

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
MAY 15, 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, City Clerk Cantrell, Officer Edwards, and Tax Commissioner Mullins.

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

Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2012 Regular Council Meeting, 2nd Councilor Platt. Councilor Boyle said in the public forum and general comments section it should state Bill Otis instead of Bill Snow. With this correction, the minutes passed unanimously.

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

SPECIAL GUESTS

Sheriff Frank Andrews gave a report on the bridge replacement on Highway 246. He said the DOT engineer said that they were about four weeks ahead of schedule and hoped to have the bridge completed by the end of the month. He thanked the citizens of Sky Valley for their understanding and cooperation with the detour.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

None.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilor Larsen said that the group of Sky Valley people who made an offer on the golf course and clubhouse property will be closing in two weeks. It will remain a publicly accessible course.

Councilor Howard said the Planning and Economic Development Committee has a meeting this afternoon at 2:00 PM at the Fellowship Hall. A guest speaker will be there to discuss marketing.

Councilor Whatley said that he attended the Regional Commission meeting where an update was given on TSPLOST, Transportation Local Option Sales Tax. He said that if approved, Sky Valley will receive the third largest amount of funds in the County.

Councilor Whatley said the Rabun County Convention and Visitors Bureau had a meeting and thanked City Clerk Cantrell for keeping the RCCVB updated on events in Sky Valley so they can help advertize. He encouraged support of tourism in Rabun County because tourism is the second largest industry in the State. June 16th, the Dillard House is hosting a Honda Goldwing event. Also, on the 16th, the

Clayton Rotary Club is holding their first annual Bike event. Proceeds from the Rotary Club's event will go to scholarship funds for local students.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- (a) Police Chief's Report – given by Office Edwards
- (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 Manager Smith
- (e) City Manager's Report – given by City Manager Smith

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Update on Building Authority

Attorney Dickerson said that at the last meeting he had reported that the Bill had been presented to the House and Senate. He said that after the last council meeting, he heard from Representative Allison that he did not submit the Bill and that he will submit a written explanation. Attorney Dickerson said to date, he has not received the written explanation. Attorney Dickerson said that the City can approve this with local legislation and that it will not need approval by the State. Attorney Dickerson said that if done by local legislation, it would be a Development Authority instead of a Building Authority. The City will have to pledge full faith and credit of the City to issue a revenue bond or general obligation bond. Mayor Martindale said he wants to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting so the Council can discuss whether or not the City wants to pursue a Development Authority.

NEW BUSINESS

- Declaration of 2000 Chevrolet 2500 as Surplus Property

City Manager Smith recommended that we surplus this truck and find a replacement. She said that the truck is under-sized for how it is used. Councilor Boyle made a motion to declare the truck surplus, 2nd Councilor Platt. Councilor Whatley asked if we knew what it would cost to replace the truck. City Manager Smith said that we would purchase a new truck under a lease-purchase agreement and pay for it over three to four years. The motion passed unanimously.

- Approval of 2012 Resurfacing Project

City Manager Smith presented the two bids received for the 2012 resurfacing project from Coldwell Construction Company and Allied Paving. She is still waiting to see if the asphalt company will offer a better price than their currently posted price if the City purchases directly from them. She said the drainage work included in the bid on Saddleback will need further discussion as the engineers are looking at alternatives, and she thinks some of the problem may be because of gravel from driveways washing into the road. Councilor Whatley asked if the contract guaranteed all the roads listed will be paved. City Manager Smith said that we give a prioritized list to the contractor, and they work from that list. Discussion followed about the leveling, top-coating, and what happened with the asphalt on West Sugarbush being too thin from our last project. Councilor Howard asked about inspection to make sure the contractors do what they are supposed to do. City Manager Smith said that there is no engineering inspection or approvals required by the contract. She said that bid requires compaction testing by the contractor to be provided to the City. Councilor Whatley asked if he has a conflict of interest because his property is involved with the Saddleback drainage work. Attorney Dickerson said

that he does not have a conflict as long as he announces the situation. Mayor Martindale asked City Manager Smith to require the contractor explain how they will perform and submit the compaction testing to the City.

Councilor Boyle made a motion to approve the bid by Coldwell Construction of \$387,110.39 with Saddleback drainage as an alternate, 2nd Councilor Platt. The motion passed unanimously. Councilor Whatley withheld from voting.

- Discussion of Well House Roofing Options

City Manager Smith presented prices for shingles on well houses 6 and 7. Councilor Larsen made a motion to approve the cedar shakes, 2nd Councilor Boyle, unanimously approved.

- Sky Valley Lodge Report

City Manager Smith presented Building Inspector O'Donovan's report on the old lodge, 696 Sky Valley Way. Councilor Howard said no action has been taken since the original report done in 2010. City Manager Smith said that the City has not cited the owner because the City was being told that there was possible interest in purchasing the lodge. The City is able to issue citations at this point. Councilor Larsen made a motion to postpone this item until the June meeting, 2nd Councilor Platt. Councilor Whatley asked Attorney Dickerson to review the ordinance and giving a step-by-step guide to the Council before the next meeting on how to proceed. The motion to postpone passed unanimously.

- Approval of Tasers

Councilor Platt said that at the gun safety course, she found out information on types of tasers used by other departments in the County. She said the tasers used by our officers are larger and older. She presented a proposal for three tasers and recommended approval of the purchase. She said this taser is much safer than the one we currently used. Councilor Platt made a motion to approve the purchase of three tasers and necessary equipment, 2nd Councilor Boyle. Sheriff Andrews said the Sheriff's Department uses the X26 taser, and he is in favor this option. Councilor Whatley asked if this expenditure was in the 2012 budget. City Manager Smith said it is not in the operating budget and approval requires a budget amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion of Tree Ordinance

Councilor Howard said the Tree Ordinance is several years old, and he does not think a violation of the ordinance should require a court visit. Councilor Howard made a motion to schedule a workshop to review the Tree-Cutting Ordinance, 2nd Councilor Platt. Councilor Boyle said that he supports a review of the Ordinance but he thinks it should not be changed substantially. The motion to hold a workshop passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Citizen Milt Gillespie said that there is a lot of enthusiasm and excitement over the group formed to purchase the golf course and clubhouse. He said that he does not feel Sky Valley is a very welcoming community. There are too many permits required, and the City is becoming over-bearing. He asked if the City is reveling in the fact that we are enforcing all these rules. Councilor Whatley made a motion to add to the workshop for the Tree Ordinance, discussion of the permits required.

Citizen Milt Gillespie said that he does not like seeing the police officers parked in driveways. He said that we need to be a welcoming community, and he does not want to see the City citing people. He said that this is a great community, and he wants to see it be better.

Citizen Al Lee said that he wonders if the City requires a permit to change out a hot water heater is because the City does not give people credit for having the ability to hire a professional.

After discussion, Councilor Howard seconded the motion to hold a workshop to discuss permits required by the City. The motion passed unanimously. This discussion will be added to the workshop agenda along with discussion of the Tree Ordinance.

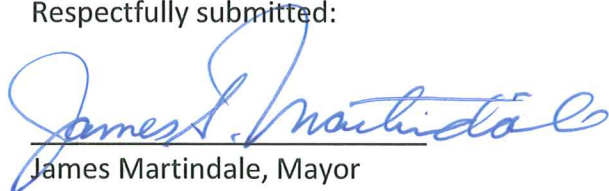
Citizen Ray Becker said that he was curious about why the letters were painted on the entrance sign and not the golfer. City Manager Smith said that she was waiting on feedback on whether or not people liked the color of the letters before painting the golfer.

City Manager Smith said that while painting the postal facility, the bays will be blocked off the rest of the week because they have to use the bucket truck and we do not want to drip paint on someone's car or have someone drive under the bucket.

Duke Croxton, developer of Bear Trace Subdivision, said that he encourages Sky Valley to be more welcoming.

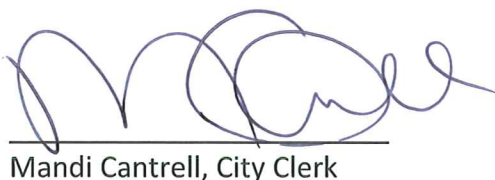
Councilor Whatley made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Councilor Howard, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:



James Martindale, Mayor

Attested:



Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk