

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
ON FEBRUARY 25, 2020, ON A TUESDAY AT 10:00 AM, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY (CHAPEL)**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilors Oliver and Barrick

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Fast, City Clerk Fleming, City Attorney Kidd, Public Works Superintendent Holbrooks, Officer Edwards

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Cathy Turner led the Invocation and Mayor Steil led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

January 7, 2020 Organizational & Regular Council Meeting

January 9, 2020 Special Called Council Meeting

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Steil asked for the approval of adding three more Committee Appointments for consideration (Mayoral Advisory – Bill Oliver, Public Works – Moody Barrick, Marketing – Bob O’Keefe), under item nine on the agenda. Councilor Curtis made a motion to adopt the newly amended agenda, seconded by Councilor Morley, unanimously approved.

5. Mayor’s Remarks

Mayor Steil stated that the two absent councilmembers were unable to attend due to being, one out of the country and the other out of the state. She thanked Public Works Superintendent Holbrooks and his crew again, for all the work that was put into the clearing of the roads during the recent snow. She had asked how many gallons of brine was used, which Public Works Superintendent Holbrooks had stated 10,000. Mayor Steil also thanked the City Hall staff for all their hard work. She asked if there were any other comments that the Council would like to make, which they had none.

6. City Manager’s Remarks

City Manager Fast stated that at least 50% of the ditches have been completed, which consists of leaves and debris removal. More ditches will be dug out in the Spring. There has been a second order of material, for making brine, should be receiving shortly. During the rainy days the Public Works Department has been servicing equipment and getting things in order. She expressed her gratitude to them for working late to remove two down trees that fell into the road, while snowing.

The collection for the 2019 taxes is around 96% as of date, which is around \$878,000. Past due notices have been sent out, to try and bring the rest in.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Consider Approving Budget Amendment Resolution (2019 Budget)

Councilor Morley made a motion for the approval of the Budget Amendment Resolution, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

8. Consider Approval of Changing Recycling to Same Day as Garbage Pick-Up

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the changing of the recycle collection day to the same day as the garbage collection day, Councilor Morley seconded, unanimously approved.

Connie Larsen, resident from audience, asked if it would still be only one recycle bin and what size container for the garbage. Public Works Superintendent Holbrooks stated yes only one recycle bin and the garbage should be around 30 gallons.

City Manager Fast stated that the starting date for this change would be March 2, 2020.

9. Consider Approving Committee Appointments for:

- 1. Landscaping**
- 2. Special Projects**
- 3. Sky Valley Watch**
- 4. Mayoral Advisory (Added to Agenda 2/25)**
- 5. Public Works (Added to Agenda 2/25)**
- 6. Marketing (Added to Agenda 2/25)**

Mayor Steil had stated that setting up committees and chairpersons for each, was one of the duties of the Mayor. Mayor Steil has set up the following committees with assignment of chairpersons: Landscaping Committee-Debbie Dalhouse Curtis, Special Projects-Bruce Turner, Sky Valley Watch-Maureen Platt, Mayoral Advisory-Bill Oliver, Public Works-Moody Barrick, Marketing-Bob O'Keefe.

City Attorney Kidd spoke on behalf of the City being involved with the Marketing Committee. He conducted research on the matter and used the example of a case that was brought in front of the Georgia Supreme Court in 2018, with regulations being stated. Basically, if it is going to be a government entity then the appointment must come from the governing body. Private groups can't have a say to whom the appointments will be. Steve Mason, resident in audience, asked if there could be recommendations given to the Mayor for consideration and City Attorney Kidd answered yes. City Attorney also stated that anyone involved with a City committee has to abide by the Ethics Ordinance with all decisions be geared to benefiting the City rather than enriching themselves or their private entity. Private entities can donate to the City, which the City will turn around and earmark those contribution for marketing purposes only. Councilor Morley asked if the government entity could be called a "committee", which City Attorney Kidd answered yes. City Attorney Kidd also stated that the City Council must approve and vote on everything before it can be carried out.

Councilor Turner made a motion to approve the committee's appointments as presented, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

**10. Consider Awarding Bid to Smoky Mountain Chrysler (Franklin N.C.) for 2020 Dodge Durango with Trade- In, \$20,998 and Equipment to Dana Safety Supply, Inc. for \$6,756.78
*Total \$27,754.78**

Councilor Curtis made a motion to award the bid, for purchasing of the 2020 Dodge Durango, to Smoky Mountain Chrysler and equipment to Dana Safety Supply, seconded by Councilor Turner. City Manager Fast went over the additional information that was requested at the work session. Even though the motion for the purchase had been made and seconded, another motion was made by Councilor Turner to table the approval, of the purchasing of said vehicle until further information had been obtained and presented, which City Manager Fast stated that the bid is only good for 30 days and then the process would have to start all over again. Councilor Morley stated more information is needed on the efficiency of the vehicles with a hemi verses a six-cylinder. City Manager Fast gave additional information that has been obtained relating to the vehicle quotes with the package option needed to power the equipment. Andy Kingery, resident in audience, stated he was in objection with the purchasing of the Subarus' from the beginning. With his professional background he knew the Subarus' were not suitable for our terrain and advised the City Manager, at that time, to considered purchasing two instead of four, to try out. He feels like the Dodge is the best option for our situation. Kingery stated as a taxpayer, he is concerned about what is purchased and also concerned about the safety of our police. Councilor Morley stated that the council is totally committed to purchasing a reliable vehicle but need to gather additional information, such as, if all police vehicles need to have the cages or barriers installed in them. Officer Edwards addressed that question, as each vehicle needs to have the barrier so the arresting officer can transport instead of having to call for a car that has one. Edwards also went over some comparisons of the engine sizes, and wear and tear on engines that will not hold up to the pulling of mountains. He also went over the differences, as he has encounter, with the gas mileages and the different size motors. In his opinion the larger engine holds up better with little difference in MPG. Councilor Curtis went over his research concerning the "Pursuit Package" on the vehicles. Councilor Turner stated that

the comparisons are needed on the engine sizes before deciding to purchase. Morley seconded the motion to table the purchase of the 2020 Dodge Durango, unanimously approved.

**11. Consider Awarding Bid to Smoky Mountain Chrysler (Franklin N.C.) for Ram 1500 Classic Street Crew Cab 4x4, with Trade-In \$16,985 and Equipment to Dana Safety Supply, Inc. for \$6,542.78
*Total \$23,527.78**

Councilor Curtis made a motion to accept the bid from Smoky Mountain Chrysler for the Ram 1500 Classic Street Crew Cab 4x4 and equipped by Dana Safety Supply, seconded by Councilor Turner. Councilor Morley shared some researched material concerning the truck but was wanting to get it priced out as a six cylinder for comparison. Mayor Steil stated that she was receiving questions on why a truck was needed. Officer Edwards was asked to address this, which he stated that it was needed to move hog traps, moving barriers, and to use during snowstorms. Councilor Turner stated that like item 10 he would like to table this approval and made a motion to table. Mayor Steil called for the vote without a second which was unanimously approved.

12. Consider Agreement with Sky Valley/Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue, for 2020, in the amount of \$88,166.88

City Manager Fast went over the agreement amount. Councilor Morley stated that if we are successful with the SDS agreement, with the county, we should get around two-thirds of that back. Councilor Curtis stated that the reason for the increased amount from last year, is the addition of a paid administrative worker. Councilor Turner made a motion for the approval of the agreement with Sky Valley/Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue, for 2020, in the amount of \$88,166.88, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

13. Public Forum and General Comments

No comments were made.

14. Adjournment

Mayor Steil made a motion to adjourn instead of one of the other councilmembers, seconded by Councilor Morley, unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05.

Respectful submitted,



Hollie Steil, Mayor



Karen Fleming, City Clerk