

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
MAY 20, 2013
MONDAY, 2:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

MINUTES

Mayor Martindale called the meeting to order.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2013 Regular Council Meeting, 2nd Council President Howard, unanimously approved.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Martindale thanked everyone who helped with the cleanup day on Friday, May 17th. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Council President Howard said it was good to see the larger audience and welcomed back the summer residents. He thanked the Sky Valley Club for painting the sign on Highway 246. He added that the City's sign at the entrance needs a new coat of paint.

Councilor Carr said that she would like to see the signage follow the lead of the Club in the future and would like to see discussion of signs on the next agenda.

Citizen Sam LaMonte asked about the sign saying "Public Welcome" when the club is private. Councilor Larsen said the Club is working on that. Larsen gave an update on the Club and said they are having a grand opening on June 1st.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Georgia Forestry Commission – FireWise Community Presentation

A presentation was given by the Commission. Currently about 28 communities in GA and 900 nationwide are recognized as FireWise Communities. One benefit of this program is that it opens doors for services and grants from the USDA Forest Service.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(a) Police Chief's Report – given by Chief Dills

- (b) City Financial Report – given by City Clerk Cantrell
- (c) Tax Commissioner’s Report – given by Tax Commissioner Mullins
- (d) Building Inspector’s Report – given by City Clerk Cantrell
- (e) City Manager’s Report – given by City Clerk Cantrell

These reports are hereby incorporated by reference and attached hereto as Exhibits A – E.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ratify approval of:
 - Resolution Declaring 2006 Ford F-350 as Surplus Property
Councilor Whatley made a motion to ratify approval of the Resolution, 2nd Council President Howard, unanimously approved.
 - High bid on 2004 Ford F-650
Council President Howard made a motion to accept the high bid of \$25,549, 2nd Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.
 - High bid on 2006 Ford F-350
Councilor Whatley made a motion to accept the high bid of \$18,000, 2nd Council President Howard, unanimously approved.
 - Purchase of 2010 Toyota Tundra
Councilor Larsen made a motion to approve the purchase in the amount of \$ 20,999, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

- Joint workshop with Sky Valley POA

Citizen Sam LaMonte gave a report from the POA. He said that with the Sky Valley Club taking over the social activities and events, it will help the POA represent the non-voting residents of Sky Valley to the City. He said his goal is for everyone to work together. With the 2013 membership dues, the POA sent out a questionnaire regarding concerns around the City. The items of concern are: beautification, joint committees of the POA, Garden Club, and City, website coordination, newsletters, sewer, attendance at Council and POA meetings, and how the POA can assist the City.

Mayor Martindale said that he spoke to Gladys regarding the water wheel area in front of the Mountain Junction store. She said she did not want to sell the property but that she is open to the idea of the City maintaining the area.

Discussion followed about consolidated water and sewer system and as to whether or not this will be in the best interest of the City.

The Sky Valley POA welcome back party is June 9th. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is also performing at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School that day.

- Discussion of fee for emergency relief fund on water bills

Mayor Martindale asked if the Council wanted to pursue creating an emergency fund. Tax Commissioner Mullins stated that water meters are read twice a month. If someone’s water is running for 23 out of 24 hours, it alerts the system that there is a leak. Water loss through meters has gone down a great deal since installation of the new meters and homeowner shut-off valves. Discussion followed as to whether or not the City should charge an additional fee to create the emergency fund. No decision was made.

- Approval of contribution to Sky Valley Garden Club for fall decorations
Councilor Whatley made a motion to contribute \$500, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

- Approval of Quitclaim Deed – Kirkman
Council President Howard made a motion to approve the quitclaim deed, 2nd Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

- Discussion of County conducting City's elections
Citizen David Carr said that every other city except Sky Valley and Tallulah Falls are using the County to conduct their elections. He said that Sky Valley does not have the elections properly staffed. Mayor Martindale asked Attorney Dickerson to report at the next meeting regarding staffing of the election.

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Citizen George Shearon said that he would like Sky Valley to be known as a city that is helpful to everyone. He expressed concern over the building inspection process. He said the old lodge is a fire hazard. Discussion followed about the building code, permitting process, and that for the City to enforce any of the building codes, it is required to enforce all of the codes.

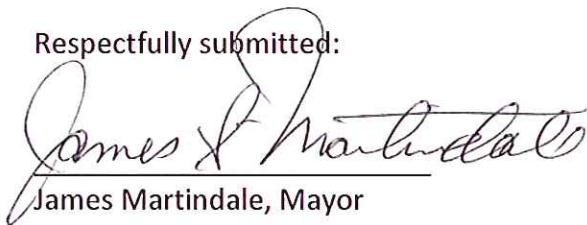
Citizen Ray Becker said that once a week garbage collection is sufficient, and it encourages people to recycle. He recommended keeping once a week garbage collection year round to allow employees more time to mow during summer months.

Citizen Milt Gillespie invited the City to hold the next council meeting at the Club.

Councilor Carr announced that the Sky Valley Garden Club is meeting tomorrow at 10:00 AM.

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

Respectfully submitted:



James Martindale, Mayor

Attested:



Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk