

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
NOVEMBER 18, 2013
MONDAY, 2:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL, 817 SKY VALLEY WAY**

MINUTES

Mayor Martindale called the meeting to order.

Those present: Mayor Martindale, Council President Howard, Attorney Perry, Councilors Carr, Larsen, Platt, and Whatley, City Manager Lapeyrouse, City Clerk Cantrell, Chief Dills, and Tax Commissioner Mullins.

Pam Martindale gave the invocation. Mayor Martindale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Larsen made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 21 Regular Council Meeting, 2nd Councilor Whatley. Council President Howard pointed out a typo on page four. The minutes stand approved with this correction.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councilor Larsen made a motion to adopt the agenda with two additional items under new business, discussion of the date for the Region Commission meeting and discussion of website design to be done by Chip Durpo, 2nd Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Martindale said we had 162 votes cast in the 2013 General Election. He thanked Hughel Goodgame and Councilor Maureen Platt for running for Mayor and congratulated Mr. Goodgame for winning the Mayoral race. Three Councilors ran unopposed and will serve for two years, Martin Greene, and incumbents Robert Larsen and David Whatley. Mayor Martindale said that he had served as Mayor for six years and believed it was time for him to step down.

Mayor Martindale read a letter by new Sky Valley citizen Don Rice thanking employees Alyssa Mullins, Mandi Cantrell, the police and public work staff, and Building Inspector Rick Cavalli for their assistance and always being helpful. A copy of this letter is hereby incorporated by reference and attached hereto. Councilor Platt said she would like to see a copy of this letter placed in Rick Cavalli's personnel file.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilor Carr recommended using the Clayton Tribune's website to share info about events in the city including sharing the "hay bale trail."

Councilor Whatley announced that the Rabun County CVB is holding another webinar about promoting tourism. Council President Howard recommended any interested parties attend this webinar adding that the last one gave great ideas including how to be listed on websites like Trip Advisor.

Councilor Larsen reported on the Sky to Summit race held in Sky Valley last weekend. He said the race director wants to bring this event back next year and that he is trying to help him to gain access to the Forest Service trail off Alex Mountain Drive.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Police Chief's Report – given by Chief Dills
- City Financial Report – given by City Clerk Cantrell
- Tax Commissioner's Report – given by Tax Commissioner Mullins
- Building Inspector's Report – given by City Manager Lapeyrouse
- City Manager's Report – given by City Manager Lapeyrouse

Election Results for the 2013 General Election:

For the office of Mayor, Hughel Goodgame received 97 votes and Maureen Platt received 65 votes. Three council seats were open and three people ran unopposed. The three councilmembers elected are C. Martin Greene and Incumbents Robert Larsen and David Whatley.

NEW BUSINESS

- Update on street light grant

City Manager Lapeyrouse said that Sam and Christine Lamonte are meeting with Georgia Power to discuss lighting options. She and Rebecca Dean met with GA DOT regarding grants available for street lighting. There are currently no grants available through DOT. Ms. Dean is continuing to work on lighting options and ideas.

- Update on weather station & webcam

Mayor Martindale said that this idea originated with Reuel Hamilton who asked if there is a way to get Sky Valley shown on the weather maps on the news. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that she received a response from Glen Burns from Channel 2 news in Atlanta who said that they would be interested in accessing a live webcam. She said Ken Cook from Channel 5 news gave her contact information for someone in their office that might be able to help. Lapeyrouse found a webcam/tower-cam for a little over \$3,000. Mayor Martindale asked the Council if they want to continue researching these options. They agreed that it was a good idea and would be a great addition to the City's website with a live feed of the weather.

- Approval of Resolution Adopting the 2014 Budget

Councilor Larsen made a motion to adopt, 2nd Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved.

- Approval of Building Code Ordinance

City Manager Lapeyrouse presented this ordinance explaining that it incorporates the original adoption of the building code in 2005 and its amendments. She said the only change was to match the frost line to the International Building Code. Councilor Whatley made a motion to postpone and to schedule a workshop, 2nd Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

- Evaluation of sealed bids for surplus property

City Manager Lapeyrouse announced that we received one bid for parcel 058A 282, Southwoods, Part 8, Lot 30. The bid is from William Phillips for \$6005.00. Councilor Larsen made a motion to accept the bid, 2nd Councilor Carr, unanimously approved.

- Discussion of park

City Manager Lapeyrouse gave an update on the park area leased from Harrison Merrill. She ordered swings for the park and asked if the Council would like us to improve the horseshoe area and the picnic tables. Mayor Martindale recommended doing this in the spring. Councilor Whatley asked about parking. Discussion followed about parking and a possible bridge. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that she also checked on the taking down some of the trees and grass near the waterway. Council President Howard said he thinks we need to discuss this at a workshop and made a motion to have a workshop followed by a presentation to make sure all councilors understand the work to be done, 2nd Councilor Whatley, unanimously approved. Councilor Larsen will work with City Manager Lapeyrouse.

- Discussion of sign at city hall

City Manager Lapeyrouse said that the City Hall sign is still sitting in the building and has never been erected. She said that we have someone who has community service who can do rockwork. She said that we have received plans for electrical work and a previous quote for the rockwork and labor of \$1,500. Councilor Carr asked about the rock design and expressed concern over the rockwork matching the other signs. Councilor Larsen made a motion to approve up to \$1,500 for installation of the sign and electricity, 2nd Council President Howard, unanimously approved.

- Meeting with Georgia Mountain Regional Commission

Councilor Larsen said that the Regional Commission is available to come back to Sky Valley the week of Monday, December 2. Councilor Whatley made a motion to schedule the meeting Monday, December 2 at 10:00 AM at the Lakeside Room of the Sky Valley Club, 2nd Councilor Larsen, unanimously approved.

- Discussion of website design by Chip Durpo

Councilor Larsen made a motion to allow Chip Durpo to update the City website with new pictures. He said Mr. Durpo will do this free of charge. Councilor Whatley seconded the motion. Councilor Whatley said that Mr. Durpo also has a weather underground station and asked if Councilor Larsen will talk to him about incorporating this information into the website. The motion to allow Mr. Durpo to update the pictures of the city's website passed unanimously.

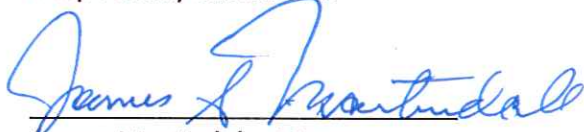
PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Tommy Burnsed said that he and his wife are new residents and he would like to ditto the comments in the letter from Donald Rice adding that the staff has been very nice. He is a retired civil engineer, and he spent the last 13 years in public service in Pike County.

Mark Dryman, Sky Valley/Scaly Mountain Fire & Rescue, thanked Chief Dills and the officers for their assistance in responding to calls.

Councilor Larsen made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Council President Howard, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:


James Martindale, Mayor

Attested:


Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk