

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
JULY 17, 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 Linda Smith, Tax Commissioner Mullins, and Chief Scott Dills.

Lynn Becker gave the invocation. Mayor Martindale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Howard made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2012 Regular Council Meeting, 2nd Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved. Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2012 Public Hearing, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved. The July 6, 2012 minutes were not completed and were postponed.

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

MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed back resident Richard Butt who was in attendance in the audience.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Council President Howard said he appreciated the three people coming to the meeting. He suggested that signs be placed to show meeting date and time to get more attendance.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- (a) Police Chief's Report –given by Chief Dills
- (b) City Financial Report – given by City Manager Smith – Questions arose related to the Water Capital Reserves balance account. City Manager Smith will ask City Clerk Cantrell to provide a written explanation.
- (c) Tax Commissioner's Report – given by Tax Commissioner Mullins

Tax Commissioner Mullins said there would be a tax sale held in October 2012. Tax Commissioner Mullins stated that she has had many requests from utility customers to offer online bill pay. She received a quote from QS1, the utility billing software company, and stated that the software included to offer online bill pay would cost the City an additional \$75.00 per

month and the customer would incur a convenience fee of \$3.00 for every payment made online. After discussion of not wanting to add additional costs for software, Council asked staff to look into the possibility of accepting credit cards.

(d) Building Inspector's Report – given by City Manager Smith

(e) City Manager's Report – given by City Manager Smith

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

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Presentation of 2011 Audit – Jay Green

Mr. Green said he was pleased to present a clean opinion and commended the City for doing a good job maintaining records. He said that property taxes were down \$100,000 due to evaluations decreasing.

- Approval of 2011 Audit

Councilor Platt made a motion to approve the 2011 Audit, 2nd Councilor Larsen, unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Sky Valley Lodge Report

Mayor Martindale said he had a very cordial conversation with Mr. Merrill concerning the condition of the old lodge. Mayor Martindale had asked Merrill for a guarantee that he would tear the lodge down if it did not sell within the next six months. Merrill said he was talking to potential buyers, but if it did not sell within a year, he would tear it down. Mayor Martindale said he followed up their conversation with a letter asking Merrill to do some repairs to the lodge and included pictures showing the condition of the outside of the building and surrounding area. He has not yet heard back from him. Councilor Boyle made a motion to give Merrill a year to either repair or remove the lodge by July 1, 2013, 2nd Council President Howard. Lynn Becker said she had pictures of the inside of the building from ten months ago. Mayor Martindale said he would rather send updated pictures and if Merrill would give permission he would take pictures of the inside to send him. Councilor Boyle amended his motion to give Merrill until July 1, 2013 to tear down or sell the lodge, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved. Councilor Whatley asked Attorney Dickerson what needed to be done to get the current nuisance abatement ordinance repealed and adopt the state process that he has recommended. Attorney Dickerson said we would need a ZPL hearing. He said the Planning and Zoning Commission would need to look at it. Councilor Boyle asked if the changes could take place next month. Attorney Dickerson said it could not take place next month but possibly in September or October after it has been submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission and a ZPL hearing has been held. Mayor Martindale said to set up P & Z for this.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of Right-of-Way encroachment permit for permanent structure in cul-de-sac of McClure Lane – requested by Al Lee

City Manager Smith said that the City did not receive any additional information from Mr. Lee regarding costs. She recommended either approving the project without City participation in the cost or postponing the request until we get the additional information. Councilor Whatley made a motion to table this item until the August Regular Council Meeting, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

- Ratify approval of variance request and right-of-way encroachment at 89 View Lane

Councilor Platt made a motion to approve the request and right-of-way encroachment at 89 View Lane, 2nd Councilor Larsen. Councilor Whatley said it should be included in the motion that the City deed the property to them so we don't have any liability for what they build on this property. Attorney Dickerson said there is a provision that specifically allows the City to do so. Councilor Platt amended her motion to approve the request and deed the property to the owners at 89 View Lane, 2nd Councilor Larsen, unanimously approved.

- Ratify approval of Amendment to Sign Ordinance – For Sale Signs

Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve the Amendment to Sign Ordinance – For Sale Signs, 2nd Council President Howard, unanimously approved.

- Garden Club Request for Funding

Councilor Platt made a motion to approve the Garden Club Request of \$500 for hay bales, 2nd Councilor Boyle, unanimously approved.

- Review of front entrance landscaping agreement

Councilor Whatley made a motion to table this item in order to get annual expenditures and consult with Al Lee and the Beautification Committee, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

- Discussion of Cell Tower

Councilor Larsen asked what progress was being made and who is handling this. Council President Howard said he gave the assignment to Richard Butt. Richard Butt said he had looked into it and talked with Georgia Power and if they had their cooperation we could attach the cell phone equipment to their tower but has had no support. City Manager Smith said in past years we have asked different companies to place a dish or tower here in Sky Valley but those companies have said there are not enough people here to support it. We will keep trying. Councilor Whatley asked Council President Howard to also look into fiber optics.

- Discussion of intersection of Hwy 441 & Hwy 246

Councilor Larsen said he had received calls and emails concerning the intersection of Highway 441 and Highway 246 but did not understand the changes made at the intersection. Mayor

Martindale said he would talk to Dillard Mayor Bill Robinson about a joint project for this intersection.

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Meetings when any agency is discussing the future acquisition of real estate. O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4).

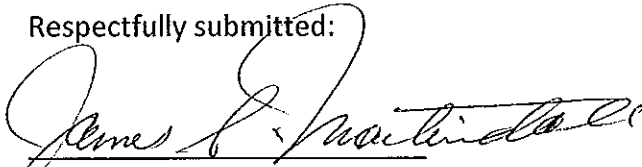
Councilor Platt made a motion to go into executive session to discuss future acquisition of real estate, 2nd Councilor Boyle, unanimously approved.

Councilor Boyle made a motion to reconvene regular session, 2nd Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:



James Martindale, Mayor

Attested:



Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk