

**SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 4, 2022
FRIDAY AT 1:30 P.M.
696 SKY VALLEY WAY (OLD LODGE) & VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM)
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA**

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
February 15, 2022 – Regular Council Meeting
- 3. Adoption of Agenda**

OLD BUSINESS

- 4. Consider Approval of Quote to Authorize Award of Contract to Ellenburg Brothers Tree Service in the Amount of \$24,900 to Clear Out the Vegetation of Approximately One (1) Mile of Old Road from the Gate at Evergreen Extension to Where it Ends at Crusher Run Road**

NEW BUSINESS

- 5. Consider Approval of the Rabun County Service Delivery Strategy Resolution**
- 6. Adjournment**

You may join the meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81054635362>

Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities are required to call 706-746-2204 promptly to allow the City to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA
ON FEBRUARY 15, 2022 A TUESDAY AT 10:00 AM VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM)**

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

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

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. She stated that there are still many COVID cases/exposures in Sky Valley including some of the City's staff and this is the reason for the teleconference only, meeting.

2. Invocation

Councilor Oliver led the Invocation. Paul Wheeler led the Pledge of Allegiance without notice.

3. Approval of Minutes

January 11, 2022 - Regular Council Meeting

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

Paul Wheeler, 33 Putter Lane, requested that the draft minutes be available to the public before the meetings.

4. Adoption of Agenda

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

5. City Manager's Report

City Manager Streetman stated that the Forest Court project is underway and will be repaved as soon as the asphalt is available. Supplies have been brought in to start the culvert project on Sky Valley Way. The easements are being recorded concerning the Evergreen extension. Four (4) ads have been submitted for seal bids for paving of the Evergreen extension, Public Works truck, renovations at old Visitor's Center, and construction of a new pickleball court. Bids are to be received by April 1st at 4:00 p.m. Introduction of Rhonda McCarthy, the City's new Communications Specialist. Two out of the three Public Work's vehicles are back in operation. Ninety percent of the 2021 Property Taxes have been received. City Hall will be closed for President's Day on February 21st.

Paul Wheeler questioned the need to hire a new employee. City Manager Streetman and Mayor Steil stated that it was due to the growth in Sky Valley and the need for increased social media along with keeping the City's website updated.

Paul Wheeler gave a verbal Open Records Request and stated that he would send in a written one also concerning how the Committee's sub-committees were form.

6. Departmental Reports

Public Works Director - Jerry Shope

Thanked the citizenry for their support and stated that the culvert replacement on Forest Court went really well. The patching of the roads should start in a couple of weeks when the asphalt plants reopen. There were two (2) major water line breaks in the past couple of weeks but all is repaired. The new burn pit has been completed. The Kubota side-by-sides are working out great.

Al Piontkowski, 66 Pleasant Mountain Drive, asked if the City had received written permission from Harrison Merrell, to create the burn pit on his property and also asked about burn permits being obtained from the Forestry Service. City Manager Streetman stated that yes, a written agreement had been obtained and Chief

Estes explained the permit procedure.

Police Chief – Vaughn Estes

One of our officers hit a cow as he was taking an inmate to the Rabun County Jail. Both officer and inmate were uninjured. Part-time officers, on call, are needed to help during the time the full-time officers are on vacation or military leave. The Technology Fee is still going to be implemented but for right now more information is being gathered. Squatters are being reported but are hard to catch. Chief Estes advises everyone to make sure your doors are locked upon departure for the winter and to let his department know so, they can do drive-bys to check periodically. The Sky Valley Town Watch is still active and hope to resume their meetings in the near future.

Al Piontkowski asked if the squatter incidents could be reported each month so residents could be aware. He also asked if the PD would still offer 24-hour service despite being low on part-time help. Chief Estes stated yes, but may require paying overtime under certain circumstances.

Councilor Morley thanked Chief Estes for posting current road conditions, in Sky Valley, on Twitter.

7. Committee Reports

Councilor Turner, Chairman of the Special Projects Committee, stated that the most recent meeting, held February 5th, kick-off the planning for the upcoming 2022 FallFest set for October 15th. The Committee is currently planning for vendors, food trucks, potential car show, and children's activities.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Consider approval quote to authorize award of contract to Ellenburg Tree Service to clear approximately one (1) mile of old road/Evergreen Extension in the amount of \$24,900

City Manager Streetman reviewed the quote for the "Southern Road Extension". He stated that he had reached out to tree services but Ellenburg was the only one that submitted a quote. The project has been estimated to take two weeks to complete and will be primarily funded from Grant Funds. Mayor Steil asked City Attorney Kidd to go over the City's purchasing policy which he stated that sealed bids didn't have to be obtained until the amount was over \$25,000. Councilor Morley asked if there were documented invitation to bid, which City Manager Streetman stated that they were by phone. Councilor Oliver asked where the starting and ending point were located. The gate is where it will begin and will go down to Crusher Run.

Paul Wheeler asked why the process wasn't handled differently and what guidelines were given to go by for the quote. Was there a civil engineer involved in the road project along with the Sky Valley Way culvert project? He also stated that he would like to submit an Open Records Request for any engineering designs and for the documentation showing that the Sky Valley Way Project was deemed an emergency repair.

Al Piontkowski asked about the lack of specifications on the quote for the scope of work to be performed and the County's involvement in the project. Mayor Steil stated that the work that County Manager Giles agreed to perform on the road, was a verbal agreement.

The Council discussed the quote and decided to postpone the vote until additional information can be provided on a revised quote.

OTHER BUSINESS

9. Public Forum and General Comments

Paul Wheeler, 33 Putter Lane, stated that during previous snow storms the City had used chains on the trucks while plowing which might have helped to keep the F550 from sliding into a ditch.