

**Mayoral Advisory Committee Meeting  
Friday, April 17, 2020 at 2:00 PM  
Via Teleconference (Zoom)**

**MINUTES**

Those Present: Mayor Hollie Steil, Councilor Bill Oliver-Chairperson, David Spears, Dan McAfee, Tim Darrah, Councilor Ed Morley, Martin Greene and City Manager Ella Fast

Those Absent: Will Gurley and Paula Jensen

Mayor Steil welcomed all members and online participants that had joined the meeting.

City Manager Fast took questions, that was entered through chat, from the citizens and the members could respond.

Purpose of this committee – help the City Council address and make decisions on possible future Capital Fund projects. This committee consists of City Council approved members, helping the Council, by gathering information and input from the community. This committee can make recommendations to the Council only, no binding decisions will be made by the committee. Comments are welcomed from the citizens on the topics at hand.

Bill Oliver stated that this is the first official meeting after the appointment and approval of members. He asked for input from the Sky Valley residents and taxpayers, to help formulate a plan that would benefit all the citizens of Sky Valley. The items for discussions are forward looking projects for the viability of the City.

**Possible Projects for Consideration**

- **Development proposal from Harrison Merrill**  
Harrison Merrill had reached out to Bill Oliver to set up a meeting between the two of them along with Hollie Steil. The purpose of the meeting was to go over the master plan that he has for Sky Valley. The plan consists of opening the ski slope area again, building a small hotel with function space and condominiums/ cottages along ski slope area. The feasibility study, for this endeavor, would cost \$25,000 which he wants the City to pay half of that cost along with committing to start phase one of the valley's sewer system. Harrison doesn't want to move forward unless the City is 100% behind him. The plan would be done in phases. An email has been sent to Harrison to let him know that the plan would be part of the discussions for Sky Valley's long-term visions. What needs to be analyzed is, what part of this plan would benefit the City and its citizens. If the plan is not acceptable at this time, Harrison discussed other avenues, in an email sent, that he might pursue for the Sky Valley property that he owns.

The consensus, after the discussion of the plan, was that the reopening of ski slopes would not benefit the City as a whole, but the addition of new condos and development would. Since the interest and the plan has been brought up again, much consideration, discussions, and analysis is needed.

- **Sewer system for potential commercial and higher density residential areas**  
With any new development or additional units in the valley, a sewer system would be a must. The multi family units and commercial buildings, in the valley, would be the ones connected to the potential sewer system. This topic was discussed along with the cost. Tim Darrah stated that he would set something up with the Water and Sewer Authority to get a current estimate of cost and what funding sources would be available. He also stated that he and Bill Oliver could check with the Rabun County Development Authority concerning resources.

- **Options for City owned building on Hwy. 246**

Ideas that were discussed:

Additional renters, but upgrades would have to be done, such as, adding more restrooms. Dan McAfee stated that he could look at the building to give an assessment.

Reopening as a Visitor's Center, especially if plan moves forward  
City Hall moving into the building

Dan McAfee asked to review the lease agreement.

These topics will be discussed further at next meeting.

The next meeting was tentatively set up for May 1<sup>st</sup>, starting at 10:00 am.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Karen Fleming, City Clerk