the postal facility. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that the City does have an 80-foot right of way, however we would have to have a survey done to know exactly where the City's right of way ends and Mr. Merrill's property line begins.

Mr. LaMonte asked about the shrubs along the road at Valley View condos. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that their board needed to meet to make a decision as to if they were going to remove the hedges completely or cut them back.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ratify approval of:
 - Paving contract award to Allied Paving

Councilor Whatley asked if the contract total included funds from the County, and if we are expecting the \$60,000 over what we had budgeted to come from the County. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that the County will give us that amount after the project is completed.

Citizen Pamela Greene on Rebel Circle said that Rebel Circle is in horrible shape, the asphalt is falling away, and it is a bad welcome to the City.

Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

- MOU whereby Allied will do repairs to Sugarbush

City Manager Lapeyrouse presented the agreement. Allied is to provide the labor and the City will pay for the asphalt.

Citizen Pamela Greene on Rebel Circle said there is a house on Rebel Circle with a yellow tape around it. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that she will check on that and report back at the next meeting.

Citizen David Carr said that the water runoff from Bald Mountain and Rebel Circle is what is destroying the road and damaging homes. He said that Rebel Circle is a disgrace. City Manager Lapeyrouse said the roads department is working to address drainage problems. She said that drainage issues were not addressed for a long time, but that they are working to repair the most serious issues now and will address the others during the cold season.

Citizen Pamela Greene said there are also two large dead hemlock trees on Rebel Circle. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that she would look at the trees to determine if they were on the right of way or on personal property.

Councilor Whatley said that with the previous SPLOST funds, the City spent the entire funds received on water system improvements. He said that at the same time, the City came up with a road resurfacing schedule and are now following that schedule.

Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

- Structural change to sign on Hwy 106 to remove the roof
- Lease agreement for sign

Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve both, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

Citizen David Carr asked if we are violating the sunshine law by doing business by email. Attorney Dickerson said that when the Council votes to ratify they are confirming the sunshine law.

- Approval of Ordinance to allow the sale of alcoholic beverages under limited circumstances

Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve the temporary license ordinances for both catering off-site and for non-profit organizations, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

Citizen Helen Kleiber thanked the City for approval.

- Information kiosk at the overlook.

Council President Howard said the expenditure is less than \$500. Councilor Carr asked if the location has been set and who is going to maintain it. Council President Howard said that he would like to approve the funding before he requested plans. Councilor Whatley asked if it is a legal use of city funds for this building on private property. Attorney Dickerson said that it is and that we will need an MOA with the property owner. Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve the expenditure pending plans. After discussion Council President suggested to postpone the item until the next meeting. Councilor Platt made a motion to postpone, 2nd Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved. POA President LaMonte said that this will be a great opportunity for the POA, the Club, and the City to work together. Councilor Carr said the Club should be involved with this decision.

Demolition of lodge – Councilor Whatley said that Attorney Dickerson was preparing the City to proceed with the necessary steps to condemn the lodge if Merrill doesn't follow through with demolition.

Bill Otis's letter – City Manager Lapeyrouse said that demolition will include the building and the concrete slab, but does not include the parking lot.

Linda Durrence said that several years ago, she was contacted by people who offered to tear the building down to reclaim the wood. She said she referred those people to Mr. Merrill. Councilor Whatley said that because Mr. Merrill took so much of the interior wood for other projects, he is not sure if there is enough left for people to reclaim.

Citizen David Carr said that he was able to attend the GMA convention with his wife, Councilor Carr, and attended the district caucus lunch with her. He said they spoke with the Mayor of the City of Helen who said they got over two million visitors last year. Councilor Whatley encouraged people to put pressure on the County Commission and the cities of Clayton and Dillard to support the Conventions and Visitors Bureau.

George Shearon asked if the City is making plans to take care of employees with the implementation of "Obamacare". City Manager Lapeyrouse said that we have less than 50 employees so we will not be subject to these changes. Mr. Shearon said that he is concerned with rising costs of health insurance.

Mr. Shearon asked if the City ever gave a list of property owners to the POA. Councilor Platt said that she has a list of every homeowner in the City. She has gone through the list, and they are planning to contact the non-members of the POA to encourage joining.

Mr. Shearon asked why a contractor cannot pull a permit from the City. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that if the contractor is licensed, they can pull the permit. If the homeowner chooses an unlicensed contractor, the homeowner is responsible for the permit. It is always the homeowner's responsibility to make sure they have a permit.

- Lighting Grant – Christine LaMonte
Postponed until the next meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Helen Kleiber said that the month of August is full of activities for the Sid Weber Memorial Cancer Fund. She encouraged people to support these activities and said she could be contacted for more information.

Helen Kleiber asked about the return envelope in the water bills, and if there is a way to not have to send the envelope.

Councilor Whatley said that the City's health insurance is through the Georgia Municipal Association and therefore is grandfathered into the plan. He said that there is no way to control the cost increases. Dick Parrott said that at 7:30 this morning there was a momma bear and two cubs trying to get into the dumpster at the tractor shed.

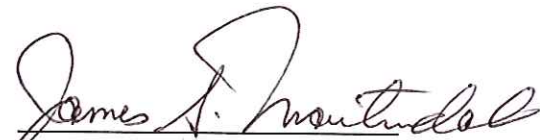
Ray Becker reported on a meeting of the Rabun County Water and Sewer Authority. He said that it will be very difficult to unify.

Bill Otis thanked Council President Howard for reading the letter. He said that he would like to see the parking lot be removed along with the lodge building.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Whatley made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:


James Martindale, Mayor

Attested:


Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk