

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
DECEMBER 16, 2014
TUESDAY, 10:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

MINUTES

Mayor Goodgame called the meeting to order.

Those present: Mayor Goodgame, Council President Larsen, Councilors Carr, Greene, and Howard.

Cathy Turner gave the invocation.

Mayor Goodgame led the Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Greene made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18 Public Hearing, 2nd Council President Larsen, unanimously approved.

Councilor Greene made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20 Regular Meeting, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

Council President Larsen made a motion to adopt the agenda, 2nd Councilor Greene, unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Goodgame said that Gene Haywood, Laura Gurley's father fell and broke his hip and is having surgery this afternoon. He asked for prayers.

The annual party was last night. Milner Lively bartended and provided music. Employee bonuses were given out.

This afternoon at 1:00 PM, we are going to meet at City Hall to pick up litter on Hwy 246. If anyone would like to help, please meet there.

The Maintenance & Public Works Committee has been working diligently on garbage collection options. We started out with 18 options and have narrowed them down to seven. At the last MPW Committee meeting, we had a quorum and several in the audience. The different options were discussed, and the committee and audience agreed that the two best options included installing a small compactor at the tractor barn and the city collecting garbage instead of outsourcing the collection. One option is for the city to collect garbage twice a week, and the other option is to collect garbage once a week and recycling once a week.

There has been some recent clear-cutting, and the Council wanted a way to prevent that from happening and a way to protect native species. He had a conversation with the Building Inspector and City Manager yesterday about what happens when trees are topped. Most of the trees, especially the pine trees, die when topped. He said that we think it would be better to cut the tree down entirely than to top it. It is important for property owners to be able to improve their property, and a view is very important for home values.

Mayor Goodgame said he is very excited about what we are planning for the next year. At the last Marketing Committee meeting, we did decide to host a beer festival over Memorial Day weekend. City Clerk Cantrell is working on the details of the festival. We will also be talking to someone soon regarding being our marketing director. This person has a golf background, and he manages the Georgia Golf Trail. About 10 to 15 percent of the community plays golf, and we have so much more to offer in our area such as tubing, rafting and nearby skiing. We are working to build four events per year. We will also be doing quite a bit of paving in 2015.

Verizon has the cell tower project out to bid right now, and expect bids back in February.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilor Carr wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Howard said he and his wife attended the celebration of life service for Councilor Whatley in Atlanta.

Council President Larsen said that he would like to see some more effort from the community, city, and club to try and get a bed and breakfast facility in Sky Valley. He said that would really help promote everything we have to offer and greatly help with being able to offer stay and play packages.

CITY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORTS – EXCEPTIONS AND QUESTIONS

City Manager Lapeyrouse reported on the city's holiday closing schedule.

Tax bills have been mailed out and are due February 6, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tree Cutting Ordinance – Clear Cutting

Mayor Goodgame presented the Ordinance. Councilor Howard made a motion to approve, 2nd Council President Larsen. Councilor Greene asked about the 10' X 10' area. City Manager Lapeyrouse explained that per the Ordinance, you can cut trees smaller than 8" in diameter at 18" above the ground 60' around your house, and this amendment allows you to cut up to a 10' X 10' area in addition to that. This is to help protect native trees and shrubbery and also to help with soil erosion issues that occur when large areas are cut. The motion passed unanimously.

- 2014 Budget Amendment

Mayor Goodgame presented the budget amendment and explained that it incorporates changes made by council during the year, and that it commits locally restricted funds so that they can be shown as restricted in the audit. Councilor Greene made a motion to approve, 2nd Council President Larsen, unanimously approved.

- Employee Health Insurance

Mayor Goodgame said that healthcare has changed dramatically in recent years. The city has had health insurance through GMA for many years because it was the best group plan option. We have been looking into different options and have narrowed it down to working with an agent who is able to assist us with setting up the individual plans through the exchange. He asked for a motion to approve changing our health insurance adding that this option is also a better price. Councilor Howard made a motion to allow administration to make the decision on cancelling group health insurance and to move forward with a new plan, 2nd Council President Larsen, unanimously approved.

- Garbage Collection - Option

Mayor Goodgame said that we sent out a survey with the two options recommended by the MPW Committee, and based on the Committee's work and the survey results, the best option is for us to do curbside garbage collection once a week and curbside recycle pick-up once a week. Councilor Greene made a motion to move forward with making this change, to install a small compactor, and begin curbside garbage pick-up once a week, and curbside recycle pick-up once a week, 2nd Council President Larsen. Discussion followed about the cost of the compactor and what recyclables will be collected. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that the cost to install the compactor is \$14,160 and the recyclables that we can pick up is dependent on what type of sorting trailer we get. Mayor Goodgame added that we have not yet discussed picking up mixed paper or cardboard. The motion passed unanimously.

- Garbage Collection – Purchase of Equipment Needed for Collection

Mayor Goodgame said that we estimate the garbage truck to be around \$125,000 and \$6,000 for the trailer. The compactor to be installed at the tractor barn is \$14,160, and the dumpsters (to replace existing dumpsters at condo units) are \$7,200. He asked for a motion to purchase these items. Councilor Greene made a motion to approve the purchases, 2nd Council President Larsen, unanimously approved.

- Discussion of Enterprise Fund Depreciation

Mayor Goodgame said that most entities he has been involved with fund depreciation. The city has not funded depreciation. He explained that he feels it is important to fund depreciation, and that is a part of the reason we had a millage increase. In the past several years, fund balance was used to balance the operating budget. We calculated funding depreciation in the garbage options presented. We have not finalized solid waste or water fund budgets. He said that without funding depreciation, we anticipate being able to net around \$30,000 in 2014. He and City Manager Lapeyrouse presented options for funding a portion of depreciation in 2015. Mayor Goodgame asked for a motion to approve increasing the base water rate by 15-percent, this would increase the base rate for single family residential from \$30 to \$34.50. It only increases the base rate; it does not increase the incremental charges for more usage.

Councilor Greene made a motion to approve increasing the base water rate by 15-percent and the 2015 water fund budget based on this rate, 2nd Council President Larsen. Mayor Goodgame said that when he looked at our depreciation schedule, all of the water equipment (not including the system improvements) has been fully depreciated, and we have no funds set aside to replace the equipment. Council President Larsen said that depreciation is a real expense even though you don't see it until you need to replace a vehicle. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Bob MacNair asked when we are going to replace Councilor Whatley's position on Council. Mayor Goodgame said that because there was longer that 12 months left in his term, our Charter states that we will have a special election to fill the vacancy. The special election date is the Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

Al Lee asked when the new garbage system will be implemented. Mayor Goodgame said that we would like to look at the equipment before we purchase it, and our current contract to outsource collection goes through the end of February 2015.

Mayor Goodgame said that we are addressing the problem with the leaf vacuum blowing leaves out the top.

Dee Moore asked if we are planning to use the liquid on the roads this winter. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that we will if the conditions are right for using it.

Councilor Greene asked when the rates we approved go into effect, and when will the garbage service change. City Clerk Cantrell said that the 2015 budget is based on the new rates, and they will be reflected on January billing cycle – the bill received in February. City Manager Lapeyrouse said the contract with Waste-Away for curbside garbage collection goes through February so we anticipate the change in garbage collection to be effective March 1, 2015.

Mayor Goodgame said that since Council has approved the changes to garbage collection and purchasing the equipment, we can go ahead and approve the 2015 garbage budget based on a rate of \$23 per month. Councilor Greene made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

City Clerk Cantrell said that she wanted to thank everyone who is collecting and submitting hotel/motel tax on vacation rentals. We have seen a large increase in revenue from this in 2014, and these funds help with marketing Sky Valley to attract more people. Dee Moore asked if the remittance reports could be submitted quarterly instead of monthly. City Clerk Cantrell said that the State mandates monthly remittance.

Mayor Goodgame said that he has been asked about people having storage sheds on their property. Discussion followed about what the building code requires and if storage sheds should be required to meet the building code. This item will be further researched and discussed later.

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

Respectfully submitted:



Hughel Goodgame, Mayor

Attested:



Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk