

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2013  
MONDAY, 2:00 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

**MINUTES**

Mayor Martindale called the meeting to order.

Those present: Mayor Martindale, Council President Howard, Councilors Carr, Larsen, Platt, and Whatley, Attorney Dickerson, City Manager Lapeyrouse, City Clerk Cantrell, Chief Dills, and Tax Commissioner Mullins.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilor Larsen made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2013 Regular Council Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Councilor Platt asked to amend the agenda to include discussion of police EMT training and to allow Mr. Gortney to speak. Councilor Larsen asked to add an update on the situation with the old lodge. City Manager Lapeyrouse asked to add approval of purchase of the vacuum truck. Councilor Larsen made a motion to adopt the agenda with these additions, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

**MAYOR'S REMARKS**

Mayor Martindale thanked the candidates who have stepped up to run for office. Incumbents Bob Larsen and David Whatley and newcomer Martin Greene are running for Council and are unopposed, so they will all serve. Hughel Goodgame and current Councilmember Maureen Platt are running for Mayor. He said that he is not running again as he believes six years is long enough for one person.

**COUNCIL REMARKS**

Council President Howard said he received a nice email from Joyce Horton regarding the hay bales addressing lighting and grass cutting around the bales. He said that he believed the City will take care of this. Ms. Horton thanked the City for the \$500 contribution and the city staff for their time in assisting with putting them out and picking them up.

Councilor Carr asked City Manager Lapeyrouse to look at a spot on Overlook. City Manager Lapeyrouse said she will look at Overlook and see if it is something we can patch.

Councilor Larsen said that he wanted to address some financial trouble rumors floating around about the Club stating that they were in no financial trouble adding that they will open for the season in April. Councilor Whatley asked Councilor Larsen if he wanted to address the rumor regarding the Club and Timeshare office relationship. Councilor Larsen said that he believes everything will be worked out over the winter.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief's Report – given by Chief Dills

City Financial Report – given by City Clerk Cantrell

Tax Commissioner's Report – given by Tax Commissioner Mullins

Councilor Whatley made a motion to eliminate delinquent personal property taxes for the years 2009, 2010, 2<sup>nd</sup> Council President Howard, unanimously approved.

Building Inspector's Report – given by City Manager Lapeyrouse

City Manager's Report – given by City Manager Lapeyrouse

City Manager Lapeyrouse discussed concerns with the chipping service and the small yard debris, vines, thorn bushes, shrubbery that people have been placing next to the street for the City's chipping service. Councilor Whatley recommended making a flyer that shows what can and cannot be chipped.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Front Entrance Landscaping

City Manager Lapeyrouse said that the POA has approved funding to redo some of the landscaping at the entrance. Christine Lamonte, POA, presented the landscaping plan to replace the mulch with grass and to add some small, native plants where there is limited landscaping. She said any plants removed from the entrance will be moved and used elsewhere. The main area to be redesigned is the front of the sign. The Maple tree will remain, and they will try to save the dogwood trees to use elsewhere (one of the dogwood trees is diseased). She said the POA has approved \$2,500 for funding. Councilor Carr said that she has been very pleased with the current landscaper, Jim Wells. Councilor Larsen made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

- Information Kiosk

Councilor Carr made a motion to postpone, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

- Post Office Park

City Manager Lapeyrouse presented information on adding a pavilion park beside the post office facility. She said the City does have \$49,000 in reserves for building purposes. Councilor Whatley made a motion to move forward with the preliminary steps to find a design and receive pricing, 2<sup>nd</sup> Council President Howard. Councilor Carr asked what parks the city is currently in control of. Mayor Martindale said the City does not currently have possession of any parks. The motion to move forward passed unanimously.

Councilor Whatley suggested an annual lease to the club for the sign at the front entrance. This will be placed on next month's agenda.

- Discussion of EMT Training for Police Department

Councilor Platt made a motion to establish a training program for the police department to receive EMT training, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Carr. Chief Dills said that when he first came to Sky Valley, one of the ideas was to place an ambulance in service in the city; however this is not very practical. He said that instead, each officer can receive training to be certified as EMTs. There are two options for this: one option is \$1,500 per person at North Georgia Tech, the other option is for the training to be done locally in the County by Trampes Stancil, a state certified trainer. Mayor Martindale said we need to know how much it's going to cost before it can be approved. Councilor Platt said that if you have a major medical emergency, you need trained EMT's to respond. Council President Howard said the

Council is for the training, he is concerned with who is doing training and how training is done. Councilor Platt withdrew her motion. More information will be obtained.

- Bill Gortney

Mr. Bill Gortney said that a couple of months ago, the Forest Service came up to his home and recommended cutting a dead tree and trimming some limbs. He said that he filled out a permit application and signed an affidavit stating that he was responsible for the work. The building inspector was not in the office so he could not get the permit. He got a call that he has a fine of \$50 for trimming limbs without a permit. Council President Howard made a motion to abate the \$50 fine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Carr, unanimously approved. Discussion followed, and tree trimming will be on the next agenda.

- Update on old lodge

Councilor Larsen asked for an update on the status of the old lodge. Mayor Martindale said that Mr. Merrill did not want to spend more than \$60,000 for the demolition and said that he would rather bring the outside of the building up to code. Mayor Martindale said that he has been getting prices on the demolition, and he is trying to resolve this with cooperation from Merrill. Councilor Larsen said we do have to work with him as best we can because he does own a large amount of property in the city.

- Vacuum truck

City Manager Lapeyrouse said that she is looking into the option of a vacuum truck to suck the leaves out of the road instead of blowing them back into people's yards. She said that we have funds available from the sales of surplus property this year. Councilor Whatley asked if this would get the leaves out of the streets faster than the blower. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that it might not be faster, but she does believe it will be more efficient. Councilor Carr asked if the truck will be able to climb all of the streets. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that we can go inspect the truck and have a mechanical inspection done. Councilor Larsen made a motion to investigate the truck, and if it is working well to go ahead and purchase, 2<sup>nd</sup> Council President Howard, unanimously approved.

## **POA REPORT**

### **Marketing Committee**

Laura Gurly said she was asked to chair the POA's marketing committee. She said the main goal in her eyes is to turn over the vacant properties. So many people especially in the Atlanta area remember coming up to ski, but don't realize there is anything else here. She said she is working to have every entity in the city represented. Their first meeting is tomorrow at the Club at 3:00 PM.

POA President, Sam Lamonte said that he has been in conversation with Mims Wilkinson from the Timeshares, and is working to get someone from the Timeshares involved. He thanked the City for the roadwork and helping work with Valley View to clear the line of sight. He is also working with Gladys, owner of the Junction Store, on some landscaping. He asked if the city would not put the meeting sign up front at the entrance. The POA is hosting a political forum Wednesday, October 2 at 10:00 AM at the Fellowship Hall. Citizen David Carr said that the forums have typically had over 100 people in attendance, and the Fellowship Hall will not hold that many people. Mr. Lamonte said that the previous forums have been held in the Fellowship Hall and that he believes it is large enough. Mr. Lamonte said he wanted to let everyone know that the POA is working to represent everyone in the city.

**PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS**

Councilor Larsen said that Frank Norton is working with Verizon for locations of a cell tower.

AL Lee said that many months ago the City approved funding for work in the cul-de-sac on McClure Lane. He thanked the City for their support and passed around pictures.

Citizen Buck Betancourt encouraged the City to keep the relationship with Mr. Merrill as cordial as possible mentioning that the Sky Valley/Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department is working with him for a helicopter landing pad.

Sally Shearon said the Garden Club is having a program at the Club in the Lakeside Room on Sacajawea September 24.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council President Howard made a motion to move into executive session to discuss employment and real estate, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Larsen, unanimously approved.

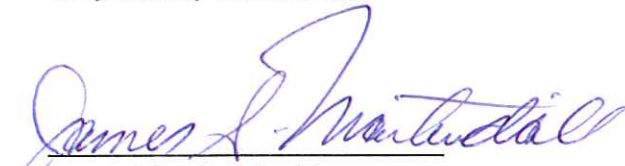
Councilor Whatley made a motion to reconvene regular session, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

Councilor Platt made a motion to approve changing Rick Cavalli from an hourly employee to salary with an annual salary of \$34,000 and allow him to take a city truck home as long as he lives in Sky Valley and is used for city business only, 2<sup>nd</sup> Council President Howard, unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Platt made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:

  
James Martindale, Mayor

Attested:

  
Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk