

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
FEBRUARY 15, 2011
TUESDAY, 9:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

MINUTES

Mayor Martindale called the meeting to order.

Those present: Mayor Martindale, Council President Moore, Councilors Boyle, Howard, Kleiber, and Platt, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Boyle made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18 Regular Meeting and the January 21 Special Meeting, 2nd Council President Moore, unanimously approved.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council President Moore made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of two items: approval of moving \$15,000 from surplus funds for marketing and approval to hire attorney Allan Ramsay at \$190 per hour to handle the land conservancy concern, 2nd Councilor Boyle, unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Martindale thanked the audience for attending.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilor Platt thanked Councilor Kleiber for organizing the Valentine's Day reception for the employees yesterday. City Manager Smith thanked Councilors Kleiber and Platt. Council President Moore also thanked Councilors Kleiber and Platt.

Councilor Boyle said that Ouida Hotch passed away over the weekend and expressed sorrow for this loss to Sky Valley, as Ms. Hotch was a valuable part of the community and had lived here for many years.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Financial Report – given by City Clerk Cantrell

Police Chief's Report – given by Officer Edwards

Tax Commissioner's Report – given by Tax Commissioner Mullins

Tax Commissioner Mullins said the tax sale is March 1 for 2008 and 2009 delinquent taxes including nine parcels including three houses, five lots, and equipment.

Building Inspector's Report – given by City Manager Smith

City Manager's Report – given by City Manager Smith

City Manager Smith explained how the anti-icing/de-icing sprayer works and how this will help the City respond better during snow and ice.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of 2011 agreement with Sky Valley – Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

Councilor Platt made a motion to approve the agreement, 2nd Council President Moore, unanimously approved.

- Approval of 2011 lease agreement with the Sky Valley POA

City Manager Smith said the drafted lease is the same as last year with the addition that the property will be used jointly with the City and that use of the space will be scheduled with the City. Steve Brett said that the POA would like to coordinate with the City. Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the 2011 lease, 2nd Councilor Boyle, unanimously approved.

- Adoption of Rules of Procedure Ordinance

Councilor Platt made a motion to approve, 2nd Council President Moore. Council President Moore said that the quorum needs changed to state four Councilors to match the Charter. Councilor Platt asked if Section 12 (a) can be changed to give more notice. City Clerk Cantrell recommended adding that the City will, when practical, give at least 48 hours notice of change of time or place of a regular meeting and notice for a special meeting. The motion passed unanimously with these changes.

- Summit Change Orders 20 and 21

City Manager Smith presented change orders 20 and 21. Councilor Platt made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Boyle, unanimously approved.

- Ratify approval of Bee Gum water tank foundation expansion \$3,275

City Manager Smith explained that to be able to expand the tank size in the future, the foundation will need expanded at an additional cost of \$3,275. Councilor Kleiber made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Platt. Councilor Kleiber added that by making this change, the City can install the 68,000 gallon tank and will be able to expand the tank to 97,000 gallons if needed in the future. The motion passed unanimously.

- GEFA loan agreement

Councilor Boyle made a motion to approve the agreement, 2nd Councilor Howard. City Manager Smith presented the progress report on the water projects. The motion passed unanimously.

- Saddleback Circle Drainage Study

Councilor Platt made a motion to postpone until the March meeting, 2nd Council President Moore, unanimously approved.

- Memorandum of Agreement with POA for event planning

Councilor Kleiber made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Howard. Councilor Kleiber commended former Mayor Steve Brett and Mayor Martindale for working together on this. Steve Brett said that he hopes that the City Council and the POA will have faith in the event planners so that event approval will not have to come before the Council for approval. Mayor Martindale agreed adding that the City would like a report after the event. Councilor Platt suggested taking pictures of the events to have published in the Tribune showing when the next event will be to encourage people from outside of Sky Valley to attend. The motion passed unanimously.

- Front entrance – flagpoles

Mayor Martindale said he would like to see Ken Smith's idea done, painting the logo on the sign a brighter color. He also said that Dan Lindsay is working on a landscape plan to incorporate flagpoles and some additional lighting. City Manager Smith said that flags are supposed to be lit when they are left up all the time. Councilor Kleiber said she would like to check on lighting the flagpoles in a way that is dark-sky friendly. Council President Moore made a motion to install flags and repaint the metal letters at the entrance, 2nd Councilor Howard. Councilor Platt said that she would like to see Diane Herring, President of the Garden Club, appointed to the Community Development Committee. Council President Moore amended his motion so that it included two flagpoles, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved. Paul Wheeler asked about the lights and if they should be dark-sky friendly because the City is trying to be dark-sky compatible. Steve Brett asked the Council to put a dark-sky friendly ordinance on the agenda in March. Councilor Kleiber said she likes the color of the letters the color they are now, that the color presented was very bright.

- Visitor Information sign at City Hall

Council President Moore made a motion to authorize City Manager Smith request proposals to install three flagpoles and the rockwork at City Hall, similar to the presented picture, 2nd Councilor Howard. City Manager Smith said that she got one quote to get an idea of the price, and it was \$4,850. The Council discussed the wording on the sign. The sign will say Visitor Center. The motion passed unanimously.

- Hotel – Motel Funds

City Manager Smith asked Attorney Dickerson if the City is able to use hotel-motel taxes collected to promote events and tourism itself or if it required to contract with someone else. Attorney Dickerson said the funds do have to be contracted to promote tourism, but the City can contract with itself. Dickerson said he would get information on this to the City.

- Approval of Resolution to Adopt Joint Partial Plan Update to the Rabun County Joint Comprehensive Plan

City Manager Smith explained that this is to adopt the City's portion of the Comprehensive Plan Update. This plan is in conjunction with the county and every city within the county. Council President Moore made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

- Move \$15,000 from surplus to the 2011 operating budget for marketing

A motion to approve the budget amendment and transfer was made by Council President Moore, 2nd by Councilor Platt. Boyle confirmed that the marketing will be for events and community development. The motion passed unanimously.

- Employ Attorney Allan Ramsay to handle conservancy matter with Merrill Trust

Council President Moore made a motion to hire attorney Allan Ramsay at \$190 per hour, 2nd Platt. Attorney Dickerson said that Attorney Ramsay is a partner in his firm, and that Ramsay is more familiar with these matters. Council President Moore said that the City needs to get an attorney on board before Merrill donates property to the conservancy so that trails can be preserved. Mayor Martindale added that if Merrill does donate all of his property, it will be detrimental to further development in the City. An attorney can request this information from Merrill. Steve Brett said that if he donates buildable lots it really hurts the city. Council President Moore said that he would like to see the City gain knowledge of what property is potentially being donated to the conservancy and try to work out any desired easements with Merrill Trust before Merrill makes the donation. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Steve Brett thanked the City for being so cooperative with the agreement with the POA for promoting tourism.

Paul Wheeler asked about some concerns with Putter Lane paving. City Manager Smith said she would look at his concerns and follow up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Meetings when any agency is discussing the future acquisition of real estate. O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4).

Councilor Howard made a motion to move into executive session to discuss the future acquisition of real estate, 2nd Councilor Kleiber, unanimously approved.

Mayor Martindale reconvened regular session.

Council President Moore made a motion to offer \$10,000 for the purchase of the sign on Hwy 246, paying \$5,000 down and two annual payments of \$2,500, 2nd Councilor Boyle. City Manager Smith asked if the Council wanted to use surplus funds or capital reserves to purchase the sign. The Council wants to move surplus funds to general government capital reserves to cover the purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

Council President Moore made a motion approving Attorney Dickerson prepare a contract giving the City a 20-day due diligence period and then 30 days after that to close, 2nd Councilor Kleiber, unanimously approved.

Councilor Kleiber said she would like to see the Planning and Zoning Commission prepare and present an updated sign ordinance requiring signs to be of a similar design and made a motion for the Commission to prepare an updated sign ordinance, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

There being no further business of the Council, Mayor Martindale adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:



James Martindale, Mayor

Attested:



Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk