

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 17, 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 Oliver, Turner, Allred, and Curtis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilors Darrah

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Streetman, City Clerk Fleming, City Attorney Kidd, Public Works Superintendent Shope, and Communications Specialist Van Camp

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Steil led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

September 12, 2023 – Council Work Session

September 19, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting

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

4. Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Steil requested the agenda to be amended including Executive Session as item number 14, for the discussion of future acquisition of real estate (O.C.G.A. §50-14-3 (4)). Councilor Oliver made a motion to adopt the amended agenda adding the Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

5. Mayoral/Council Remarks

Mayor Steil thanked all that participated in putting together Fall Fest.

6. City Manager Report

City Manager Streetman stated that the hay bales have been painted their base coat and Fall Fest will be Saturday the 21st, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Asphalt patching on some of the City's roads is underway and the Sky to Summitt race will be October 28th through the 29th. The participants will come from 25 states and three countries.

7. Departmental Reports

Building Inspector Pyburn asked City Manager Streetman to read his report as he was unavailable. He recently issued one non-compliance and one code violation letter. There are currently five new homes under construction. Public Works Superintendent Shope thanked all for their patience concerning his department. They recently hired one new employee that will help with the work load. His guys have been busy helping with the upcoming Fall Fest and will soon start back with trimming back road sides.

8. Committee Reports

Special Projects Chairman, Bruce Turner, stated that the committee is wrapping up the preparation for Fall Fest as they are marking out the spaces for the booths. Planning & Zoning Chairman Dan McAfee stated that the committee will be holding a public hearing on November 9th regarding two variance requests.

Vickie Heher 32 Saddleback asked when the new Short-Term Rental Ordinance will go into effect with City Manager Streetman replying that it is in effect now. Granicus, the monitoring service, will have the software ready to go within 60 to 90 days but owners need to sign up for their rental license now. With the software being tailored to fit our needs, no penalties for renting without a license, will be enforced until January 1, 2024.

Councilor Allread asked if the owners of the short-term rentals have been contacted individually? City Manager Streetman stated that not at this time as there have been postings via MailChimp, website, and Facebook page. There will also be a reminder added to the utilities bill. Councilor Curtis asked if the owners could be made aware of any complaints that have been received regarding their property, as they sign up for their license.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Consider Mayoral Proclamation to declare Sky Valley a Purple Heart City

Grace Guess, president of the Property Owner's Association, had suggested the possibility. Bruce Gant was asked to talk about becoming a "Purple Heart City". He read about the purple heart awards and stated that there are currently three purple heart recipients living in Sky Valley. The purple heart is one of the oldest military awards. There have been 1.8 million recipients of this award. A flag will be flown on special occasions and City Hall will be lit up in purple on August 7th. Councilor Allred suggested gathering around the flagpole on August 7th, in honor of the ones that sacrificed so much. City Manager Streetman stated that five signs would be placed by the roadside after approval by GDOT.

Councilor Turner made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring Sky Valley a Purple Heart City, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

10. Consider Resolution to approve the 2023 Millage Rate

Mayor Steil stated that a Council Work Session along with a Public Hearing have been held to discuss the 2023 millage rate. She asked City Manager Streetman to summarize the Resolution. He stated that with the increases in property values is one reason the City has been able to lower the millage rate. The millage rate is proposed to be set at 11.5742 for 2023.

Councilor Oliver stated that T-SPLOST has created quite a bit of revenue for the City which has helped operation efficiencies; allowing the drop of the millage rate by four mils over the past years.

Hughel Goodgame, 726 W. Sugarbush, commended the City on great management the last four years.

Councilor Turner made a motion to approve the Resolution setting the 2023 millage rate, seconded by Councilor Allred, unanimously approved.

11. Consider Resolution to approve the FY2024 Budget

Mayor Steil stated that a Council Work Session along with a Public Hearing have been held to discuss the presented budget for 2024 and asked City Manager Streetman to summarize the proposed budget. He stated that there has been an increase in this year's budget compared to 2023 due to capital expenditures included in the budget. The overall budget for 2024 is \$1,499,999.

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the FY2024 Budget as presented, seconded by Councilor Oliver, unanimously approved.

12. Consider quote from Advanced Athletic Surfaces in the amount of \$41,980 to construct one (1) pickleball court

Mayor Steil commented on the explosion of the game over the past few years. City Manager Streetman stated that he put proposals out for bids, for the construction of a new court, with no response. He had obtained two quotes by calling around. The other quote was from Terra

Excavating in the amount of \$43,450. The proposed site would be next to the existing courts. The construction of the court would take six to eight months but would need to be approved today to get locked into that price. Approximately \$30,000 could be funded by hotel/motel funds.

Ken Walton, 517 Ridgepole, thanked the Council for the consideration of a new court as many times players would have to wait on a court.

Councilor Turner made a motion to approve the construction of a new court by Advanced Athletic in the amount of \$41,980, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

13. Public forum and General Comments

Megan from The Clayton Tribune, asked via zoom, what the Executive Session was going to consist of? She was told it was concerning future acquisition of real estate.

14. Executive Session

Councilor Oliver made a motion to close the meeting and go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Curtis.

Councilor Oliver made a motion to reopen the meeting from Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Turner.

Mayor Steil advised that no action was taken.

15. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:26 A.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Hollie Steil, Mayor

Attested:




Karen Fleming, City Clerk

**SKY VALLEY CITY COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM AND AFFIDAVIT OF CLOSED MEETING
PURSANT TO O.C.G.A. §50-14-4**

October 17, 2023
Date

Motion to Close Meeting:



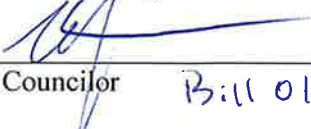
Signature of Councilor Bill Oliver

Seconded:



Signature of Councilor Jim Curtis

Motion to Open Meeting:



Signature of Councilor Bill Oliver

Seconded:



Signature of Councilor Bruce Turner


Topic: (Please check one)

To discuss the future acquisition of real estate;
(O.C.G.A. §50-14-3 (4))


To discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a city official or employee;
(O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3 (6))

To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the city or a city official or employee or in which the official or employee may be directly involved.
(O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2)


Each of the undersigned, under oath, certifies that at a meeting of the city council held on _____, the council closed its meeting as permitted by the Georgia Open Meetings Act. The only matter(s) considered or discussed during the closed portion of its meeting is as checked above.



Mayor Steil



Councilor Allred




Council President Oliver




Councilor Curtis

Councilor Darrah



Councilor Turner

Sworn to and subscribed before me
on the above indicated date:



Notary Public, State of Georgia
My Commission Expires: 3/13/2024

