

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA  
SEPTEMBER 23, 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, Howard, and Whatley, City Manager Lapeyrouse, Chief Dills, and City Clerk Cantrell.

Connie Larsen gave the invocation. Mayor Goodgame led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Larsen made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

Mayor Goodgame stated that we needed to add an executive session to discuss the acquisition of real estate to the agenda. Councilor Howard said he would like to add discussion of garbage disposal under new business, and made a motion to adopt the agenda with these additions, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Conditional/Special Use Zoning for a Cell Tower on Tax Map 058B 251E, located off Rabun Branch Road

Mayor Goodgame said the City has a request for special use zoning to allow installation of a cell tower from Verizon Wireless. He introduced Andrew Rotenstreich, attorney, who is in attendance representing Verizon. He then opened the floor for public comments for questions and comments.

Ray Brooker, Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman, stated that although it did not come up at the P & Z public hearing, he believes that the tower should be lit. The tower will be a total height of 199 feet, and the FAA requires them to be lit at 200 feet. Mr. Rotenstreich said that the FAA does not require lighting on towers under 200 feet, but that the tower could be lit if the City requested it. Some discussion followed as to whether or not the tower should be lit. Mr. Rotenstreich noted that every tower, even those under 200 feet must meet FAA requirements and have their approval.

Midge Attis asked if AT&T would have service from the tower. Mr. Rotenstreich replied that it is a Verizon tower, and space is available for other carries to access and lease.

Councilor Whatley asked if they have checked with Army. FAA is responsible for looking at all air traffic concerns.

Don Haney asked what type of coverage this tower will provide to Sky Valley. Mr. Rotenstreich said that Sky Valley should have good coverage throughout Sky Valley and good in-building coverage.

There were no additional comments.

Mayor Goodgame closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

#### **MAYOR'S REMARKS**

Mayor Goodgame said that we finally received a price for having the speed tabled installed, and the contractor can start the work within the next two weeks. The cost is \$4,175 each, and we are installing two. Councilor Whatley asked if we should have another meeting to discuss the speed tables and said that we should consider waiting to install them until the old lodge is torn down because of the heavy equipment on the roads. Steve Brett asked if we can take the temporary bump up. Mayor Goodgame said that he does not believe the lodge is a deterrent to installing the speed tables because we don't know when it will be torn down. He added that we were aware of the price of the speed tables when the Council approved installing them. The speed tables should be finished in time for our FallFest on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Goodgame said that an informational sign at the overlook was installed yesterday and will be finished soon. We have approval from the landowner to install a sign at Hwy 441 and Hwy 246. We are looking for a location for a sign heading down Hwy 246/106 from Highlands.

The marketing committee meets Thursday at 10:00 AM in the Lakeside Room.

We have brochures available and are asking volunteers to place them at visitor's centers when they travel. He asked people to stop by city hall and pick up some brochures if they could help distribute them.

Mayor Goodgame, City Manager Lapeyrouse, and Ray Becker met with Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the GA Mountain Regional Commission to discuss possible grants available. He said that a downtown development authority was suggested. Our main goal is sewer, and we are trying to work with the Rabun County Water and Sewer Authority. He said that the discussion with them is ongoing.

There will be an employee appreciation luncheon on Thursday at noon at the pavilion.

#### **COUNCIL REMARKS**

Councilor Carr recommended advertising in the Southeast Tourism Society stating that there is free ad placement available. She will get the information to City Manager Lapeyrouse.

Councilor Carr suggested putting a "No Dumping" sign on the dumpster.

Councilor Carr asked about the employee health insurance and what was happening with the Northeast Georgia Hospital Systems not renewing their agreement with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that GMA, who the city contracts with for health insurance, is working with Blue Cross and Blue Shield to keep cities updated on these changes. The City's insurance coverage has a January 1 effective date, allowing us time to seek other insurance providers if necessary.

Councilor Carr asked if we can get new railing installed at the overlook and on the road by city hall. City Manager Lapeyrouse replied that the overlook is not part of what the state maintains, and that she will contact DOT regarding the guardrail near city hall.

Councilor Howard said that at the POA meeting, it was stated employees had not received raises in the last five years, and that this is not true. Employees received raises in 2012 and 2013. Mayor Goodgame said that he made a statement at the meeting that employees had only received certain percentage raise cumulatively over the last six years.

Councilor Howard said that he appreciated the committees and all their work, but that he believes their efforts should be voted on and approved by Council such as the sign that was installed at the overlook. Mayor Goodgame said that the signs to be installed and their locations have been mentioned at the last few meetings.

Councilor Greene said that he and Council President Larsen were meeting with someone who is doing some filming to be used for marketing purposes this morning.

Councilor Greene thanked the Public Works Committee and volunteers for helping with a recent work day. Another work day needs to be held before FallFest.

Council President Larsen said he wanted to reiterate what Councilor Greene said adding that he was excited about the video to create marketing materials and a commercial for Sky Valley.

#### **CITY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORTS – EXCEPTIONS AND QUESTIONS**

City Manager Lapeyrouse said that we need volunteers for Fallfest, and asked people to contact city hall if they would be willing to volunteer.

The Winding Ridge beautification project is complete. The entrance beautification project is almost completed.

At this time, we are still asking residents to bag leaves and call city hall so they can be picked up with our chipping service. We cannot pick up bagged leaves with regular garbage. We are hoping to raise enough funds from the sales of surplus property, currently listed on govdeals.com, to replace the leaf vacuum.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman, Ray Brooker, reported that they met last Tuesday. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the special use zoning to install the cell tower.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Conditional/Special Use Zoning to allow a Cell Tower on Tax Map 058B 251E, located off Rabun Branch Road

Councilor Greene made a motion to approve the special use zoning to allow the cell tower, 2<sup>nd</sup> Council President Larsen, unanimously approved. Mr. Andrew Rotenstreich said he wanted to thank City Clerk Cantrell for being such a great help.

Mr. Rotenstreich said that this tower is 2014 project, and that he believes it will be on schedule for completion by the end of the year.

- Garbage Disposal

Mayor Goodgame said the Council approved a six-month contract with Waste Away for once a week residential collection and hauling the dumpsters. He said that the dumpsters are overflowing very fast because so many people are using them. Citizen Jackie Bell said that a lot of people leave on Sundays so they have to take their garbage to the dumpsters so it is not sitting out to be scattered before Monday collection.

Councilor Whatley asked who is working on the compactor. Mayor Goodgame said that he and City Manager Lapeyrouse are working on it. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that we have looked at three possible locations, city owned lots of Lost Valley, Bald Mountain Road before the entrance, and at the current tractor barn location. The tractor barn is the best location.

Mayor Goodgame said that we are only a few weeks into the contract with Waste Away, adding that we have no intention to stop curbside service for the people who need it.

Councilor Howard said he has received several calls about the survey from people saying it was skewed. He made a motion to send a survey with only one question, "Do you support curbside service?" Seconded by Councilor Whatley. Mayor Goodgame said that we cannot answer the garbage situation with only one question. Councilor Greene said that only asking that one question is also confusing, and that he supports sending another survey when we have details and prices on all of the available options. Citizen Barbara Kobacker said that she is against installing a compactor. Mayor Goodgame said that we are trying to be as transparent as possible, that we have put out all the information we have, and that we are planning to send another survey as soon as we know exactly how much each option would cost and what is feasible. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that she has the price for the actual compactor, and needs to get prices for the enclosure which will also depend on how we want it to look. Mayor Goodgame said that we are working for a solution that best serves the city and we do not want to make a hasty decision. We decided on the six-month contract to outsource garbage collection due to our garbage truck failure. Councilor Whatley added that we need the cost for new equipment to pick up garbage in-house once a week and twice a week, and for the compactor. He asked if the contractor would pick up twice a week. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that they are only willing to pick up once a week. There being no further discussion, Mayor Goodgame called for the vote. The motion failed 1:4 with Councilor Howard voting aye and Councilors Carr, Greene, Larsen, and Whatley voting nay.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS**

Citizen Don Haney asked if the cell tower was approved with or without the light. Mayor Goodgame said it was approved as the application was submitted, without a light. Citizen Ray Becker said that if the FAA says no light is needed, we don't need the light.

Citizen Dee Moore said he believes the Council should reconsider the speed tables that he believes it is solving a problem that does not exist.


Citizen Cathy Turner said we need to have another clean-up day before Fallfest. Councilor Greene said he will coordinate a clean-up day with the Public Works Committee.

Mayor Goodgame asked for a motion to move into executive session to discuss acquisition of real estate and to add discussion of personnel. Council President Larsen made a motion to go into executive session to discuss real estate and personnel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

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

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

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Hughel Goodgame, Mayor

Attested:

  
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Mandi L Cantrell, City Clerk