

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 19, 2022, A TUESDAY AT 10:00 AM
696 SKY VALLEY WAY (OLD LODGE) AND VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM) CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA**

THOSE PRESENT: Mayor Steil, Councilors Oliver, Allred, Turner. Councilor Curtis was present via Zoom.

THOSE ABSENT: Councilor Morley

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Streetman, City Clerk Fleming, Public Work Superintendent Shope, Chief of Police Estes, Lieutenant Edwards, and City Attorney Kidd

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order at 10:06 due to video difficulties.

2. Invocation

Councilor Oliver led the Invocation and Mayor Steil led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

February 15, 2022, Regular Council Meeting (Amended Adopted Minutes)

March 4, 2022, Special Called Council Meeting

The February 15, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, Item #9, is to have a minor correction. After the correction is made Councilor Turner made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Allred, unanimously approved.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Councilor Oliver made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Councilor Allred, unanimously approved.

5. City Manager's Report

City Manager Streetman stated the Sky Valley Way Culvert Replacement Project is nearing completion. Repaving of the area is to take place tomorrow. The tree service has completed their work on the Evergreen extension and now waiting on the County to perform the work that was agreed upon. The City received two qualifying bids for the paving portion of the Evergreen extension. One qualifying bid for the renovation of the Visitor's Center, was received under the guidelines of the sealed bid process and one was emailed. No qualifying bids came in for the Public Works Truck or the Pickleball Court. The City is slated to fill the Deputy Clerk position on the 25th of this month. The vacancy was due to long-time employee, Alyssa Mullins, taking another position outside the City. The T-SPLOST revenue will start coming in after Darrin Giles, County Manager, works out the details.

Al Piontkowski, 66 Pleasant Mountain Drive, asked about the bid amounts and any discrepancies concerning the bids. City Manager Streetman stated that the paving bids for the Evergreen extension were: Precision Paving \$290,000 and Colwell Construction \$174,116. The qualifying bid for the Visitor's Center from Oliver Construction \$89,277. Unofficial bids came in for the Visitor's Center and for the Pickleball Court. No bids for Public Work's Truck. He also stated that he will be going over the bids concerning any possible discrepancies.

Rudy Masi, 358 Big Bear Trail, wanted to address the issue of the area that floods during heavy rainstorm, near the SV mailboxes and the Laundry Area. Councilor Oliver stated that the pond that floods, is on Harrison Merrill's property that the City leases. The pond needs to be dredged which the cost is approximately \$300,000. Councilor Allred stated that the stream has been deemed a trout stream and officials from the DNR had advised to keep the pond area in more of a natural state.

Debbie McAfee, 776 Alpine Drive, asked if the City being the lease, could apply for a grant to help with the cost of the modifications needed at the pond. Dan McAfee stated that the road could possibly be elevated to help with the flooding of that area.

6. Departmental Reports

Public Works Superintendent Shope thanked everyone for their patience concerning the culvert replacement project on Sky Valley Way. He stated that the leaf vac is broken again and is having to use the backhoe to cleanout ditches. The crew has been working on several water leaks and they are gearing up for the grass season. Mark Wannamaker will be contracted out to help with some mowing of the right-of-ways.

Wallace Sherer, 1121 Saddleback, asked about the leaf vac not working, which Jerry told him the part had been ordered.

Chief of Police Estes talked about the detour route that was used during the road closure for the Sky Valley Way project. He also talked about Lieutenant Edwards going into active duty for a minimum of 400 days which Chief Estes will be covering his shifts during that time. Residents need to be aware of the rise of bear and hog activity in the area. Councilor Oliver asked about the hiring of a temporary officer and Chief Estes stated that since Lieutenant Edwards was getting paid for part of that time, it would not be in the budget.

7. Committee Reports

Councilor Turner, Special Projects, stated that his committee is working on 2022 Fallfest which hopes to have at least 50 vendors and a classic car show. He would like to schedule a date for a road clean up and will be checking with TimeShares of Sky Valley concerning plans for updating their park. There was a discussion concerning the parking for the Fallfest. The Fallfest event is scheduled for October 15, 2022.

Councilor Oliver, Mayoral Advisory Committee, is still in communication with Harrison Merrill, Jr. A master plan for development along with a waste disposal system are the main topics. A meeting will be scheduled so the Committee and Mr. Merrill Jr. can come together on ideas concerning Sky Valley, then a feasibility study can be conducted. Paul Wheeler, 33 Putter Lane, asked if they were still considering bringing back skiing which Councilor Oliver stated not necessarily but he would like to have some kind of off-season activity.

Debbie Dalhouse, Chairman of the Landscape Committee, stated that she had met with Mark Wannamaker concerning the continuance of his service for the assigned areas, for 2022. She went over the projects that he will be assisting with this year. The Sky Valley POA and the Garden Club have paid for his 2021 services. A group got together to treat the hemlocks along the Mud Creek Trail along with clearing of kudzu in that area. Debbie stated that the Committee was more of just an advisory group not a Committee which the City Attorney Kidd stated any group that conducts business for the City has to be an appointed Committee. Paul Wheeler, 33 Putter Lane, gave a verbal Open Records Request for any minutes/notes that the Landscape Committee has.

Gordon Brand, Marketing Committee, stated that the Committee is in the process of creating a 2022 budget and will present at the May Council meeting. Gordon has met with the president of TimeShares of Sky Valley, Inc. to see if this organization would like to be a part of the Marketing Committee. The City's and Visitor's Websites are being refined.

8. Susie Piotkowski – Flint Knob Tail and Sky to Summit Update

Susie gave an overview of the project of having access to the Bartham Trail and Appalachian Trail in Sky Valley. The adjoining trail is referred to as the Flint Knob Trail. Sean Blanton with Run Bum Tours is heading up the modification of the trail. He is requesting support and permission to make it into a legit trail head. The Special Project Committee will set up a meeting with him to see if they can help with this endeavor. The lot, that the trail head would be located, is currently for sale. Mr. Blanton is going to offer \$20,000 for this 2.7 acre lot, in hopes that the offer would be agreeable. If so, he would in turn donate it to the City. Mr. Blanton has done a lot of maintenance on the trail including the overlooks. If this lot doesn't work out another way to the trails would be through Harrison Merrill's property which Councilor Oliver stated that he could ask Merrill, Jr. about that possibility. Discussion ensued concerning ways of possibly obtaining the lot that could be used as a park as well. Susie stated that this year will be the 10th anniversary of the Sky to Summit race

here in Sky Valley. This is a race that Mr. Blanton puts together each year. Susie suggested have a celebration on Sunday to commemorate the event. The dates of the 2022 event will be the 5th and 6th of November.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Consider Approval of Proclamation for Arbor Day, April 29, 2022

Councilor Oliver made a motion to approve the Arbor Day Proclamation, seconded by Councilor Allred, unanimously approved.

10. Consider Approval of Proclamation for Municipal Clerks Week May 1 through May 7, 2022

Councilor Allred made a motion to approve the Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation, seconded by Councilor Oliver, unanimously approved.

11. Consider Approval of Resolution to Recognize the Authorization of the City of Sky Valley to Excise the Powers of Arrest and to Enforce the Traffic Laws of the State and of the City

Chief Estes stated that the original authorization could not be obtained but once the Resolution is adopted it would only have to renewed every three years. Councilor Oliver made the motion to approve the Authorization for Enforcement of Traffic Law Resolution, seconded by Councilor Allred, unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

12. Public Forum and General Comments

Al Piontkowski, 66 Pleasant Mountain, stated that during the audit report presented in the November Work Session of 2021, Joely Mixon, auditor, told the council that Committee's/City Council's decisions has to be for the benefit of the City not for any private enterprises. Al referred to the webcam located at the Sky Valley Country Club which when viewed shows "Sky Valley Country Club" instead of Sky Valley, Georgia. An example was given of the webcam, which is through the same ResortCams, located in Waynesville, NC. It specifies that the viewing is from the City at the top and in the picture it specifies where the camera is located. Al suggested that the City's webcam banner should be changed to reflect the same and to show the city's location and not a private entity.

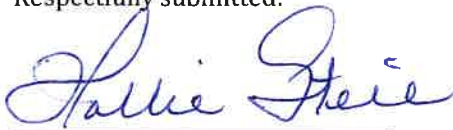
Rudy Masi, 358 Big Bear Trail, asked about the extra fee that is added to the monthly utility bill. City Manager Streetman explain that it is the leak protection insurance (ServLine) that went into effect January 1, 2022. He further explained the program.

13. Adjournment

There being not further business to come before Mayor and Council, Councilor Oliver made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Hollie Steil, Mayor



Karen Fleming, City Clerk