

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
MARCH 25, 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, and Whatley, Attorney Dickerson, City Manager Lapeyrouse, and City Clerk Cantrell.

Laura Gurley gave the invocation. Mayor Goodgame led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2014 regular meeting, 2nd Councilor Greene, unanimously approved.

Councilor Whatley made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of two items under new business, appointment of John Erbelding to the Public Safety Committee and a sign at city hall, 2nd Council President Larsen, unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Goodgame gave an update on the cell tower. He said he spoke with the sub-contractor this morning who said the lease agreement is under review by both parties' attorneys and should be approved next week. Access for emergency services and leasing space to other providers is required and included in the agreement.

The city has been cleaning up the park to get it ready for summer. The creek banks are incredibly steep with most of the vegetation being grapevines or briars. We cannot chip the vines and briars so we are putting that off for a while until we can trim from a small boat in the stream.

The Public Safety Committee will be working on the possibility of using golf carts on the streets. Other communities, some private and some cities, allow golf carts on city streets. There are safety concerns with us being able to allow golf carts on the streets, but we want to look into it to see if it possible. Mayor Goodgame added that he believes that if we can come up with a way to allow this, we will be better able to compete with other golf communities. One other important item this committee will be researching is installing speed tables on Sky Valley Way to help slow traffic where pedestrians and golf carts cross the street.

Mayor Goodgame said he has met with the City Manager on Monday mornings to review the public works department's schedule. He said that things do change, but we are working toward everyone being able to know what the public works department is doing. He said that there

has been talk about the city having too many employees, but from what he has seen, everyone has a fulltime job and is very busy.

Mayor Goodgame said that we are working with a new auditor this year. The agreement was signed yesterday. In the future, if we continue to work with this group, they will be able to complete our audit much earlier and they will help reconcile our internal accounting with the audited financial statements during the process.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilor Whatley said Councilor Howard asked him to let everyone know he was sorry he could not be at this meeting. He had booked a vacation for this week before the meeting schedule changed and was unable to change the dates for the trip.

Councilor Whatley said the walk across the gorge is scheduled for June or July of 2015. Nik Wallenda will recreate the walk originally done by his grandfather Carl Wallenda, and they are working with the Discovery Channel to broadcast the walk. Sky Walk Celebration events will be held in Rabun and Habersham Counties. He encouraged everyone to think of how we can involve Sky Valley in these events.

Councilor Whatley said the Public Safety Committee meeting date and agenda will go out soon. He encouraged people to attend, give input, and let them know about any issues they would like the committee to look at.

Councilor Greene said he attended Newly Elected Officials Training. He said he is very appreciative for the training and learned much.

Councilor Greene announced that the Public Works Committee will meet April 18 at the Lakeside Room.

Councilor Carr said that if we do pursue speed tables, we need to include signage so people will be aware of the change. She said she is heading up the Beautification Committee and asked people to let her know if they have any suggestions.

Mayor Goodgame said he was glad to have Attorney Dickerson back after missing a couple of meetings while in litigation. Attorney Dickerson will help with any updates we need to do regarding the cell tower.

CITY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORTS – EXCEPTIONS AND QUESTIONS

City Manager Lapeyrouse said she e-mailed the survey for the Comprehensive Plan that will be considered for the Rabun County Comprehensive Plan. She encouraged everyone to complete the survey. Copies are available at the meeting and at city hall.

The Annual Spring Cleanup Day is set for Friday, April 18th and will focus on Highway 246. A happy hour will follow at the Sky Valley Club.

Mayor Goodgame asked the audience to take a copy of the comprehensive plan survey to complete and return to City Clerk Cantrell so she can submit everyone's surveys together.

OLD BUSINESS

- Building Code Ordinance

City Manager Lapeyrouse said we held a couple workshops at the end of last year to discuss updates to the building code ordinance. This ordinance consolidates all current building code ordinances, and included updates from the International Building Code. Council President Larsen made a motion to approve the ordinance, 2nd Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

- Geese – Nuisance Abatement

Mayor Goodgame said that we were asked about this by the Club's golf course maintenance. He read a response from Attorney Dickerson that explained how an ordinance could allow firearm discharge on personal property for the purpose of nuisance abatement. Council President Larsen made a motion to draft an ordinance to allow the police chief to issue special use permits approving the discharge of firearms on private property for nuisance abatement, 2nd Councilor Whatley. Councilor Greene said that he is not normally in favor of shooting any animal, but unfortunately the geese cause a health hazard from their droppings on the golf course. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Water Bill Adjustment Request – Muldrew

Mayor Goodgame presented the request for a water bill adjustment. He explained that our ordinance only allows one adjustment every five years, and Ms. Muldrew has received an adjustment within the last five years. He said his concern is that if we do not stick with the rules in the ordinance and approve this adjustment, it could create precedence for future requests. Council President Larsen made a motion to deny the request for an adjustment, 2nd Councilor Whatley. Councilor Carr said we should take whose responsibility the leak is into consideration, if it is the city's or the homeowner's. City Manager Lapeyrouse explained that the ordinance calls for homeowners to turn off their water meters when vacating a home for an extended time. This leak was from water being left on inside the home, not the city's meter or the homeowner shut-off valve. Under the ordinance, Ms. Muldrew received an adjustment in 2009. Because of the previous adjustment, this request could not be approved by staff. Councilor Whatley said that the homeowner was notified by staff that she had a leak. Ms. Muldrew explained the circumstances of the leak, and expressed her appreciation for the way the city staff handled the situation. The motion to deny the adjustment request passed unanimously.

- Approval of Ordinance to Establish Water Conservancy Plan & Drought Contingency Plan

City Manager Lapeyrouse presented this update, that was required by GA EPD, that will replace our current ordinance. The only change is the unaccounted water use. Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

- Appointment of John Erbelding to Public Safety Committee

Mayor Goodgame said he would like to appointment John Erbelding to the Public Safety Committee. Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve the appointment, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

- Sign at City Hall

Mayor Goodgame said that last year, the Council approved \$1,500 to install the city hall sign in front of the building along Hwy 246. He said that we would like to install three flagpoles and electricity to light the poles, the sign, and the lights at the parking lot entrances. Helen Kleiber volunteered to work on receiving donations to cover expenses for the flagpoles. Mayor Goodgame requested approval of an additional \$2,500 for the project. Council President Larsen made a motion to approve an additional \$2,500 for a total of \$4,000 for the project, 2nd Councilor Whatley. Councilor Whatley asked if this project can be funded with capital funds reserved for building and general government. Council President Larsen amended motion to use capital reserves, 2nd Greene, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Goodgame opened the floor for comments and asked people to stand and state their name so that it can be recorded in the minutes.

Dick Parrott asked if there is a location for a welcome center at the bottom of Hwy 246 in Dillard where we can point people to Sky Valley. Mayor Goodgame said the marketing committee is working on finding an appropriate location in Dillard on Hwy 441 because there is a great deal more traffic going through Dillard on Hwy 441 than there is on Hwy 246 coming up the mountain.

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

Respectfully submitted:



Hughel Goodgame, Mayor

Attested:



Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk