

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 30, 2023
A MONDAY AT 2:00 P.M. AT 3608 HIGHWAY 246 (NEW CITY HALL) & VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM)
SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA**

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

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Streetman, City Clerk Fleming, Communication Specialist Van Camp, and Lieutenant Edwards

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Darrah led the invocation/pledge of allegiance.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Steil stated that the attorney, Mr. Ken W. Davis, for Mr. Casey Brown, requested an appeal of termination personnel hearing. With the appeal process she proposed an Executive Session be added to the agenda as item number five (5). Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the amended agenda with the addition of an Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Oliver, unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- 4. Appeal Hearing for Mr. Casey Brown (former police officer) before the Sky Valley City Council**
City Attorney Kidd gave the guideline of the hearing. Each attorney will be presenting their case with evidence and calling witnesses. City Attorney Kidd gave the details of Mr. Brown's termination which consisted of dates, videos, and actions. Mr. Davis opened with giving dates of employment and training for Mr. Brown. He stated that the Chief of Police's recommendations were not considered before the termination of Mr. Brown and therefore asked for the termination to be reversed with back pay. The termination date was May 8th and as stated in the termination letter was for abuse of City property along with violation of personal policy.

City Attorney Kidd called his first witness, City Manager Streetman. After being sworn in, he was asked to give details of his determination. After hearing the evidence, City Attorney Kidd asked for the videos to be played showing Mr. Brown's actions in the City Hall's parking lot. Mr. Davis then cross-examined City Manager Streetman. He asked if there were any proof that Mr. Brown damaged any police vehicles? If the Internal Affairs report was reviewed? Why other actions of discipline were not taken instead of termination? City Attorney Kidd explained the termination was due to Mr. Brown's gross insubordination, showing no remorse for his actions. There were safety concerns that were also considered.

City Attorney Kidd called Lieutenant Baumes. After being sworn in, he asked about the meeting that he had with Mr. Brown. Mr. Davis asked if there was a video of the meeting which Lieutenant Baumes had answered no since it was during a shift change.

Mr. Davis called Vaughn Estes, Chief of Police, at the time of Mr. Casey's termination. After being sworn in, he was asked to describe Mr. Brown as an officer. He stated that he was "very professional", and he was asked to read three letters of gratitude that were in Mr. Brown's personnel file. Mr. Estes went over the three different types of discipline that the Police Department's SOP states and he gave details of the events leading up to the termination. City Attorney Kidd asked about his recommendation in the Internal Affairs report. He also asked questions concerning the videos and proper driving of police vehicles.

Mr. Davis called Casey Brown, and after swearing in, asked him to state his employment history and what his duties were as an officer with the City. He asked him to recount the details of his termination. Mr. Brown was allowed to address the City Council concerning his termination. City Attorney Kidd asked him to explain his driving actions in the parking lot of City Hall.

Closing arguments were presented from both sides.

5. Executive Session

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

Councilor Curtis made a motion to reopen the meeting, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

Mayor Steil stated that after their deliberation, the Council was ready to announce their decision. Councilor Darrah made a motion to reinstate Mr. Brown with back pay, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the vote was called with Councilors Darrah, Oliver, Allred, and Turning voting yes and Councilor Curtis voted no. The motion was carried with the vote 4-1.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Hollie Steil, Mayor

Attest:



Karen Fleming, City Clerk