

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL WORK SESSION HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM)  
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA ON APRIL 21, 2020 AT 10:00 AM**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Fast, City Clerk Fleming, City Attorney Kidd and Public Works Superintendent Holbrooks

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order at 10:06

**2. Welcome – Council Members and On-Line Citizens**

Mayor Steil welcomed all for attending.

**3. Invocation**

Mayor Steil read an invocation by Barbara Glasson, president of the United Methodist Conference.

**4. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**5. Mayoral Remarks**

Administrative Professional Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup> and Mayor Steil expressed her appreciation for the ladies at City Hall, (Ella, Karen and Alyssa). Also, thanked the Public Works Department for their expedited response to a recent erosion problem.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**6. City Manager Progress Report and Remarks**

City Manager Fast commented on the following topics:

- ❖ **Instruct citizens on-line – how to make comments and ask questions on Zoom**  
(Attendees were asked to type in any questions, through chat)
- ❖ **Report on City's decision concerning pickleball court usage**  
(Tentatively reopening, May 13<sup>th</sup> in accordance to Executive Orders from the Governor)
- ❖ **Report on increased bear activity in Sky Valley – when and who to contact when bears are on citizen's property**  
(Dial 911 if an emergency, non-emergency calls, dial 706-782-7777)
- ❖ **Reminder of bird feeding rules**  
(Bird Feeders must be put away by April 15<sup>th</sup>)
- ❖ **Reminder of garbage and recyclable pick-up (changed to Mondays)**  
(Both, if applicable, must be out by 8:00 am)

- ❖ **Report on City Manager's decision, for Police Department procedure, using 911 services in lieu of department phone calls**  
(The calls need to be recorded for reference purposes. Dial 911 for emergencies, non-emergency calls, dial 706-782-7777. Sky Valley Police Department will be dispatched)
- ❖ **Report on Public Works progress of ditch cleanup and maintenance**  
(Out of 39 roads, 23 have been completed)
- ❖ **Report on Website and Codification of Ordinances**  
(The website is 90% completed and should be wrapping up next week. The Ordinance for the Codification will be reconsidered at the April 28<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and if it passes the Codification of our Ordinances will be added to the new website.)
- ❖ **Rabun County Emergency agreement with Municipalities**  
(The City signed an agreement, Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement, along with the County. This agreement is for timely mutual aid assistance in emergencies. Due to the State of Emergency we are in, because of COVID19, this agreement addresses issues that the City might encounter)
- ❖ **Report on City, County, and State requirements for reporting on monthly rental tax returns**  
(If you have rental property that has not be registered: First you must register with the State, thereafter, file quarterly reports. The City requires monthly filings. We currently have 35 rental properties in Sky Valley, that files)

Questions that were typed in and addressed, were in reference to the codification of ordinances and the filing of rental properties reports.

## 7. Committee Report

### a. Report on current Sky Valley Committees

Mayor Steil talked about the Landscaping Committee which she stated consisted of four master gardeners. They have compiled a progressive plan with Mark Wannamaker which will be ongoing throughout the season. Volunteers were asked to contact Debbie Dalhouse-Curtis, Chairperson. Mayor Steil asked Bill Oliver, Chairperson for Mayoral Advisory Committee, to give a progress report. He stated that the committee brings recommendations to the Mayor and Council, which would benefit the citizens and not just the commercial entities. Topics that are under current discussions: (1.) Harrison Merrill Proposed Plan (2.) City Sewer System (3.) City owned building on 246. The Marketing Committee will have additional appointees that will be presented at the RCM, which will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, for approval.

### b. Special Projects Committee Chairman Report

Bruce Turner, Chairperson for the Special Projects Committee, shared a list that consisted of the top 12 items that this committee had prioritized. Suggestions were presented to them, from members and citizens. An on-line meeting will be set up soon, to discuss these topics.

## OLD BUSINESS

### 8. Emergency Road Progress

Mayor Steil asked Councilor Barrick and Chairperson of the Public Works Committee to give an update of this project. Councilor Barrick stated that he and Mike Commons, committee member, were going to evaluate the road, from Ridgpole down to Crusher Run, but a tree had fallen across the road leaving it impassable. Darren Giles, with the County, had also offered to look at the road. City Attorney Kidd has received a list of owners that would need to authorize an emergency easement before the City could upgrade the road. Letters will be sent out, by him, to each owner.

### 9. City Owned Lots – Title Searches

City Attorney Kid will conduct title searches on these land lots as soon as the courthouse reopens. When the City owned lots, that the City has no use for, come back with clear titles then they can be put up for sale.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### 10. Public Forum and General Comments

No further comments were made

### 11. Adjournment

Councilor Turner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Oliver, unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Hollie Steil, Mayor



Karen Fleming, City Clerk