

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JULY 19, 2022 A TUESDAY AT 10:30 AM AT 696 SKY VALLEY WAY (OLD LODGE) AND VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM) CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA

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

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Streetman, Public Works Superintendent Shope, Water Coordinator English, and Lieutenant Baumes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Turner led the Invocation and Mayor Steil led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

June 8, 2022 – Special Called Meeting

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

4. Adoption of Agenda

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

5. Mayoral Remarks

Mayor Steil discussed all of the compliments she has received regarding the new culvert bridge as well as the July 2nd Independence Day Celebration and how successful it was.

6. Council Remarks

Councilor Curtis stated the reason for wearing a mask, is that his wife was diagnosed having COVID and he was acting in precaution, which he was tested negative.

7. City Manager Report

City Manager Streetman discussed the upcoming paving of the Evergreen Road, beginning the budget process for FY 2023, and that the City has a new employee in Public Works.

8. Police Department Report

Lieutenant Baumes spoke on behalf of the Police Department and discussed some of the recent calls to include a heart attack during the July 2nd celebration and a recent accident fatality. Councilor Allred thanked Lieutenant Baumes for his service as he had personally observed Lieutenant Baumes picking up road debris that was actually in North Carolina.

9. Public Works Report

Public Works Director Shope and Water Coordinator English discussed the soon to be paved, Evergreen Road, reason for recent “milky water”, and to introduce the new employee Matthew Hunnicutt who was hired to replace Kenneth Queen who was leaving the City. City Manager Streetman further discussed the road paving, to state that streetlights, cameras, and police patrol, etc., would be a part of the safety and security of this area of the City

10. Committee Reports

Mayoral Advisory – Councilor Oliver, Chairman, discussed a recent meeting with Harrison Merrill Jr., who owns a large part of the vacant property within the City. Harrison is still interesting in doing some type of winter activity like snow skiing. Councilor Oliver stated that this is something that most folks do not seem to want to return. Harrison would like to have some type of winter attraction to draw in folks and hiking was discussed. Harrison has hired a planning firm to do a feasibility study to try and determine what

would be best suited for a winter attraction. Councilor Oliver stated that a residential component is important no matter what Harrison would like to do, as so the thing that makes Sky Valley special is maintained. Councilor Oliver discussed the sewer grant and stated that Harrison is interested in helping to bridge the gap in cost for sewer beyond what the grant would cover, as long as the project had an acceptable return on investment. Councilor Oliver stated that no taxpayer dollars would go into any sewer cost unless the taxpayer could tie into and benefit from the sewer.

Marketing Committee – Gordon Brand, Chairman, discussed the Marketing Committee efforts to include Doug Hollandsworth bringing in golf people who write about golf and could provide good exposure for Sky Valley. The Marketing’s website was also discussed.

Landscaping Committee – Mayor Steil spoke on behalf of this Committee since Debbie Dalhouse, Chairman, was unavailable. Mayor Steil stated how well the entrance looked as well as other efforts throughout the City.

Special Projects Committee – Councilor Turner, Chairman, discussed the upcoming Fallfest to be held on October 15, 2022. They were trying to attract vendors as well as other attractions to generate a large attendance and make the event successful. He also stated that he would be attending a car show in NC to try and generate some interest in doing a car show here during Fallfest.

NEW BUSINESS

- 11. Consider approval of quote from GMRC (Georgia Mountain Regional Commission) in the amount of \$10, 250 to do water system mapping of the City Water System**
City Manager Streetman discussed the quote form GMRC to do the water system mapping and the importance of the project. Councilor Oliver stated that this was a “no brainer” project that would benefit the City and its water system.

Councilor Oliver made a motion for the approval of the GMRC quote in the amount of \$10, 250, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

- 12. Consider approval of quote from All American Earth Works in the amount of \$7,526.15 to repair/replace the PRV (Pressure Reducing Valve) on Tahoe Lane**
City Manager Streetman discussed the quote for All American Earth Works to replace the PRV on Tahoe Lane. He briefly readdressed what was discussed in the Work Session and the importance of the project.

Sky Valley/Scaly Mountain Fire Department, Chief Sigler – asked about water flow and Water Coordinator English stated at this time, he did not know how much water flow was there but could provide pressure. Chief Sigler stated that water flow was more important than pressure to fight a fire and stressed the importance of this work being done quickly.

Councilor Oliver made a motion to approve the quote from All American Earth Works in the amount of \$7,526.15, seconded by Councilor Allred, unanimously approved.

- 13. Consider Resolution to allow the Sky Valley Marketing Committee the flexibility to spend and move funds between line items for the remainder of FY 2022, as long as the total amount budgeted for FY 2022 by the Sky Valley City Council is not exceeded**
City Manager Streetman discussed the Resolution and request from the Marketing Committee to have the flexibility to move funds between line items. He stated that a Resolution was what was recommended by City Attorney Kidd to address the request. Councilor Oliver asked if there should be a limit on what could be moved between line items. Councilor Allred stated he felt that there were appropriate measures in place and as long as the Committee did not spend more than what was approved. Councilor Curtis stated this is necessary as the Committee needed to be responsive and this flexibility to spend approved funds without having to come back before the Council was one way that they could do that.

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

14. Consider appointing Roberta Walton to the Sky Valley Marketing Committee to replace an outgoing member

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the appointment of Roberta Walton to the Sky Valley Marketing Committee to replace outgoing member Carol Robinson, seconded by Councilor Allred, unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

15. Public Forum and General Comments

Jennifer Owensby, 34 Thunderhead, stated that she had written a letter to the City and Council regarding her displeasure with the recent tree trimming and that the Public Works Department went “too far” in the tree trimming. Ms. Owensby stated she felt the City should pay to replant some of the removed vegetation. Mayor Steil thanked her for her comments.

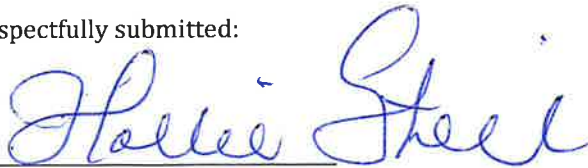
Debbie McAfee, Alpine, asked did the City have a plan to help compensate and provide relief to City employees with the rising cost of living? City Manager Streetman stated that the Council approved a FY 2022 budget where employees were given a 5% COLA increase, and although we are early in the FY 2023 budget process, there were plans to try and incorporate another 5% COLA for next year. She also asked if the Mayor and Council knew they were the only elected Council in the state that does not get paid to serve. Councilor Curtis and Oliver stated that Sky Valley was their home and a commitment to serve the community was the motivation and not a salary.

15. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Hollie Steil, Mayor



Jason Streetman, City Manager