

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
AUGUST 23, 2016
TUESDAY, 10:00 AM
696 SKY VALLEY WAY (LODGE)**

MINUTES

Mayor Goodgame called the meeting to order.

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

David Spears gave the invocation. Mayor Goodgame led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

City Clerk Fast swore in newly appointed Councilor Elisabeth Morley.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Steil made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2016 Regular Council Meeting. Councilor Lively seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councilor Lively moved to remove items four and seven. Councilor Morley seconded the motion and unanimously approved. Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilor McNair seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Goodgame stated 419 people had been to the visitor center in July. He is always meeting new people every week looking to locate here. Houses are selling, club memberships are selling, and it is exciting to see what is happening in Sky Valley.

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Planning Department is helping the City create a conceptual plan for a potential city park beside the post office and improvements to the existing park area across from the post office. A community survey was done to see what everyone would like to see in a city park. We had a tremendous response and people would like to see the addition of a flat walking trail and kiddy park. Pickle ball courts on the backside of the post office would be another activity for people to enjoy. There are estimates being done, and when we get a rendering back from Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, we will bring it back to citizens for input. It has been suggested that a donation/contribution drive to name certain elements of the park after or in remembrance of certain people could assist with funding the construction/additions to the park. There is potential for park grants available, however the lawsuit has to be resolved between the County and Clayton prior to submitting applications.

We are still pursuing sewer to Sky Valley and the county has agreed to work with Sky Valley. A hotel convention center is needed and we would like to see it here in Sky Valley.

Realtor Linda Durrence had brought to his attention information regarding the State Department of Health contacting the county Health Department. We will be doing additional research on this matter.

Mayor Goodgame recognized Mandi Cantrell for her 11 years of service as city clerk and wished her and her husband well on their new adventure.

Mayor Goodgame welcomed the new city clerk Ella Fast. She has previous experience as a city clerk.

The Marketing committee has been working with city staff on the Fall Festival.

An invitation was received for the Mountain Lakes Medical Center Grand Opening on September 13, 2016.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilor MacNair thanked everyone for coming to the new location at the Lodge.

Councilor Howard thanked attendees for coming to support the government of Sky Valley. He also suggested a mid-week meeting with city manager and citizens.

Councilor Steil commended three groups 1) Maintenance workers for all they do; 2) Board Members of Sid Weber Memorial Cancer for the funds they raise to help Rabun county cancer patients; and 3) Garden Club for increasing funds to the Habitat for Humanity and for the plantings around the new house.

Councilor Lively welcomed Liz Morley to the Council. He also thanked everyone for coming and participating in the monthly council meeting.

CITY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORTS – EXCEPTIONS AND QUESTIONS

City Manager Lapeyrouse stated that she welcomes meetings with council members and citizens anytime.

Lapeyrouse reported on the Sky Valley Fallfest and plans for the Hay Bale Trail. She also reported three candidates qualified for the election.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of hiring of Garrett Holbrooks –PT Public Works and waiver of nepotism policy
Councilor Lively made a motion to approve the hiring of Garrett Holbrooks at a part-time employee. Councilor Steil seconded the motion. Councilors Lively, Morley and Steil voted yes. Councilors Howard and MacNair voted no.

- Approval of Dakota Foster – FT Police Department and approval to buy-out contract with Sheriff's office

Once an introductory (probationary) period has been successfully completed, the hiring of Dakota Foster as a regular full-time employee would require the buy-out of his training contract with the Rabun County Sheriff's Department. Councilor Lively made a motion to approve hiring of Dakota Foster as a full-time police officer and buying out of the contract. Councilor Morley seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

- Mud Creek/Estatoah Creek Name

Mayor Goodgame stated it has been suggested that the creek name go back to original Indian name of Estatoah. Mr. Jim Curtis stated a number of people below the falls had an adverse reaction to the name change of the creek. Mr. Curtis also suggested submitting an application to change the name of the falls only. Mayor Goodgame advised there no plans to make a decision today. If there is enough interest in changing the name of Mud Creek Falls, it could be done later.

- Approval of change for Georgia Power Street light locations

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve change of Georgia Power Street light locations. Councilor Steil seconded motion and passed unanimously. Due to a major power line running on the left side of Sky Valley Way beyond the existing power poles, the additional poles will be put on the right side instead.

- Consider Resolution Declaring Property Surplus

Councilor Howard made a motion to approve the Resolution Declaring Property Surplus. Councilor Steil seconded the motion and passed unanimously. **Resolution 16-01**

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Goodgame stated that there was a situation that developed over the weekend in the Police Department, which we are dealing with. He knows that there is a lot of interest by the public and we will be pursuing.

Paul Wheeler read from the city ordinance about conducting meetings and allowing public comment on each agenda item. Mayor Goodgame assured him he had researched this and the Supreme Court has determined that "shall," means "may" in proceedings. The Mayor offered to send Mr. Wheeler a copy.

Duncan Cooper filed an Open Records Request for video of an incident that took place over the weekend. In addition, he has filed a formal complaint with the City of Sky Valley against Police Chief R.C. Mason.

Debbie Curtis stated there was kudzu digging party after this meeting and would appreciate anyone that was willing to help in this project.

Barbara Kobacker suggested a citizen's community public representative. Mayor Goodgame advised we have hard time getting quorum at committee meetings and all committee meetings are opened to the community.

Jim Martindale asked about the number of tickets issued and City Manager Lapeyrouse provided the information.

Debbie McAfee asked if police officers wear their vest and Officer Ron Baumes responded yes.

Executive Session

Councilor MacNair made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss an evaluation of a public officer. Councilor Morley seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Councilor MacNair made a motion to go back in to Regular Session. Councilor Howard seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Mayor Goodgame stated no action was taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

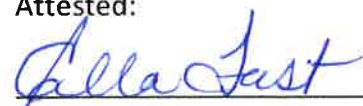
Councilor MacNair made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Steil seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Hughel Goodgame, Mayor

Attested:


Ella Fast, City Clerk