

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 15, 2023 A TUESDAY AT 10:00 AM AT 3608 HWY 246 (NEW CITY HALL) & VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM) SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Oliver

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Streetman, City Clerk Fleming, City Attorney Kidd, Chief of Police Estes, and Building Inspector/Code Enforcer Pyburn

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Allred led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

June 27, 2023 – Emergency Called Council Meeting

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

4. Adoption of Agenda

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

5. Mayoral/Council Remarks

Mayor Steil thanked the citizens for their participation with the meetings and also the help that was given to the Georgia Tech intern, Yuliia, from the City employees.

6. City Manager Report

City Manager Streetman thanked all that was involved with the Independence Day celebration. He spoke of a recent water line break on Ridgepole and stated that GMRC is finished with their part of the water line mapping project and once our water department submits their information, the project will be complete. The City is at 68% of the 2023 budget and 99.6% of the collection of 2022 property taxes. The 2024 budget is underway along with working on getting more mailboxes installed for Sky Valley residents. Checking on a monitoring system and streetlight for the entrance on Evergreen.

7. Departmental Reports

Public Work – City Manager stated that Director Shope asked him to report that the department is working on culverts and mowing. Quotes are being obtained for road stripping in the City.

Code Enforcer Pyburn stated that his department is in full swing. Nuisance complaints are being checked out. Two houses are in the process of being condemned. More 911 signs are being added to fill the gap of unidentified houses.

Chief of Police Estes, stated that the number of people that the police service has drastically increased due to visitors in the area. The department does not have the manpower and may need to increase the department. He advised the residents/visitors to be cautious as a lot of wildlife has been reported, such as snakes and bears. He talked about the AEDs that are presently in place, two are at the Police Department but are 12 years old and may need to be replaced. He stated that he would like to have one in each police vehicle, City Hall, and PW shop. He also advised residents to use a landline phone, if they have a working phone jack, to make 911 calls. You can make a 911 call even if you don't pay for a phone service. Some calls are received and the caller forgets where they

are at or do not have the physical address in front of them. The call can be traced if a landline phone is used.

8. Committee Reports

Marketing Committee Chairman, Gordon Brand stated that a golf media writer just came up to Sky Valley. He enjoyed playing golf, dinners at the Club, and getting to play croquet, and also the cooler weather.

Special Projects Chairman, Bruce Turner thanked the Marketing Committee for help with Fallfest advertising costs. He expressed the need for Wi-Fi at the City pavilion so the vendors can conduct transactions.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Consider approval to appoint Lynn Menard, replacing Roberta Walton, as Sky Valley Country Club representative to the Sky Valley Marketing Committee

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the appointment of Lynn Menard to the Sky Valley Marketing Committee, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

10. Consider approval of Ordinance to establish Short-Term Rental (STR) regulations – introduction and 1st reading

Councilor Darrah read the heading for the Ordinance, as directed by City Attorney Kidd. Mayor Steil stated that a Public Hearing was held last hour concerning the Ordinance. Good comments were received. The vote will be in September concerning this ordinance. Councilor Turner stated that he has parking concerns and how they are handled in emergency situations. Chief Estes and Fire Chief Sigler talked about how they have limitations on private property but need the vehicles off of the public roads.

11. Consider approval to amend Fee Ordinance – introduction and 1st reading

City Manager Streetman read the heading of the Ordinance and went over the suggested fee changes. At this time there is no change in water rates but to have the water cut on/off by the City should go from \$10.00 to \$30.00 per occurrence. He talked about the removal of yard debris to go to a flat fee of \$100 per hour, billed out in 15-minute increments.

Questions were asked from the audience concerning the cost of cutting the water off/on and yard debris removal. A tutorial was suggested to be posted on how the owners can cut the water off themselves.

Mayor Steil stated that the current Fee Ordinance is 26 years old, and the fees needed to be re-accessed. Basically, the only fees that the suggested increases would affect would be “Chosen” services, stated City Manager Streetman. The City is losing money on some of the services that they provide. City Attorney Kidd stated that it is unlawful for the City to continue services for an extended period of time without at least breaking even.

A vote on the Fee Ordinance will be held next month.

12. Consider approval to amend the Sky Valley Solid Waste (Trash) Ordinance – introduction and 1st reading

City Manager Streetman read the heading of the Ordinance and went over the suggested changes. Steve Shields with GMA had conducted an evaluation and gave a list of recommendations. On this list is the need to stop collecting garbage out of the inground trash receptacles. The residents that are still using the inground receptacles can continue to do so for now but would need to stop using them for trash collection. The amount of garbage that can be collected will go up to 96 gallons from 64 gallons, if this Ordinance passes. Removal of yard debris would no longer be considered as part of the garbage monthly fee.

Councilor Allred asked how much the garbage fee would need to be raised in order to keep the same services?

Mayor Steil suggested to have a Work Session concerning this Ordinance and set the meeting date for September 12, 2023.

13. Consider approval to purchase one (1) 2023 Ford Explorer Interceptor Police Car

City Manager Streetman went over the need for a new police vehicle and stated that only one could be located. The purchase amount for the 2023 Ford Interceptor is \$44,900. He went over the funding for the purchase. This police vehicle will be paid for from proceeds from sale of Subarus, and SPLOST funds along with carry over grant funds.

Councilor Allred stated that he thought this purchase was going to be scheduled for next year. City Manager Streetman stated that the need will be coming up in September and with the sale of the Subarus gave a good opportunity to buy now with the resources available.

A motion was made by Councilor Curtis to purchase the 2023 Ford Explorer Interceptor, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. Public Forum and General Comments

No additional comments were made.

15. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Hollie Steil, Mayor

Attest:



Karen Fleming, City Clerk