

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA  
MAY 24, 2016  
TUESDAY, 10:00 AM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

**MINUTES**

Mayor Goodgame called the meeting to order.

Those present: Mayor Goodgame, Council President Lively, Councilors Carr, Howard, MacNair, and Steil, City Manager Lapeyrouse, Chief Mason, and City Clerk Cantrell.

Truman Barber gave the invocation. Mayor Goodgame led the Pledge of allegiance.

Councilor MacNair made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2016 Regular Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

Councilor Carr made a motion to adopt the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Council President Lively. Mayor Goodgame said we have one item to add, an encroachment on Saddleback Circle. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

**MAYOR'S REMARKS**

Mayor Goodgame thanked the audience members for coming to the meeting especially in light of such a small agenda.

We have a big event this weekend, our Mud Creek Falls 5K and Craft Beer Festival. We'll have two food vendors and 15 craft breweries.

We are cutting the rights of way in Rabun County and NC leading into Sky Valley so it looks nice for our big event this weekend.

We are also having a cleanup day this Thursday at 2:00. He asks for anybody that is willing to help to please let Mandi know. We also need a few more volunteers for the event this weekend. He said the beer festival is an important event for us as it helps us attract a younger crowd to the city.

We are working on the potential Sky Valley Community Park. It's still in ongoing planning, and we are hoping it is going to work out. We will keep everyone posted.

**COUNCIL REMARKS**

Councilor Steil said it has been a glorious spring in Sky Valley. He commended the staff for all their work in keeping the city clean.

Council President Lively said that the Community Bible Church is in the painting stage of cleaning up the old lodge for use, and he said they anticipate having the first floor opened in mid-June.

Councilor Carr thanked Chief Mason for helping them out when she found a dead fox on her property. She also said that there was a very serious fall at a residence on Sky High very early one morning and Chief Mason was a great help.

Councilor Carr thanked Megan Studdard for her great article for the upcoming festival.

### **CITY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORTS – EXCEPTIONS AND QUESTIONS**

City Manager Lapeyrouse said to meet at City Hall at 2:00 PM on Thursday for the cleanup day. Please let us know if you plan to volunteer.

We will be closed on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day. Chief Mason has put together a citizens' police academy. It is a 12-week program. Interested individuals should contact City Hall. It will be limited to 20 people.

We had 186 visitors at the visitors center in April, and we had 37 just last Saturday. We've had visitors from all over the US, and even Germany and England. We still need volunteers for Sunday afternoons.

Chief Mason reported that we have had several car and motorcycle accidents on Hwy 246, and the causes are usually from failing to maintain lane and following too closely so we are doing some traffic control on the highway.

Mason said that he has been keeping in close contact with the family of the fall victim on Sky High. The injuries were very serious.

Helen Kleiber said that her husband Don had a flat tire, called the police department, and they wanted to publicly thank Chief Mason for coming over and changing their tire.

Mayor Goodgame said that the visitor center has far surpassed our anticipated numbers of visitors. He said that with our marketing effort that is the way people find out more about us when they get here.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Quitclaim Deed

Mayor Goodgame explained that there are several houses that encroach on the city's right of way, and when the title searches and new surveys are done, we have situations where the sales can't close until a quitclaim deed is approved. The property being sold is 233 Saddleback Circle. Council President Lively made a motion to approve the quitclaim deed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor MacNair, unanimously approved.

- Police Vehicle Lease Proposal

Mayor Goodgame said that a couple of years ago, we purchased two used vehicles for the police department. They have needed extensive service and have been very high maintenance. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that Chief Mason put together a proposal to lease Subaru Forresters, all wheel drive vehicles, to replace those two Ford Fusions. Chief Mason has proposed leasing four vehicles to lessen the mileage and to keep the vehicles from being used 12-hours a day, every day. Mayor Goodgame said that we currently have two cars and one SUV that we have held onto for use in the wintertime. Chief Mason said that he is recommending four because it keeps the mileage and usage down. Each car would be assigned to a shift, and officers take better care of a vehicle when it is assigned to them. He said that for law enforcement and public safety purposes he believes the all wheel drives with better ground clearance offer a better service to the public. We can also use them for medical calls in an emergency situation.

Councilor Steil made a motion to approve the lease plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Lively. Councilor MacNair said he does not see the need to have four vehicles. He said these are made well and maintain well, and that he will support leasing two vehicles. Councilor Howard said that he read over the proposal, and he thinks we need time to study the lease and see the actual costs. He said he does think it is an idea that we should consider further. Councilor Howard made a motion to table until further discussion can be held, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor MacNair. Councilor Steil said that he is not able to use Fahey's (a local Subaru repair shop) on warranty work on his vehicles, and he wanted to make sure about the maintenance work. Chief Mason said that any warranty work would need to be done by the dealer, and the maintenance work can be done locally. Mayor Goodgame said that we have a City Manager who has been with us for twelve years, staff that has been with us for a good while, and a very qualified Chief. He said that he is against the postponement, and he believes Council should deal with things when they are presented to them. We have a qualified staff and we should trust them with their recommendations. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that she does think leasing vehicles are a good option, and that she believes the all-wheel-drive cars are well suited for our needs. She said that if we lease vehicles, we will surplus and sell the Fusions. Councilor Carr said that she trusts our City Manager, and she believes we need better vehicles than the Fusions. She said she would like the Council to consider two or three vehicles at this time. Some discussion followed about the lease and mileage limits. Councilor Steil said that it might cost less to get three vehicles than to pay the charges for the additional miles on two. Councilor Howard said that he is not asking to postpone it because of a lack of trust, but that he believes there are more items we need to fully understand before moving forward. Mayor Goodgame called for the vote. The motion failed 3:3 with Councilors Howard, MacNair, and Steil voting aye and Council President Lively, Councilor Carr, and Mayor Goodgame voting nay.

Mayor Goodgame asked Councilor Steil if he is willing to amend his motion to reconsider the number of vehicles based upon consideration the number of vehicles. Councilor Steil said yes amended his motion, 2nd Council President Lively. Councilor Howard said he would like to hear the motion. City Clerk Cantrell said the motion did not state the number of vehicles, it was to

approve the lease plan. She asked Councilor Steil if his intent was to amend the motion to approve the lease of two vehicles. He said that yes, it was.

Mayor Goodgame said that at this point, due to the questions that have been raised, he recommends amending the motion to give the City Manager and Chief authority to come back with a concrete proposal on the number of vehicles. Councilor Steil accepted the amendment to his motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Carr. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that in order for us to do that we need to know the number vehicles we are talking about leasing. Mayor Goodgame said that in the analysis, we need to compare the cost of leasing two vehicles and paying for the additional mileage and the cost of leasing three vehicles. Council President Lively said that leasing three vehicles might cost less than the additional mileage if we lease two. Councilor Howard said he is in agreement with getting the numbers, the lease, and knowing exactly what we are talking about. The motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS**

Paul Wheeler said he thought the public had the chance to comment and ask questions before the council votes on an item once the Council is finished with their discussion. Mayor Goodgame said that it is open to the Council for discussion prior to voting, and that if something comes up during the public forum, the Council can reconsider. Debbie Daulhouse said she just wanted to point out that there seemed to be some confusion with the mileage on vehicles, and that based on previous annual mileage, the mileage allowed on the lease should work out.

Steve Mason asked if we had gotten any lease information from a dealership in Georgia. Do we ever need four vehicles at the same time? Chief Mason said that he did compare prices from dealerships in GA, and this dealership in Asheville was the best price. Subarus are not on state contract. Mayor Goodgame said that we only have one officer on duty at a time, so we would not need four at the same time.

Susan Balknight, SECU Foundation, Hospice House of WNC presented information on hospice and said that they will be renovating a house the Foundation owns in Franklin, NC. She said it will hold six patient units. She said that typically, hospice care takes place in someone's home, but in some cases, it cannot be done in the home, and that is where a hospice house helps.

Rhonda Barnes, who has been a hospice nurse for 15 years presented information on how hospice works. She explained the difference between a hospital setting and a hospice house and the different levels of services provided. The house can be utilized for respite, symptom management, and if the patient/family doesn't want to pass away at home. She encouraged people to visit the house, and see what kinds of services they have to offer, and to see if there is any way people would like to support it. The six rooms will serve around 250 people per year.

Jim Curtis asked for an update on Alpine being one-way. City Manager Lapeyrouse said the County agreed to do the building up of the right of way, and it will continue to be a one-way until they are able to build up the shoulders. Mayor Goodgame said that it is a rather large

project and we need help with it. City Manager Lapeyrouse added that we do not have the equipment to do it ourselves, and the County has agreed to help because of us being unqualified for grant funding due to the feud between Rabun County and the City of Clayton. Mayor Goodgame said that it hurts us, along with the entire County because we cannot apply for grant funding.

Councilor Steil made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:



Hughel Goodgame, Mayor

Attested:



Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk