

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL WORK SESSION, HELD AT THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
ON FEBRUARY 18, 2020 AT 10:00 AM 817 SKY VALLEY WAY (CHAPEL)**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Steil, Councilors Oliver, Curtis, Barrick, Morley and Turner

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Fast, City Clerk Fleming, City Attorney Kidd, Police Chief Estes, Officer Edwards, Public Works Superintendent Holbrooks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Shope

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order and expressed thanks to the Public Works Department for a job well done during the snow on February 8th. Mayor Steil asked James to stand up and talk about that day. Public Works Superintendent Holbrooks had stated that the roads were treated the day before which helped with the conditions of the roads. The crew had started plowing and treating roads at 10:00 A.M. on the 8th and didn't stop until 3:00 A.M. the following morning, leaving the roads in perfect condition. He expressed his thanks for a devoted crew which consisted of Assistant Public Works Superintendent Shope coming to work on a four-wheeler. Public Works Superintendent Holbrooks received compliments from the County for doing such a good job on clearing the roads in the City Limits.

Mayor Steil had also thanked Police Chief Estes and Maureen Platt for the work that they put into the Sky Valley Watch Committee.

Mayor Steil read from the Ordinance regarding Work Sessions and what they entail.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Councilor Curtis made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Proposed Marketing Plan (presented by Bob O'Keefe)

Bob O'Keefe talked about the Proposed Marketing Plan for Sky Valley. City Attorney Kidd expressed concerns with the City being involved without having total control. He suggested calling the entity an "Authority" rather than an "Committee". City Attorney Kidd will check into the legality of the City's involvement and will report back. Debbie McAfee asked the question on what entities would be involved with the marketing committee. Bob O'Keefe answered, one representative from each organization (Sky Valley City Council, Sky Valley Property Owners Association, Sky Valley Golf and Country Club and Sky Valley Timeshares). Scott Hussey had asked if anyone had looked at the Ordinance to allow a billboard for marketing purposes. Mayor Steil had answered yes. Lynn Becker asked about the possibility of the smaller cities be linked together for marketing. Bob O'Keefe had replied that it is too early in the scheme of things to considered that possibility.

4. LMIG – SPLOST Update

City Manager Fast stated, “We have received a check for \$34,156.51 from the State of Georgia, Department of Transportation. Matching funds of \$79,703.49 are required for a total of \$113,860.00. Estimate for paving Alex Mountain and the lower end of Rebel Circle is \$174,876.00. We currently have received \$93,864.71 from the 2019 SPLOST. These proceeds are for the final quarter of 2019. She stated that she would recommend that the City move forward with placing the project out for bids in March, so that it could be scheduled and completed possibly, in April-May.” Questions were asked and addressed by City Manager Fast, which included, what repaving would entail, does the bids included the striping and if it had been considered to just do the fog lines only instead of center line plus fog lines. A discussion about using the old asphalt, from milling the roads before repaving, at areas that would benefit from it. The process for road evaluation was gone over for the determination of scheduling top priority needs, which Evergreen will be third in line. City Manager Fast had stated that no motion was needed at this point to put the projects out for bids.

5. New Police Vehicles

City Manager Fast went over the Police Department’s need for two new vehicles. The four remaining Subarus’ were discussed and analyzed. Two of the biggest disadvantages is that they do not have enough power to catch a lot of the speeders, as Officer Baumes report reflected has happened 21 times, since running radar, and they are just not holding up mechanically. City Manager Fast had stated that research had previously been completed on the best vehicles, for the money, for the type of terrain that we have here in Sky Valley. A truck is needed to move the hog traps from area to area. Bids have been received for a 2020 Dodge Durango and a 2020 Dodge Ram 1500 Truck. The budget for each vehicle was \$40,000 which would include the Patrol Upfitters equipping the vehicles as is required for patrol. Councilor Morley had asked if more bids were received on the equipping of the vehicles, which City Manager answered yes. Dan McAfee had asked if the vehicles were all wheel or 4-wheel drive, which Police Chief Estes had answered that they are all wheel drive which can be switched over to 4-wheel and that you can also use chains on them where as you cannot with the Subarus’. Councilor Turner had asked if a hemi motor was needed in both with Police Chief Estes explaining that the hemi motor is helpful because they are heavier made, and they get just as good of gas mileage. Councilor Curtis had questioned Chief Estes about if the speeders are slowing down at the site of a police car. He had stated no because the cars look more like mall security cars instead of police cars with no respect shown. Councilor Curtis also asked the question if the data collected with the radar is being maintained to show the violations, as some citizens complaining that it is hurting the marketing of Sky Valley. Chief Estes responded that they can only keep so much as historical data with the speed detecting sign. Before the radar was put in use, there was around 98% speed violators of the traffic going down. A notable reduction has been made with violators being pulled over. A discussion ensued, concerning a needed stop light, turning onto highway 106, as speeders go flying by making the intersection dangerous.

6. Website Updates

City Manager Fast stated the completion date as been moved back to around March 15th.

7. Codification of Ordinances

City Manager Fast has been given the date of the end of March, first of April, as completion for the first viewing. Councilor Morley asked if the City would be responsible for the updates and City Manager Fast replied no, that they would be contracted out. City Manager Fast has reached out to several merchants to offer ads to be listed on the website. As of date the only response has been from Julep Farms, which might be interested.

8. Budget Amendment for 2019 Budget

City Manager Fast explained in Governmental Accounting, you do one Budget Amendment at the end of the year instead of throughout the year. City Manager Fast stated that over all, the City has done very well. Councilor Morley asked if the additional expenses had been approved as they occurred which City Manager stated yes.

9. Recycling – Same day as Garbage Pick-Up

The City would like to streamline the picking up of the garbage and recycling. If both were picked up on the same day it would free another day to have a full crew four day rather than just three. Councilor Curtis questioned why it would be helpful. Public Works Superintendent Holbrooks explained how much more productive it would be for completions of projects.

10. Progress Report – City Manager

a) 5 Year Capital Plan is being updated and will include updated road plan, equipment and vehicles

The road and equipment update are in progress. The City's long-range plans needs to be more proactive in regard to, the replacement of equipment as needed, instead of waiting until spending a lot in repairs before considering replacement.

b) We have received the Sky Valley-Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, Inc. agreement and it will be placed on the 2/25 Council Meeting Agenda

Information provided as an update and will be on next week's agenda.

c) North Carolina has been contacted about Bald Mountain Road (I have reached out to Jimmy Tate and he is forwarding to the appropriate personnel)

Jimmy Tate is a Macon County Commissioner and will forward the requested to the State which maintains the road and trash removal.

d) Public Works Department – Snow Removal (James will give an update)

Public Works Superintendent previously spoke on this subject.

e) The GMA 5 Year Capital Survey has been completed

This is a wish list throughout the state, giving projection on what is needed, for our City, as far as equipment and buildings. Mayor Steil stated how important this survey is, to show Legislation that we need help. All municipalities are struggling to keep up with failing infrastructure. Councilor Curtis asked about when the bucket truck will be purchased as the need is still in place, for tree trimming. City Manager Fast answered within the next couple of months. He also asked if the savings on the police vehicles could be added to the budgeted amount for a bucket truck for a possible upgrade.

OTHER BUSINESS

11. Adjournment

There be no further business to come before Mayor and Council, Councilor Curtis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Oliver, unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hollie Steil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Hollie Steil, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Karen Fleming, City Clerk