

**ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
JANUARY 27, 2015
TUESDAY, 10:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

MINUTES

Mayor Goodgame called the meeting to order.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

City Clerk Cantrell administered the Oath of Office to Liz Carr and Neil Howard.

- Nomination and Selection of 2015 Council President

Mayor Goodgame thanked Councilor Larsen for serving as the 2014 Council President and said that he would like each Councilor to have an opportunity to serve as Council President and recommended Councilor Carr. Councilor Larsen nominated Liz Carr, 2nd Howard, unanimously approved. Councilor Carr thanked everyone for opportunity.

- Set 2015 Regular Meeting Dates

The 2015 Regular Meeting dates will continue to be the 4th Tuesday of each month with exceptions of February 25th, March 31st, November 17th, and December 15th.

REGULAR MEETING

Those present: Mayor Goodgame, Council President Carr, Councilors Howard and Larsen, City Manager Lapeyrouse, City Clerk Cantrell.

Hays Howard gave the invocation. Mayor Goodgame led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16 Regular Meeting, 2nd Council President Carr, unanimously approved.

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

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Goodgame said he was glad to see such a big crowd at the meeting.

2014 was a challenging year, and he believes we worked through the challenges successfully. We will begin the new garbage and recycle collection service in March. We had a very successful first annual fall festival. Our Marketing Committee has worked very hard. We have a brochure, something we have never had before. We also got signs up helping point people to Sky Valley. We were featured in several publications including the Atlanta Seasons magazine. The Marketing Committee will have a smaller group working specifically on each of the four events, a beer festival on Memorial Day weekend, the annual Fourth of July celebration, FallFest, and a tour of homes.

The Verizon cell tower that we, and the previous administration, have worked very hard on is currently out to bid with bids due back in mid-February. We will call back for an update at that time.

There have been a lot of rumors about the burglary this month. A neighbor saw lights on in a house that should not have been on, and he called the police. Our officer was able to follow and apprehend one of the suspects, and the investigation has been turned over to the Sheriff's department. He said that the remark about houses "being prepped" means that there were other houses found with doors unlocked. There were no signs of forced entry. Mayor Goodgame encouraged everyone to keep their doors and windows locked.

Mayor Goodgame said that he has asked Maureen Platt to serve as the Chairman of the Neighborhood Watch Committee. She will be working with the Sheriff's Department on this program.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Council President Carr said she attended the recent Mayors' Day conference. She went to a class on Municipal Law where they recommended we review our Charter on a regular schedule. She also said that with recent incidents, she wants to recommend that we review our employment applications, hiring and personnel policies.

Councilor Howard thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He mentioned that he saw an article in the Tribune where the Rabun County Board of Elections voted unanimously not to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at their meetings, and he felt it was important for everyone to be aware of that.

CITY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORTS – EXCEPTIONS AND QUESTIONS

City Manager Lapeyrouse said that property tax bills are due February 6th. If you have not received your bill, please contact Alyssa at city hall. She reminded fulltime residents to file a homestead exemption in Sky Valley as well as Rabun County.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of 2015 Agreement with SV/Scaly Fire Department

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Larsen, unanimously approved.

- Set Qualifying Fees for the 2015 General Election

Mayor Goodgame said the fee has been \$15 for the past few years and asked for a motion to set the 2015 qualifying fee. Councilor Larsen made a motion to set the qualifying fee at \$15, 2nd Council President Carr, unanimously approved.

- Nomination & Selection of three P & Z member

Mayor Goodgame thanked Dick Parrott, Ray Brooker, and Joel Dawkins for their service on the Planning and Zoning Commission. He recommended Dan McAfee, Tommy Tebeau, and Liz Morley for the three vacancies. Councilor Larsen made a motion to appoint as recommended by the mayor, 2nd Council President Carr, unanimously approved.

- Creation of 2015 Committees & Member Appointments

Mayor Goodgame presented the proposed 2015 committees and committee members. He said that we are creating two new committees, Neighborhood Watch, and Visitor Center. Larsen made a motion to approve the committees as presented, 2nd Council President Carr, unanimously approved. A list of the 2015 committees and their members is attached hereto.

- Ordinance - GMEBS Insurance Plan Documents

City Clerk Cantrell presented the Ordinance, explaining that these plan documents are for the city's group health, dental, and life insurance through January 2015. Council President Carr made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Larsen, unanimously approved.

Mayor Goodgame said that David and Liz Carr gave us information on an agent that can help us with other health insurance options. City Manager Lapeyrouse and City Clerk Cantrell have been working the past few months on a new health insurance program for the city employees.

- Discussion of waiving building permit fees for new construction in 2015

Mayor Goodgame said that we waived permit fees for new construction in 2014 and that he recommends we do it again for 2015. Councilor Howard made a motion to approve waiving the fees for new construction, 2nd Councilor Carr. Discussion followed about what the fee would be if it wasn't waived. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that the fee schedule states \$1.00 per square foot for finished areas. Further discussion about the other building permit fees was held, and Mayor Goodgame said that we should review the permit fee schedule. The motion to waive the building permit fees for new construction passed unanimously. Water tap-on fees will still be applicable to new construction.

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Citizen Ray Becker said that Georgia Power cut Knob Drive and said that the rut is getting worse. He asked if that can be addressed.

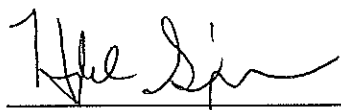
Mayor Goodgame said that people have commented that they really like the lighting provided by the snowflakes on the power poles on Sky Valley Way. Three street lights will be installed by GA Power on existing poles along Sky Valley Way.

Dick Parrott said that the light on the Visitor Center sign points at the road and asked if we can reposition it a little so it shines more toward the building. City Manager Lapeyrouse has been in touch with GA Power to have it changed.

Debbie McAfee asked about the process for committees. Mayor Goodgame said that some committees meet more often than others, and that committee members will be emailed to set up and schedule meetings.

Councilor Larsen made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Council President Carr, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:



Hughel Goodgame, Mayor

Attested:

Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk