

**ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, (Rescheduled Date) JANUARY 23, 2024, (Original Scheduled Date) JANUARY 16, 2024, HELD ON A TUESDAY AT 10:00 AM 696 SKY VALLEY WAY & VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM) CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Steil, Councilors Allred, Turner, McAfee, Curtis, and Oliver via Zoom

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Streetman, City Clerk Fleming, Public Works Superintendent Shope, Code Enforcer Pyburn, Water Coordinator English, Police Chief Estes, and Communication Specialist Van Camp

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order and stated that she was excited for the new year as it will be an epic year.

**2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilor Allred led the invocation/pledge of allegiance.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**3. Swearing in of Newly Elected Officials**

Mayor Steil, Councilors Turner, McAfee, and Oliver via Zoom, were sworn in for a two year term by City Clerk Fleming.

**4. Nomination and Selection of 2024 Council President**

Councilor Allred made a motion to nominate and select Councilor Oliver as Council President as he has done a great job in the past, seconded by Councilor McAfee, unanimously approved.

**5. Set 2024 Regular Meeting Dates**

A list of proposed meeting dates was presented, being the third Tuesday of each month. Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the proposed dates, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**6. Approval of Minutes**

**November 21, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting**

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

**7. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**8. City Manager Remarks**

City Manager Streetman stated that all but approximately \$135,000 has been collected for

the 2023 property taxes. In comparison to this time last year, we still had approximately \$500,000 outstanding. He thanked those that had paid timely. Flagpoles have been ordered and will be installed at City Hall. One will be for the state flag, the other for the city flag. One will also be used for the purple heart flag, on special occasions. Webcams will be installed at the mailboxes and the compactor. One hundred replacement stop signs and poles will be installed. Sixty-six registered STRs out of the 98 active STRs listed. Citations will be underway for those that have listings but have not registered. The third pickleball court should be finished by late Spring. The ground water service study is underway for identifying a location for another well. A City Council Planning Retreat is being organized and is tentatively scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Topics to be discussed will include: Roads, Culverts, Septic, Zoning, and Capital Purchases.

## **9. Department Remarks**

Code Enforcer Pyburn stated that December was a slow month. He is currently working on a complaint concerning an unpermitted fence which is being addressed. Two houses on Rebel Circle that have been notified concerning the state of the houses. The status of these houses are being checked on a regular basis. Six new houses are currently under construction.

Public Works Superintendent Shope stated that his crew will be installing the 100 replacement stop signs and poles. Also, working on culvert replacements and redefining ditches.

Water Coordinator English stated the water line mapping is underway with the help of new employee, John Roberts. He is working with GRMC's web base mapping system. English suggested that homeowners leave their water faucets dripping during freezing weather.

The treating of roads during winter weather was discussed. City Manager Streetman stated that the City cannot advise people whether it is safe to get out on the roads or not. Individuals must make that decision on their own. We will keep them informed on the efforts of the staff, only. Chief Estes stated that homeowners that park their vehicles at the bottom of their driveways causes issues with the treating of those roads.

Police Chief Estes gave his stats for 2023. Family Violence has increased 100%, DUIs 50%. There were approximately 800 traffic stops, mainly on Hwy246, 125 public assists. Thirty thousand business and residential checks, seven fire calls. The department is in need of new radars, AED unit, and computers. The department has been approved to start the state certification process. It will take approximately a year to complete. In the process of setting up an annual inspection of permitted golf carts, for road use. The golf carts have to renew their permits annually as was set forth last year.

## **10. Committee Reports**

Bruce Turner, Special Projects Chairman, stated that the committee just completed a road cleanup from the Junction to the entrance. They will be getting together in the next couple of weeks to organize and discuss the past Fall Fest vendors.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 11. Ratification of the 2024 Sky Valley/Scaly Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue Agreement

The agreement was approved via email vote due to time restraints. This was an budgeted amount which will consist of 1.5 mils of the net digest value of real property within the City.

Fire Chief Sigler gave some statistics concerning his department and the near future purchase of a new rescue truck. Councilor McAfee asked if there was an office at the Saddleback location and Sigler answered yes, as per ISO requirements.

Councilor Oliver made a motion for the ratification of the agreement, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

### 12. Set Qualifying Fees for 2024 General Election

There will be two seats to be filled in the November election.

Councilor Oliver made a motion to set the qualifying fee at \$15.00, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

### 13. Consider approval of 2024 committee appointments

Mayor Steil thanked all those that volunteered to be on the different committees. A list of the proposed Committee members was provided, with there being an oversight of one for the Marketing Committee, Councilor Curtis.

Councilor Turner made a motion to approve the Committee appointments, seconded by Councilor McAfee, unanimously approved.

The approved members are as follows:

Landscaping Committee – Cheryl Beckert, Chairperson; Debbie Dalhouse-Curtis, Debbie McAfee, Cathy Turner, Becky Whitehead, Don Rice. Marketing Committee – Gordon Brand, Chairman; Paul Evans, Bruce Gant, Lynne Menard, Harry Collins, Jim Curtis, Ryan DeBois – Ex Officio Member. Planning and Zoning Commission – Dan McAfee, Chairman; Tony Allred, Don Germano, David Spears, Jim Phelps, Jim Pyburn – Ex Officio Member. Mayoral Advisory Committee – Bill Oliver, Chairman; Martin Greene, Tim Darrah, David Spears, Lise Rozier. Special Projects Committee – Bruce Turner, Chairman; Tony Allred, Grace Guess, Rick Rahn, Jim Rhodes, Ken Sigler, Gordon Brand.

### 14. Consider approval of one Hydrovac machine not to exceed \$65,000

City Manager Streetman revisited this as it was previously discussed last year. This piece of equipment would aid the Public Works Department during water breaks, and installing new meters. The purchase would be T-SPLOST funded. Purchase price would be around \$61,000 with an extended warranty.

Councilor McAfee made a motion to approve the purchase of the hydrovac, not to exceed \$65,000, with a three-year extended warranty, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

**15. Consider approval to reward contract to Wannamaker Landscaping for in-ground can removal as per insurance requirements**

City Manager Streetman stated that a risk management representative with our property insurance, had done an evaluation last year. Several items need to be addressed and the inground trash receptacles was one of them. They create a hazard for the trash collectors as critters get in them, have rusty edges, and they are low laying. The cans that will be removed are on the ROW, at the City's cost. The cans that are on the homeowner's side will be their responsibility for the removal, as the City will eventually stop picking up trash from them.

The City put out a request for proposals with the project description and scope of work for the removal of approximately 450 cans. Four bids were received: BCcontracting, McCrackin Fence & Grading, Cheek Construction, and Mark Wanamaker. Mark Wanamaker's proposal was the lowest and was the recommendation of City Manager Streetman to Mayor and Council, for the project.

Councilor Turner made a motion to approve the proposed bid from Wanamaker, seconded by Councilor McAfee, unanimously approved.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**16. Public Forum and General Comments**

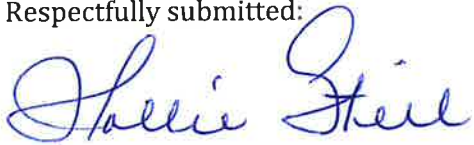
Debbie McAfee, 776 Alpine Drive commented on Councilor Curtis's suggestion on doing repairs to the covered bridge near the overlook. She stated that the bridge didn't belong to the City.

**17. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Hollie Steil, Mayor

Attest:



Karen Fleming, City Clerk