

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA, COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016 AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE LODGE, 696 SKY VALLEY WAY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Goodgame, President Lively, Councilors Howard, MacNair, Morley and Steil; City Manager Lapeyrouse and City Clerk Fast

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Goodgame called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lynn Becker gave the Invocation and Mayor Goodgame led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 23, 2016 Regular Council Meeting

September 27, 2016 Regular Council Meeting

September 27, 2016 Public Hearing – FY 2017 Budget and 2016 Millage

September 28, 2016 Special Called Council Meeting

October 6, 2016 Special Called Meeting – FY 2017 Budget and 2016 Millage

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the minutes with one typo correction to the August 23, 2016 minutes. Council MacNair seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councilor Steil made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Morley seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Goodgame reflected on the success of Fall Fest and response from the community was very positive. He also thanked City Manager Lapeyrouse her hard work and planning that made the event a success. In addition, he thanked Hollie Steil and Cathy Turner for their artistic flair and assistance with the hay bales. He expressed his appreciation for city staff and dedication to getting things done after work and weekends for the event.

Mayor Goodgame drew the winning ticket for two rounds of golf and two zip line tickets. The winner was David Blum.

The Hay bale contest on Face book engaged 5,270 people with 4,231 votes cast. First place with 506 votes was "Please Don't Feed the Bear", second place with 457 votes was "SkyTom" the turkey and third place with 395 votes was "Welcome to the Crow's Nest".

The attorney has responded the Ante Litem notice.

The workshop immediately after the Council meeting is about the City Park. We have received many comments. The survey showed what people would like to see. Georgia Mountains Regional Commission has provided a conceptual drawing for review. With community support, financing and cooperation the project can be completed in phases.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilor MacNair stated is always nice to so many attending the Council Meeting and thanked them for coming.

Councilor Howard seconded what Councilor MacNair said and thanked everyone for the attending Fall Fest.

Councilor Steil said he was thankful for the dryer, cooler weather for the Fall Fest and thanked everyone for attending the great event. He also cautioned everyone to refrain from water usage due to the extended drought and watch for any sparks that could ignite a fire.

Councilor Lively commented ditto on what Council MacNair said. He said we could learn from the bad and look for the good.

Councilor Morley stated she felt like she was in the catbird seat while driving the shuttle at the Fall Fest. She said the response was phenomenal from the attendees. She felt the love in this valley.

CITY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORTS – EXCEPTIONS AND QUESTIONS

City Manager Lapeyrouse thanked the over fifty volunteers that helped with Fall Fest. She also thanked all the city employees that helped with the event this year. A special thanks to Ted Freitag for rounding up the fifty-one show cars for the car show.

She also thanked everyone that participated in the PAWS 4 Life fundraiser, which raised \$1,317 through the HOWL-o-ween contest, and the Silent Auction. A special thanks to Jerry Landy and Debbie Dalhouse for working with our sponsors for the silent auction. The Garden Club did an amazing job with subdivision entrances.

In addition, Patti Calderone is painting a mural at Visitor Center.

Please share any pictures you may have taken at the Fall Fest. We would like to share them on the Facebook page. Linda Sloope will be contacting you if are the high bidder on the Silent Auction items.

Sky to Summit 2016- 50k and 25k will be held on November 5th. Trail runners will run summit of Rabun Bald and to the waterfalls on the other side.

2016 Tax bills have gone out. This includes city and county bills. If you do not receive your city bill by October 31st, please call Alyssa Mullins at City Hall and she can reprint you one.

General Election has been cancelled and the two Councilmember candidates that qualified and were unopposed are Chip Durpo and Connie Larsen.

City Hall will be closed for Veteran's Day, Friday November 11th and Thanksgiving Holidays, Thursday November 24th and Friday November 25th. Recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, November 23rd.

The Visitor center has 1,513 visitors with 207 during the month of September. They traveled from various countries that include Eastern Europe, Germany, Japan and various states.

The Sky Valley website had 2, 673 visits and the Face book page has 1,503 followers.

OLD BUSINESS

- Consider Appointment of Police Chief Search Panel

Mayor Goodgame stated the panel had been reduced from fourteen to eight members. The following have agreed to serve on the panel: Mayor Goodgame, City Manager Lapeyrouse, Councilors Steil, MacNair, Ben Chitwood, Debbie Curtis, David Spears and Allen Piotkowski.

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the Appointment of the Police Chief Search Panel. Council Lively seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Application for Conditional Use Zoning for Cell Tower and Request for Variance – 412 Wild Bird Lane by Southern Linc

Mayor Goodgame conducted the Public Hearing and requested that participants come to the microphone and state their name.

Clay Brogdon- Southern Linc Area Supervisor stated that the new tower would benefit Sky Valley, Rabun E911, and Georgia State Patrol. Area Public Safety Personnel depends on Southern Linc for communications after storm and emergency situations. The current seventy-five foot tower has been in service for over thirty years. Changing over to the new tower would provide LTE and overlay for Sky Valley and E911 services. Southern Linc does not charge the City of Sky Valley for attachments that are currently on the pole. Normal charges are \$1,000 per year.

Committee Reports

- Planning and Zoning Commission – Recommendation on Southern Linc’s Application

Chairman Will Gurley stated the Board recommends approve of the application for conditional use zoning for the Cell Tower and Request for Variance.

Public Hearing – Comments Continued

Greg Brown, Local Manager for Georgia Power stated this would improve communications and service to our customers.

Will Gurley, Chairman of P & Z Commission, stated the commission recommended the design be expanded to 105 feet, so that if in the future, another carrier need to attach they could utilize the additional five foot to add another 15’ sleeve. Alex Mountain is the best communication location in Rabun County. Other carriers would be required to apply with the City of Sky Valley for the additional attachments.

Clay Brogdon, Southern Linc in the best interest for the communities this would allow a slip joint to be added to tower. This would be on top.

The following made comments in favor of the application:

Mike Carnes, E911 Director stated the current tower has been in operation since 1981. Fire Rescue has to call Macon E911 to retransmit and the new tower would be very beneficial.

Lynn Becker, asked what else is on the existing tower (technology).

Clay Brogdon, the existing tower has SCADA, microwave dish and the new updated technology would be on the new tower.

Connie Larsen stated 105 up to 120 for future use.

The following made comments against the application:

Allen Jackson, Ridgepole resident opposed to the new tower with additional footage added above 100 feet. He was in favor of application as submitted for emergency services. He stated it would be beneficial to run gadgets and be a good investment in Sky Valley. He did acknowledge it was advertised in the Clayton Tribune. It was emailed on the 14th for the meeting on the 17th. He is also concerned about the decreases in property values with property in proximity of the tower. The towers Highlands must be disguised as trees. He also stated no one wants to look at lights and asked that council rescind the additional fifteen feet recommended by the P & Z Committee.

Susan Cillo, owner of three lots on Ridgepole loves her views front and back. She is only opposed to the additional footage over the 100 feet. She also concerned with tax value and that we may be missing tax revenue. She is not opposing progression but council should only approve 100 only and require them to disguise as a tree.

Jamie Wiggins, Rabun County E911 services, the current tower only provides dial up services.

Will Gurley, the P & Z is only requesting 105 feet and the additional five feet is worth it to allow for expansion. Again, he reiterated the additional would allow another company to attach to the tower but they still would have to apply with the City of Sky Valley to do this addition, which is subject to city approval.

The variance was for no fencing, no climbing for the first 10 feet and landscaping variance with the remote location of the tower. FAA or City of Sky Valley requires no lighting at 105 feet.

NEW BUSINESS

- Consider Recommendation of Planning & Zoning for Request for Variance and Cell Tower Councilor Lively made a motion to approve the Recommendation of the Planning & Zoning for Request for Variance and Cell Tower. Councilor Steil seconded the motion. Councilor Steil stated properties should be commercial.

Mayor Goodgame stated the Rabun County Tax Assessors supplies the valuations on property in Rabun County. Public utilities pay taxes on the equipment within the City and the County. The Verizon Tower is on private property and they negotiated their lease.

Councilor Lively advised the City of Sky Valley uses space on the tower and is not being charged for use of the tower attachments.

Councilor Howard asked if the detail limits of the application were 105 and what we're approving. Allen Jackson reiterated concerns with going over 100 feet. He opposes the additional footage above the 100 feet.

Mayor Goodgame stated we are not approving the additional 15, only 105 feet.

Susan Cillo is opposed to the 105 -115 additional height. She suggested it be kept natural looking.

Will Gurley, the current tower does not bother me.

Clay Brogdon with Southern Linc stated camouflaging the tower would double the cost of the project and affect negatively to signal. Increased cost and distort signals.

Councilor Morley asked it could be painted black. Mr. Brogdon it is galvanized steel could be painted but would stick out worse.

Mayor Goodgame stated he never sees it, he has a direct view and it does not bother him.

Mayor Goodgame stated the motion was to approve the 105 tower and no lighting.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Quit Claim Deed to Clear Title Cloud on Trensche Property – Southwoods, Part 1, Lot 18

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve Quit Claim Deed to Clear Title Cloud on Trensche Property – Southwoods, Part 1, Lot 18. Councilor Steil seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

- Consider Cancellation of November 2016 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Morley made a motion to cancel the November Regular Council Meeting. Councilor Lively seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Bob Larsen thanked everyone involved with Fall Fest and the Hay Bales.

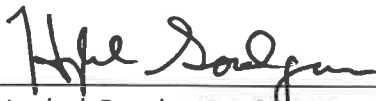
David Cochran came before Council with a high water bill from August. His water bill was triple the normal amount and he had replaced all waterlines. He requested forgiveness or credit on his account. City Manager Lapeyrouse explained to him that only one credit could be given every five years. If they want council to consider any further adjustment on Alex Mountain, they will need to ask to be on the next agenda.

Councilor Lively advised there was a deteriorating pole, can it be removed. Mayor Goodgame acknowledged it could be removed per nuisance abatement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Hughel Goodgame, Mayor



Ella Fast, City Clerk