

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 696 SKY VALLEY WAY (CBC BLDG.) CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA ON NOVEMBER 19, 2020 A THURSDAY AT 11:00 AM

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

STAFF PRESENT: Public Works Superintendent Holbrooks, Police Chief Estes, and City Clerk Fleming

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation

Councilor Turner led the Invocation.

3. Approval of Minutes

September 22, 2020 – Regular Council Meeting

October 13, 2020 – Council Budget Work Session

October 13, 2020 – Special Called Council Meeting

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

4. Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Steil requested to amend the agenda, postponing item eight to the next meeting, as City Attorney Kidd was unable to attend the meeting. Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

5. Mayor's Remarks

Mayor Steil thanked the City employees for keeping up the good work in the absence of a City Manager. The round hay bales are being removed early due to damage from the recent storms. She thanked Debbie Curtis and Cheryl Beckert for planting in the City Park planters. The money for the plants and dirt was donated by the POA. The webcam is up and running on the City website. She thanked the Screening Committee as they are on the second round of the process for filling the City Manager position.

6. Committee Reports

• **Mayoral Advisory Committee**

Councilor Oliver, Committee Chairperson, stated the committee would like to make a recommendation to the Council. The recommendation to be considered was establishing the pond area at the City Park into a Mountain Wetland. After extensive research conducting by Tony Allred, which included meeting with the local DNR, this would be the best solution for this area that is being fed by a primary trout stream. This could be considered a conservation area for the City. This will be a future agenda item for the Council to review.

The electrical issues are being address at 246 building along with the renderings being reconfigured. The renters at this building have extended their leases for 2021. Discussions are underway for future plans of the old lodge as well as working on a much needed five-year plan, for Sky Valley.

• **Marketing Committee**

Bob O'Keefe, Chairperson, read an accomplishment report as of date, for the Marketing Committee. He stated who contributed to the Marketing Fund for 2020 – POA - \$15,000, SV Country Club - \$2,440, and the City of Sky Valley - \$4,000. Additionally, the Club contributed meals, rounds of golf, lodging and meals to certain visiting dignitaries through the course of 2020.

Established branding for Sky Valley which consisted of a mountain view logo and slogan, "Georgia's Highest and Coolest City". Stickers were made up with this logo and distributed. A contract was signed with Doug Hollandsworth to help promote Sky Valley, which he has arranged several promotions this year, along with committee arranged events.

He also gave some tentative ideas/possible goals for 2021 and thanked the committee members.

7. City Report

• **Front Entrance Sprinkler System**

Mayor Steil stated that the front entrance sprinkler system has been completed.

- **Entrance Lighting**
Councilor Turner stated that the entrance lighting has been completed along with adding a light for the American Flag as it stays raised 24/7. There are still some needed adjustments to the lights that is underway to help soften certain areas and to make more welcoming.
- **Road Resurfacing**
Public Works Superintendent Holbrooks stated that the resurfacing project has been completed on Alex Mountain and Rebel Circle. Once the asphalt has cured the City will go in a build up the shoulders as needed. The road striping should be completed sometime after Thanksgiving. Holbrooks also stated that there was enough asphalt left over to pave Lover's Lane which was not scheduled but needed.

Public Works Superintendent Holbrooks stated that asphalt will be put down on the walking path, pickleball court side, of the City Park due to the area being washed out by recent heavy rains.

NEW BUSINESS

8. 2019 Audit Report

Joely Mixon from Mixon, Mixon, Brown and Tench, conducted the 2019 audit. She did a review of the financial data as of December 31, 2019, which consisted of comparisons of revenue and expenses, 2017-2019. Financial performance, assessment of financial condition for the General Fund, and assessment of financial condition for the Enterprise Fund, was the main topics of her presentation. In conducting the audit there was a correction made involving an amount that went over the 2019 budget for police and court. The amount was \$15,259 and no budget amendment was generated and approved. This was simply an entry error that was found and Joely was able to perform the correction. Overall Joely stated the audit went very well and she had made a recommendation of having an interim financial consultant to help with checks and balances until the City Manager's position has been filled. She stated that the low debt that the City has incurred, help makes it strong financially.

9. Consider Resolution for the adoption of FY 2021 Budget

Councilor Morley made a motion to approve the resolution for the adoption of FY 2021 Budget, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

10. Consider Resolution for the adoption of FY 2020 Millage Rate

Councilor made a motion to approve the resolution for setting the 2020, 15.608 Millage Rate, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

11. Consider Approval of the Interim Financial Consultant Contract

Councilor Oliver made a motion to approve the contract for interim financial consultant, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

12. Ratify the Approval of the 2021 Lease Agreements (West and Calderone)

Approval was obtained via email for the 2021 lease agreements due to time restraints. Councilor Oliver made a motion to ratify the approval of the 2021 lease agreements, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

13. Public Forum and General Comments

Al Piontkowski, 66 Pleasant Mountain Drive, stated the discussions conducted by the Mayoral Advisory Committee concerning the pond that the City leases and also the old lodge that the CBC is currently leasing, as not indicated that there has been discussions with the owner, Harrison Merrill concerning their proposals. He also expressed concern over the new lighting at the entrance having adverse effects on night driving. He asked the council to check in on International Dark Sky along with Light Pollution. He went over the stats for the recent Sky to Summit race and also suggested that a hospitality center be set up for them next year.

14. Adjournment

Councilor Morley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.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 the name.

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 the name.

Karen Fleming, City Clerk