

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 16, 2021 A TUESDAY AT 10:00 AM AT 696 SKY VALLEY WAY (OLD LODGE) & VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM) CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Steil, Councilors Oliver, Turner, Morley, Allred, and Curtis

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Streetman, City Clerk Fleming, City Attorney Kidd, Public Works Superintendent Shope, and Police Chief Estes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Invocation

Councilor Turner led the invocation.

3. Approval of Minutes

October 19, 2021 – Public Hearing at 9:30 a.m.

October 19, 2021 – Regular Council Meeting

October 19, 2021 – Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m.

October 26, 2021 – Public Hearing at 9:30 a.m.

October 26, 2021 – Special Called Council Meeting

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

Paul Wheeler, 33 Putter Lane, stated that he couldn't find the draft minutes on the website. City Manager Streetman acknowledged and said that he would be uploading the minutes.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Councilor Allred made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

5. City Manager's Report

City Manager Streetman thanked all, for their work on the Hay Bale Trail. He asked that all accessories, to be kept, be removed as the hay bales are being taken away right over the Thanksgiving holiday. The Christmas lights/displays will then be going up. The updates to the City's website along with the creation of the Marketing/Visitor's website is underway and should be going live beginning of 2022. The Public Work's Department is down two people and he asked for patience from the citizens. Waiting on one more agreement concerning the "Southern Road" easement. Sky Valley Way culvert replacement has hit another delay as the contractor is having a hard time getting concrete.

6. Departmental Reports

Public Works Superintendent Shope thanked all for their patience. The department has hit many hurdles from being short staffed, to water line issues, such as the Alex Mountain valve that had to be fixed under pressure. He stated that the City needed section valves so a specific area could be closed off instead of a whole line. The culverts are being checked along with the removal of leaves from the roadways. Precision Paving will start at the beginning of the year with road patching. The department will be addressing the right-of-way tree canopies, with cutting as much as they can safely.

Councilor Morley stated that he has heard complaints concerning the narrow areas of Alex Mountain. City Manager Streetman suggested that pull off spots might could be added, to aid in the safety of the road.

Police Chief Estes stated in his departmental report that the State had suggested widening the roads one at a time to accommodate two-way traffic. The County had built up the shoulders on Alpine, in the past, with fill dirt but it has washed away. Drivers need to be mindful of the narrow residential roads. He also

suggested that the Council consider passing an Ordinance concerning a "Court Service Technology Charge". This surcharge would be for the funding of technologic devices within the Police Department. As of date, Sky Valley is the only city in the county that has not passed this charge. Police Chief Estes asked that if anyone that adds their residency on the out-of-town list, to please notified them if they return earlier than expected, or send guests as this would help with trying to contact the owner(s) for verification.

7. Committee Reports

Councilor Turner, Special Projects Committee Chairman, stated that the committee has been checking on having a FallFest in 2022. The tentative date has been set for October 15, 2022. He has also been talking with Sean Blanton, RunBum Tours, concerning the Flint Knob Trail.

Mayor Steil spoke on behalf of Debbie Dalhouse-Curtis, Chairman of the Landscaping Committee, giving thanks to the Sky Valley Garden Club for their efforts in the landscaping around the city.

Bob O'Keefe, Chairman of the Sky Valley Marketing Committee, stated that Steve Dinberg has finished up with the Fall photographs and drone footage. He will be back for Winter and Spring shots to then have all seasons covered. He asked the Council to approve the agreement with Lawson Media Group to establish a separate website for marketing/visitors. This website will be linked to the City's but will solely be used for information for visitors and marketing endeavors. Doug Hollandsworth's marketing contract will be through May of 2022, which the cost has been budgeted for. The carry over balance of the marketing fund should be approximately \$3,000. Bob stated that he had originally agreed to head this committee for two years which the two-year mark ended in October. He will continue to the end of the year but stated his resignation will be effective at that time.

Mayor Steil thanked Bob for all that he has done and for sharing his knowledge of marketing/organization.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Consider approval of Marketing Committee recommendation of hiring Lawson Media Group to create marketing website

City Manager Streetman summarized the Lawson Media agreement. The cost of creating a new marketing website that will be linked to the City's website, "visitskyvalleyga.com", is \$3,750. Marketing Committee Funds will be used for this expenditure.

Councilor Oliver commented that the site could act as a virtual tour for Sky Valley visitors and could help reduce marketing expenditures.

Al Piontkowski, 66 Pleasant Mountain, asked if any payments has been issued before bringing in front of the Council. City Manager stated that it had not. Payment will be issued when site is completed.

Susie Piotkowski stated that Sean Blanton had some drone footage/photos of the race if needed for the marketing website. She also inquired about the webcam showing, "Sky Valley Country Club". Bob O'Keefe said that the location of the webcam had to be known in order to know where the coverage was coming from. The webcam is located on the roof of the Club House to show the view of the golf course and valley so therefore, is the reason for the Country Club being announced. The golf course is the main attraction for bringing visitors into the valley. Councilor Oliver suggested that "Sky Valley Country Club" should be minimized or removed to cut down on the controversy.

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the recommendation, hiring Lawson Media Group to create a new marketing website at the cost of \$3,750, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

9. Public Forum and General Comments

Al Piontkowski questioned the posting of agendas and minutes on the City's website. He presented the number of meetings listed for 2020 and 2021 and whether or not they were in-person or only via teleconference. No committee minutes are present for 2021. City Manager Streetman stated that the video links are available almost immediately and trying to improve on the posting of meetings/minutes in a timely manner.

10. Adjournment

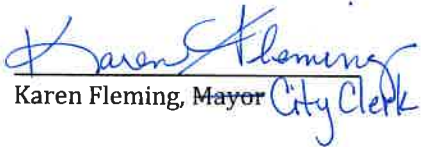
There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, Councilor Oliver made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Allred, unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Hollie Steil, Mayor



Karen Fleming, Mayor City Clerk