

**MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR SESSION OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA, COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE LODGE, 696 SKY VALLEY WAY**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Goodgame, President Lively, Councilors Durpo, Larsen, MacNair, and Steil; City Manager Lapeyrouse and City Clerk Fast

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Goodgame called the meeting to order.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

- Swearing in of Newly Elected Officials
City Clerk Fast swore in the Connie Larsen and Chip Durpo.
- Nomination and Selection of 2017 Council President
Mayor Goodgame opened nominations, current Council President Lively nominated Councilor Steil and Councilor MacNair nominated Chip Durpo.
Councilor MacNair made a motion to close the nominations and Councilor Lively seconded the motion and passed unanimously.
They were voted on in the order of the nominations. For Ed Steil, the vote resulted in a 3/3 tie, with Councilors Steil, Lively and Mayor Goodgame voting in favor of Steil and Councilors Durpo, Larsen and MacNair voting against. For Chip Durpo, the vote resulted in a 3/3 tie, with Councilors Durpo, Larsen and MacNair voting in favor of Durpo and Councilors Steil, Lively and Mayor Goodgame voting against. Council President Lively will continue to serve as Council President until a new Council President can be elected.
- Set 2017 Regular Meeting Dates
Meeting dates were set for the fourth Tuesday of each month with the follow exceptions. February meeting is cancelled. November meeting is scheduled for the 14th and the December meeting is scheduled for the 12th.

REGULAR MEETING

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Truman Barber gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Goodgame.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 13, 2016 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Steil made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Lively seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Order of Agenda was modified from original agenda

NEW BUSINESS

- 2017 Agreement with Sky Valley/Scaly Fire Department
Councilor MacNair made the motion to accept the 2017 Agreement with Sky Valley and Scaly Fire Department. Councilor Lively seconded the motion and passed unanimously.
- Set Qualifying Fees for the 2017 General Election

Councilor Steil made a motion to approve the setting of qualifying fees for 2017 General Election. Councilor Larsen seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

- **Nomination & Selection of P & Z**

Mayor Goodgame opened nominations for one P & Z Commissioner to serve a three year term. Councilor MacNair nominated Dick Wilcox. Councilor Lively nominated Will Gurley. They were voted on in the order of the nominations. Councilors MacNair & Durpo voted in favor of Wilcox and Councilors Larsen, Lively, Steil and Mayor Goodgame voted against. Councilors Durpo, Larson, Lively, Steil and Mayor Goodgame voted in favor of Gurley and Councilor MacNair voted against. Will Gurley was approved.

- **Discussion of waiving building permit fees for new home construction in 2017**

Councilor Steil made a motion to approve the waiving building permit fees for new home construction in 2017. Councilor Lively seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

- **Agreement with Rabun County TDA – Hotel/Motel Tax Funds**

Councilor Lively made a motion to approve 2% of 5%. Councilor Steil seconded the motion and it passed with Goodgame, Lively, Steil, Larsen, and MacNair in favor and Councilor Durpo against.

- **Appointment of representative to the RCWSA-Ray Becker**

Councilor Lively made a motion to approve the appointment of Ray Becker to serve as a representative to Rabun County Water Sewer Authority. Councilor Larsen seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

- **Quit Claim Deed to Clear Title on Cata Property – Northwoods, Part 4, Lot 111-Councilor Durpo made a motion to approve Quit Claim Deed to Clear Title on Cata Property – Northwoods, Part 4, Lot 111. Councilor Lively seconded the motion and passed unanimously.**

Prior to going into Executive Session Rudy Masi asked that Council do their due diligence and recommended Mr. Estes take a lie detector test administered through the GBI for free.

Councilor Lively made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilor Steil seconded and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Meetings when discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer. O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6). (Except when receiving evidence or hearing argument on charges filed to determine disciplinary action or dismissal of a public officer or employee.)

Councilor Steil made a motion to close the Executive Session. Councilor MacNair seconded the motion passed unanimously.

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

NEW BUSINESS- CONTINUED

- **Appointment of Police Chief**

Mayor Goodgame presented a timeline from the selection panel. The selection panel recommends Vaughn Estes be appointed Police Chief.

Rudy Masi thanked the panel for their due diligence but his resume raises red flags. Overqualified and leaving to take less money. Recommends polygraph through GBI.

Mayor Goodgame provided additional information about why Mr. Vaughn is willing to relocate to accept the position of Police Chief.

Milt Gillespie has spoken with Assistant GBI Director and was told he has never been to his office for being in trouble. He also asked Attorney John Dickerson if there was problem with requesting him to take the polygraph. Attorney Dickerson advised requesting ~~take~~ a polygraph is ~~in~~ not a problem.

City Manager Lapeyrouse said he would be reviewed every 30 days during the probationary period.

Councilor Durpo made a motion to appoint Vaughn Estes Police Chief subject to passing a GBI polygraph within 90 days. Councilor Steil seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Councilor Durpo asked Attorney Dickerson if we could change the motion to include a 90 day review. Attorney Dickerson stated we could amend the motion to be able to ratify the hiring after a 90 day period.

Councilor Durpo amended his motion to approve the hiring of Vaughn Estes contingent upon the polygraph test and allow Council to ratify City Manager Lapeyrouse's recommendation in 90 days, in a public forum. Councilor Steil seconded the amended motion and passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilor MacNair- Dee Moore, Joel Dawkins and Betty Hanson are very sick with cancer; remember them in your prayers.

Councilor Larsen asked if they need assistance with meals. She also thanked everyone for putting their trust in her and will be as nice as she can. It will always be in the best interest of Sky Valley for her.

Councilor Durpo thanked everyone for their support and said he will keep everyone informed. Please call or email if he may be of assistance.

Mayor Goodgame invited Councilors Larsen and Durpo to communicate with City Hall and have an open line of communication with him as Mayor and Chief Executive Officer – Lapeyrouse as City Manager.

Council President Lively – been a pleasure to serve the last two years and we have a lot more to do.

Councilor Steil wished everyone Happy New Year, loves the rain we have been getting. Thank you for making Sky Valley a great place to live.

Mayor Goodgame - we have the 2015 Audit that will be reviewed at the next Council Meeting. It was delayed with a new clerk coming in and two software changes. The auditor also asked for additional reconciliations to be done that also contributed to the delay. The auditor was also running behind.

No February meeting unless needed.

City Manager Lapeyrouse said we have RFP out for Auditors.

CITY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORTS – EXCEPTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Departmental Reports will be mailed out to the community with end of the year falling during the holidays.

Visitor Center will be closed until March.

PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Rudy Masi suggested we see if any retired auditors are available. He was advised Municipal auditors must meet additional GASB requirements.

Dick Parrot suggested that the \$30,000 be used to on the streets and tree trimming instead of a walking trail. Mayor Goodgame replied that there is money for both.

Mayor Goodgame said as soon as we can, striping will be done. City Manager Lapeyrouse stated the Police Department can help evaluate the striping at night.

Milt Gillespie asked if there is a list of streets to be paved. City Manager Lapeyrouse stated it is reevaluated annually but planning to resurface the Sky High area this year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Hughel Goodgame, Mayor



Ella Fast, City Clerk