

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
AUGUST 21, 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 Smith, Chief Dills, City Clerk Cantrell, and Tax Commissioner Mullins.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2012 Special Called Council Meeting and the July 17, 2012 Regular Council Meeting, 2nd Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mayor Martindale asked to add the item Turning Lane from Hwy 441 to Hwy 246 (located in Dillard) to the agenda. Councilor Platt made a motion to adopt the agenda with this amendment, 2nd Councilor Larsen, unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Martindale said that real estate agent Linda Durrence said she has eight homes in Sky Valley under purchasing contracts. He said this is very good news for the city and encouraged everyone to support the Sky Valley Club with the purchase of the golf club and plans for the future of the club house.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Council President Howard thanked City Manager Smith for the signage announcing the Council Meeting. He said the new paving and striping looks very nice. City Manager Smith stated that the roads department will go back and build the shoulders after the asphalt has had time to cure.

Councilor Platt said she thinks the low crime in the City is a big help in attracting new residents and commended the police department for their work. She also believes improvements being made at the County Hospital will help.

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

The Tax Sale will be the first Tuesday in October.

- (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.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Mayor Martindale requested that the contractor be responsible for removing the existing cross ties and be responsible for any unknowns (instead of the City as shown in the proposal), and to bring this item back at the next meeting with a total cost.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of Division 4 Change Order 5 (2010 Water System Improvement Project)

Councilor Platt made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Boyle. Councilor Whatley asked if the total listed on this change order reflects the total paid to the contractor for this project. City Manager said it was. The motion passed unanimously.

- Approval of City Hall Entrance Proposal

City Manager Smith presented the proposal. She said this plan is for the area in front of city hall where the flagpole is located. It would allow us to hang the city hall sign up and also create safe access to the flagpole. Currently, city hall does not have a sign at the road. The cost is \$2,280 for the design plans and \$980 for the survey. If the city requested the engineer to do the lighting design, they said it could be done for an additional \$800. Discussion followed about whether or not this was necessary and about the cost to have the work performed. Councilor Boyle made a motion to approve the design plans and survey. The motion died due to lack of a second. Councilor Howard said that he thinks we need to look at this at the same time we consider moving city hall to the clubhouse location. Councilor Platt made a motion to table this item, 2nd Councilor Larsen, unanimously approved.

- Approval of 2012 General Election Ordinance

City Clerk Cantrell presented the Ordinance. Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

- Resolution to Donate Tasers to Mountain City

Councilor Platt made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Larsen. Councilor Whatley asked if there is any liability for the city once the tasers are given to the City of Mountain City. Attorney Dickerson said there was not. The motion passed unanimously.

- Capital Improvement Projects to Submit for SPLOST Referendum

City Manager Smith said this meeting is to discuss capital outlay projects to be placed on the referendum. Needed projects mentioned are road paving, City Hall construction, and sewer. City Manager Smith said that the County wants the City to tie-in to their sewer system. Councilor Larsen said that we have maxed out the usable land in the valley for septic systems and will need a solution to allow for further growth. Discussion followed about the need for a sewer in the valley floor and possibly in the future on property on Bald Mountain across from Eagle Circle.

Councilor Whatley asked about the County Millage Rate being higher than the City's. Attorney Dickerson said State law is written to allow Counties to have a higher mil rate based on population density. City Manager Smith said that there was a lawsuit between Gwinnet County and the Cities in the County, but that she did not know the outcome. Mayor Martindale asked Attorney Dickerson to keep the City updated on this lawsuit and the litigation.

- Discussion of Proposal to Accept Credit Cards

City Manager Smith presented the information on accepting credit cards. After discussion, the consensus of the Council was that this is an unnecessary expense.

- Schedule Budget Meetings for the FY2013 Budget

Pre-Budget Workshop: Friday, September 7 at 10:00 AM

General Fund Budget Workshop: Friday, September 14 at 1:00 AM

Enterprise Fund Budget Workshop: Tuesday, September 18 immediately following the Regular Meeting

Public Hearing: Thursday, September 27 at 10:00 AM

If additional Public Hearings are needed, they will be on Monday, October 8.

Adoption of the 2013 Budget and Setting the Millage Rate for the 2012 Ad Valorem Taxes will be on the agenda at the October 16 Regular Council Meeting.

- Turning Lane from Hwy 441 to Hwy 246 (located in Dillard)

Mayor Martindale said that DOT will allow the turning lane to be changed back to a Yield and to match the North side turning lane. Mayor Martindale recommended approving this and splitting the \$5,000 cost with Dillard. Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Larsen, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Citizen Ray Becker asked when the big sign for the water project funding can be removed. City Manager Smith said she will ask USDA.

Citizen Ken Smith thanked the City for the beautiful landscaping at the entrance and the lighting.

Citizen John Hoppes asked about the long grass and broken swings at the little park area. Attorney Dickerson said that since it is not city property, the city cannot maintain it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

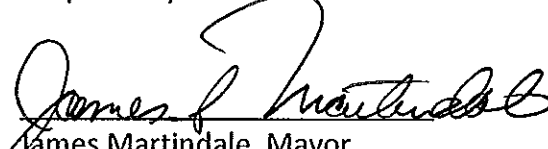
Councilor Platt made a motion to move into executive session to discuss personnel, 2nd Council President Howard, unanimously approved.

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

Councilor Platt made a motion to move forward with preparing contracts for salaried employees, 2nd Boyle, unanimously approved.

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

Respectfully submitted:


James Martindale, Mayor

Attested:


Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk