

**MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON
JANUARY 17, 2023, A TUESDAY AT 10:00 AM AT 696 SKY VALLEY WAY & VIA
TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM) CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA**

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

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Streetman, City Clerk Fleming, Communications Specialist Van Camp, Public Works Superintendent Shope, Water Coordinator English, Chief of Police Estes, and City Attorney Kidd

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She stated that it is an honor to work with the Council and the City Employees while striving to be the best mountain municipality around.

2. Invocation

Councilor Allred led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

3. Swearing in of Newly Elected Officials

City Attorney Kidd sworn in Councilor Allred and Councilor Curtis.

4. Nomination and Selection of 2023 Council President

Councilor Allred nominated Councilor Oliver to serve as the Council President for 2023, Council unanimously approved.

5. Set 2023 Regular Meeting Dates

Councilor Oliver made a motion to approve the dates as proposed, seconded by Councilor Darrah, unanimously approved.

REGULAR MEETING

6. Approval of Minutes

December 13, 2022 – Council Work Session

December 13, 2022 – Regular Council Meeting

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

7. Adoption of Agenda

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

8. City Manager Remarks

GRMC continuing field work for mapping of the water lines. The PIN program through GA Tech, an internship program, will be sending two participants. Their work will be at no cost to the City but the City has been asked to help find temporary housing for them. They will

help with the research of EV charging stations in Sky Valley along with the updating of the City's mapping of water lines. City Manager Streetman also talked about phase two of the Sky Valley Way culvert project which is slated to start next month. Sky Valley Way will be closed at the job site, for up to five days. Grant monies will be used to pay for the project.

The City's financials were discussed, and City Manager Streetman stated that overall, the 2022 budget was under by approximately, \$71,000. Budget Amendments, for 2022, will be made regarding department overages.

City Manager Streetman introduced the new Communications Specialists, Sherron Van Camp. The Mayor and Council welcomed her.

The newly renovated City Hall is almost complete and should make the move within 30 to 45 days.

9. Department Remarks

Public Works Superintendent Shope stated that the crew had been working on the installation and now removal of holiday decorations. They also have been preparing for any snow or ice accumulations. Continuing patching on City roads, redefining of ditch lines, and leaf vacuuming. They are currently down one employee. He stated that Colwell Construction will extend the pavement, making an apron, at the intersection of Evergreen and Sheepcliff. This will happen when they come back to finish up on Ridgepole.

Water Coordinator English, stated the City faired surprisingly well during the recent deep freeze. There were only a couple of small leaks on the City's side. He also stated that all the samples that have been sent in to test the water after a break, have come back good. The water goes through monthly testing but extra samples are sent in after a break. The City is currently pumping approximately 110,000 gallons a day and the EPD has approved using up to 300,000 gallons, so the City is in good shape, concerning the water usage.

Chief of Police Estes, gave the stats from his department for 2022. He talked about the struggles of being short with his department's fleet as one is still be equipped and lettered. The Sky Valley Watch is still in place but needs more participation so another meeting can be scheduled. Chief Estes answered questions regarding traffic stops, crashes, and violations.

Mayor Steil stated that she had received a call from a Sky Valley resident that was wanting to let her know that Chief Estes went above and beyond his duties to help her. She had accidentally put a non-trash bag instead of the actual trash bag into a dumpster. Chief Estes retrieved the bag before it headed to the landfill.

10. Committee Reports

None was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Ratification of the 2023 Sky Valley/Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue Agreement

Due to time restraints the agreement was approved via email before the meeting. Councilor Oliver made a motion to ratify the approval, seconded by Councilor Darrah, unanimously

2. (ORG&RCM)

approved.

11. Consider approval of Sky Valley Marketing Committee FY 2023 Budget

Gordon Brand, Chairman, presented the 2023 budget to Mayor and Council. Total committed revenue is \$15,000 (\$5,000 City, \$5,000 POA, \$5,000 Club). With a carry over balance of approximately \$7,000 from 2022, the total available funds will be approximately \$22,000. The proposed budget is \$19,000. Paul Wheeler, 33 Putter Lane, stated that there wasn't a line item for the Communication Specialist's time under "Communications" expense. City Manager Streetman stated it was one of the reasons that the 2023 contribution from the City was decreased, as the amount of work that she will be doing on the websites was taken in account.

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the 2023 Marketing Budget as presented, seconded by Councilor Oliver, unanimously approved.

12. Set Qualifying Fees for 2023 General Election

Councilor Darrah made a motion to set the qualifying fees at \$15 for the 2023 General Election, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

13. Consider approval of one (1) ¾ ton crew cab 4WD water truck

City Manager Streetman asked the Council for approval of the add on expense of a utility body which would be approximately \$14,000. Preapproved amount for the 4WD water truck was \$50,000 but to add on the needed utility bed would drive the price up towards \$65,000. Three quotes, make/purchased amount, were presented: Ford 250SD XL \$66,495, Chevrolet 2500 HD \$64,623, and Dodge Ram 2500 Tradesman \$67,929. The Council agreed to cap the expense of the purchase at \$68,000.

Councilor Darrah made a motion to approve the new budgeted amount for the purchase of a ¾ ton water truck, to \$68,000, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

14. Consider 2023 Committee Appointments

Mayor Steil read off the proposed 2023 Committee Appointments. Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the proposed appointments, seconded by Councilor Allred, unanimously approved.

15. Consider approval of City Manager Contract updates/amendments

Mayor Steil commended City Manager Streetman on his performance as City Manager. The three most significant updates/amendments are: a monthly vehicle allowance of \$400, three weeks paid vacation annually, and a increase in severance pay if terminated without cause. Councilor Darrah had asked City Attorney Kidd if he had reviewed the proposed revisions and he stated that he had and that all looked to be order.

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the presented updates/amendments, seconded by Councilor Oliver, unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

17. Public Forum and General Comments

None were made.

18. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hollie Steil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Hollie Steil, Mayor

Attested:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Karen Fleming, City Clerk