

**SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
JULY 8, 2016
FRIDAY, 4:00 PM
CITY HALL
3444 HIGHWAY 246, SKY VALLEY, GA 30537**

MINUTES

Mayor Goodgame called the meeting to order and explained the purpose of the meeting.

Those present: Mayor Goodgame, Council President Lively, Councilors Carr, Howard, MacNair, and Steil, City Manager Lapeyrouse, Chief Mason, and City Clerk Cantrell.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of Police Vehicle Purchase

Council President Lively made a motion to approve the proposal from Gerald Jones Subaru for four Subaru Foresters, 2nd Councilor Steil.

Mayor Goodgame said that Gerald Jones Subaru brought two vehicles for us to test drive around the City. He said they did great going up the steep roads, and he also said that it is very common to use Subarus in mountainous areas that have a lot of snow and ice.

Councilor Carr said that she has received a lot of feedback and that it seems the concerns people have are will the new vehicles allow us to offer a better service and how they will be funded. She said there is a definite need for new police vehicles.

Council President Lively said that the Subarus are much nicer looking and give the department a friendlier look than more typical police vehicles in our area.

Councilor Steil said that we need to have good, reliable vehicles, and that we need to get out of the rut of buying used vehicles. By purchasing the new ones, they will be under warranty and we should also be able to save on repairs.

Councilor MacNair said that we cannot compare the current repair and maintenance budget to what it would be on new vehicles. He said that he agrees we need new vehicles, and that he believes two is enough because only one will be used at a time.

Mayor Goodgame said that the officers have agreed to forego their \$100 per month vehicle allowance if we get four cars so that they are each assigned one vehicle. That saves the city around \$5,000 per year.

Chief Mason said that studies show pooled vehicles aren't taken care of as well as vehicles assigned individually. If we get two cars, that means each car will be on the road 12 hours at a time every day.

Councilor Howard thanked citizen Paul Wheeler for asking questions. He said that he is not debating the number of vehicles to purchase. He is concerned because he had asked for a time that the Council could get together and ask questions to better understand the proposal and make a decision. He said that he got an email yesterday asking to meet today.

City Manager Lapeyrouse said she sent the vehicle quotes to the Council as she received them. Mayor Goodgame said that we have complied with the motion made in May.

Citizen Steve Brett said that when Jeff Harris was here as chief, we had take-home cars for police officers. Later, instead of take-home cars, officers were given a car allowance. He said he is not suggesting take-home cars again, but that he does support each officer being assigned a vehicle because that creates ownership. Some discussion followed in support of each officer being assigned a car.

City Manager Lapeyrouse said the cars will have two years of free maintenance and a three year bumper to bumper warranty. For the maintenance to be free, it does have to be done at a Subaru dealership. Mayor Goodgame said that he did also look at Fords and Chevrolets, and they are much more expensive.

Citizen Bill Gortney said that in his experience, when the government is holding a meeting at 4:00 PM on a Friday, something sneaky is going on.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Goodgame called for the vote. The motion carried 5:1 with Mayor Goodgame, Councilors Carr, Howard, Lively, and Steil voting aye and Councilor MacNair voting nay.

Mayor Goodgame apologized for having to meet at this time and explained that we have been working on this for four months and that the proposals are only good for a short period of time so we had to meet and make a decision.

Councilor Howard made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:



Hughel Goodgame, Mayor

Attested:


Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk