

MINUTES OF THE MAYORAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD MAY 1, 2020 ON A FRIDAY AT 10:00 AM, CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM)

Those Present: Bill Oliver, Ed Morley, David Spears, Will Gurley, Tim Darrah, Martin Greene, Dan McAfee, Hollie Steil, City Manager Fast and City Clerk Fleming

1. Welcome

Mayor Steil sent out her greetings to all members and people watching. Thanked the committee members for serving. She also stated that Paula Jensen had stepped down from the committee.

2. Review of the Committee Purpose and Scope

Bill Oliver, Committee Chairperson, welcomed all online participants. Oliver stated that the committee welcomes all Sky Valley property owner's input. He also wanted to remind everyone that the committee will be gathering information to make recommendations only, to the Mayor and Council. The revenues have been flat for the last six to seven years and the committee will be looking into ways to improve the tax base. Also, looking into major issues making sure that opportunities are not missed. Oliver stated that anything that is considered needs to have a long term benefit for all property owners.

3. Updates:

- **Harrison Merrill Proposal**

Oliver stated he feels that it is very important to partner with Harrison Merrill with any development. If Sky Valley is looking for ways to improve revenues, then he is the guy to help us get there. Some of the public comments that he received, concerning what they would like to see come into Sky Valley, were the need for new condos, general store, coffee shop and hiking trails. The idea of bringing back the skiing brought mixed reviews. Oliver has reached out to Merrill to let him know of some of the concerns that the skiing might bring to the community. He also wanted to let him know that they would like to talk about alternatives and are very enthusiastic to work with him. Merrill stated that he would talk with his son and come back with their thoughts. Harrison Merrill, Jr. would be the one to take on this endeavor, if accepted.

The members talked about different incentives that could be offered to Merrill. Oliver went over the feasibility study and economic development study that Merrill wants Sky Valley to help fund. These studies would help show the feasibility of the potential projects and the measurement of benefit to Sky Valley economically. Harrison Merrill and his son had offered to do a presentation to discuss the proposed plan. A future date will be set up for this once things settled down due to COVID19. A survey could also be conducted to get property owner's feedback.

4. Sewer Updates

Darrah had check on the sewer cost, which would entail about a 13% increase, across the board, over the cost quoted on the 2017 sewer survey assessment. The County sees no problem in connecting to their sewer system. Merrill is requesting a commitment from the City on funding the sewer system before any developing begins. Different sources of funding might be available, as far as grants. Rick Story with the Rabun County's Economic Development, would like to discuss the possibility of the County helping with the cost of the studies. He would like to do a

presentation during a Work Session, in the near future. Due to the public meeting restrictions, City Manager Fast will check on setting up a meeting with Rick Story at City Hall.

5. Building on Highway 246

Dan McAfee gave an update on the building. The Council had paid for a survey last summer and he feels that items on that survey need to be address. He went over the fact of having only one electrical and water meter so therefore the renters do not pay the use of utilities because of not knowing who uses what. If the City uses the building for a City Hall it wouldn't be necessary to put in additional meters. One priority item, is the striping of handicap parking places, to be ADA compliant. The other would be addressing or correcting the electrical cables outside of building. The consensus is to sit on the building until a decision is made for its future. If long term leases are obtain then it wouldn't cost the City anything to keep ownership. General comments have been obtained in favor of keeping the building. Discussions will continue for ideas concerning this building. USDA might be able to help fund a community center, which is another idea. Grants programs through GMA will be explored.

The committee made a recommendation to our Mayor to have handicap parking spaces striped/signed and repair/clean up the electrical items on the back of the building.

6. Chat Questions/Comments

Karla Stahl suggested the continuation of using Zoom during in person meetings for people that are not retired but could still join in on the meetings.

Mike Peterson suggested having any proposed plan survey being accessible to all, even out of town property owners.

Time Share property and the need of maintenance was brought up and discussed. Internet service was also discussed. Morley asked City Manager Fast to reach out to TruVista and Windstream to see what the status is for upgrading their services. Also address Broadband availability with Rick Story.

A question came in concerning the skiing and what kind of tourists it would attract.

City Manager Fast brought up the fact that the current water system could not support a huge development. Something to consider and an analysis would need to be conducted.

Jon Shebel made a statement that Sky Valley was founded on skiing.

Next meeting is set for May 21st at 10:00 am

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 am

Respectfully submitted:


Karen Fleming, City Clerk