

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
APRIL 22, 2014
TUESDAY, 10:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

MINUTES

Mayor Goodgame called the meeting to order.

Those present: Mayor Goodgame, Council President Larsen, Councilors Carr, Greene, Howard, and Whatley, Attorney Dickerson, Chief Dills, and City Clerk Cantrell.

Cathy Turner gave the invocation. Mayor Goodgame led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Greene made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25 Regular Meeting, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

Councilor Greene made a motion to adopt the agenda, 2nd Council President Larsen, unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Goodgame gave an update on the cell tower. The lease has been signed by the property owner. Verizon will submit application to the city for installation and to FCC. They are still predicting it to be completed in the fourth quarter of this year.

Mayor Goodgame said the old lodge is in terrible condition. He is trying to meet with Harrison Merrill to discuss the possibility of Mr. Merrill donating properties to the city in exchange for the city demolishing the lodge. We need property because we have no locations available for future projects such as a recycling center or equipment storage. Mayor Goodgame said he met previous Mayor, Jim Martindale, who is a retired contractor, at the lodge to look for any signs of asbestos. They did not find asbestos.

The park is completed and ready for use. It is dog friendly. A dog waste station is provided, and we ask that you pick up after your dog so the park is clean for everyone. The park has swings and a horseshoe pit.

The spring cleanup day is April 23. So far, we have 30 volunteers. The main focus will be Highway 246 and Bald Mountain Road. The Club is hosting a happy hour for the volunteers at 5:00. Volunteers are bringing snacks, and you can purchase drinks.

The first Mayoral Advisory Committee meeting went well. It was very helpful to have input from former mayors and other community leaders.

Councilor Whatley chairs the Public Safety Committee. At their meeting, they discussed use of golf carts on streets and speed breakers.

Councilor Greene chairs the Maintenance and Public Works Committee. They discussed garbage collection, recycling, and right-of-way maintenance.

The Marketing Committee meets on May 6th. The UGA grad student who chose marketing Sky Valley as his project will present his final project on April 29th on campus in Athens. His work will be taken into consideration as we move forward with a marketing plan.

Former Councilor, Ray Becker is currently at a meeting of the Rabun County Water and Sewer Authority. Clayton did not join the Authority, and that leaves more funding available. Mayor Goodgame said he met with Authority Board Member Randy Speed to discuss the City joining the Authority. The Authority is interested in installing sewer, but if we receive sewer, we will have to turn over our water system. We want to make sure that, if this option is pursued, that we maintain our current water service level and have an on-site employee.

Mayor Goodgame reminded everyone that the committee meetings are to discuss and come up with ideas and proposals to present to the Council. The Council must approve any changes.

Mayor Goodgame said Helen Kleiber is working with City Hall staff to raise money for flagpoles being installed at City Hall. Flyers are available if anyone wants to contribute. Anyone contributing \$25 or more will have their honoree's name memorialized on a display in the City Hall building.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilor Green said he has enjoyed the committee meetings and the discussions. He reminded everyone that the meetings are open to public and invited people to attend. The committees are to bring up issues and encourage people to get involved in their local government.

Council President Larsen said the city did a good job cleaning up the park and pond. He asked if anyone has an image of the pond from 1990 or earlier, preferably an aerial picture, showing the original delineation of the pond. He said this will help for future reference to maintain the pond.

Council President Larsen said that last November, the Sky to Summit run brought over 200 people to Sky Valley. The event had great reviews, with many people saying how beautiful Sky Valley is. He said they are anticipating 300 people this year, and this could be a great marketing opportunity.

Councilor Howard thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and said he appreciated the involvement we are seeing with the committees.

Councilor Whatley said that volunteers from Scaly Mountain cleaned up on Hwy 246/106 from the NC State Line to the Scaly post office.

Councilor Whatley said that all of the city's concerns with the cell tower were addressed in the agreement.

CITY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORTS – EXCEPTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mayor Goodgame highlighted a few items in the City Manager's report. A 10-percent penalty will be applied to delinquent taxes on April 24th. Please contact city hall if you are renting your house as a vacation rental. Please call city hall if you are doing any work to your house to see if a permit is required.

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of Ordinance to Authorize Special Permit for Shooting Animal Pests

Mayor Goodgame said this came about from a request we received from the Club regarding the nuisance created by geese on the golf course. Councilor Greene made a motion to approve the ordinance, 2nd Council President Larsen. Councilor Whatley said we need to set the number of days the permit is good for and the permit fee. He recommended amending the motion to approve the ordinance with the permit being valid for 14 days and a \$10 permit fee. Councilor Greene amended his motion to include these changes, 2nd Council President Larsen, unanimously approved.

- 2014 General Election – to be conducted by City or County

City Clerk Cantrell presented the options available for the election to be conducted by Rabun County instead of by the City. Councilor Carr made a motion to enter into an agreement with the County for them to conduct our elections, 2nd Councilor Greene. Discussion followed about the cost difference. Councilor Whatley said that it is less expensive for us to conduct our own elections, and that he likes the votes being by paper ballot so people can see them, and they could be recounted if requested. Mayor Goodgame said that his personal preference would be to keep the elections here. He said the concern he heard while campaigning was about the security of the absentee ballots. City Clerk Cantrell explained the absentee ballot procedure. The absentee ballots are sealed in an unmarked white envelope which is then sealed in a yellow envelope with the elector's oath. These ballots are placed in a locked absentee ballot box and the box is stored in the safe-room at night. It is opened on election day. She said that we do need a larger absentee ballot box and added that she can put out educational information so that everyone knows the process that can address the security concerns. The motion failed 1:4 with Councilor Carr voting aye, and Councilors Greene, Howard, Larsen, and Whatley voting nay.

NEW BUSINESS

- Appointment of Sue Cillo to Marketing Committee

Mayor Goodgame said he would like to add Sue Cillo to the Marketing Committee. Council President Larsen made a motion to approve adding Sue Cillo to the Marketing Committee, 2nd Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

- Approval of Ordinance Establishing Standards for Telecommunications Antennae and Towers

Mayor Goodgame explained that the Council can approve the first reading of the Ordinance, and then we need to have a public hearing by the Planning and Zoning Commission per zoning procedure laws. This can be on the agenda next month for final approval. Councilor Whatley made a motion to approve, 2nd Council President Larsen, unanimously approved.

- Police Vehicles

Mayor Goodgame said the two police vehicles purchased last year are in good condition. The older vehicles are in poor condition, and we do not have enough money in the budget to repair them. He said that these two items, police vehicles and declaration of surplus property will be postponed until the May meeting so that we can have a recommendation that best serves everyone.

- Approval of Resolution Declaring Surplus Property - Postponed
 - 2005 Chevrolet Impala
 - 1999 Ford Crown Victoria
 - 2000 Ford Crown Victoria
 - 1985 Chevrolet Blazer
 - 2002 Ford Explorer

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

None.

Councilor Whatley made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:



Hughel Goodgame, Mayor

Attested:



Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk