

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>.

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 5<sup>th</sup>, kick-off the planning for the upcoming 2022 FallFest set for October 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Councilor Curtis made a motion for the approval of quote from Ellenburg Tree Service in the amount of \$24,900, seconded by Councilor Morley. After discussion, Councilor Allred made an amended motion to approve the quote with the contingency that Ellenburg Tree Service supply a separate quote specifying the details of the project such as stump grinding, cleanup of tree, and the requiring time of City equipment. The motion was seconded by Bruce Turner. After much discussion Mayor Steil postponed the vote until the next Council Meeting, so further information can be obtained concerning the project.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**9. Public Forum and General Comments**

Paul Wheeler, 33 Putter Lane, stated that chains had been purchased for the trucks for use during a snowstorm. He had asked if the F550, that slid into a ditch during the latest snowstorm had the chains on it. Public Work Superintendent Shope and City Manager Streetman had answered no.

**10. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hollie Steil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Hollie Steil, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Karen Fleming, City Clerk