

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON A TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024
AT 10:00 AM, 3608 HWY 246 (CITY HALL) & VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM) SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Oliver

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Streetman, City Clerk Fleming, Communication Specialist Van Camp, Water Coordinator English, Building Inspector Pyburn, City Attorney Kidd, and Police Chief Estes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steil called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Turner led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

March 19, 2024 - Council Work Session

March 19, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting

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

4. Adoption of Agenda

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

5. Mayoral/Council Remarks

Mayor Steil thanked all that serve on the Sky Valley Committees. Their hard work and dedication are appreciated. No Council Remarks.

6. City Manager Report

City Manager Streetman shared the following updates:

Water System Permit for Winding Ridge, is in the process of being renewed with the EPD.

Locations for potential City wells, being conducted by Ground Water Resources, are wrapping up.

An additional supplementary LMIG grant was obtained for \$47,000.

Resurfacing City roads this week – Appalachian Point, Buttons Lane, and LaQuinta Lane

The third Pickleball Court is finished.

Seven City owned lots are being advertised for sale on GovDeals.

Independence Celebrations will be on July 5th.

The City is at 35% of the budgeted expenses for the General Fund and 80% of Revenue has been collected.

Approximately 90% of the 2023 property taxes have been paid.

Some springtime checklists:

Change smoke detector batteries.

Make sure you have a 911 identification sign at the end of your driveway.

Check your steps and deck boards, if applicable, to make sure all is safe and secure as requested by first-responders.

The City strongly recommends the use of water filters and PRV (pressure reducing valve) on their home's water line.

A discussion ensued regarding what could be required or not, concerning PRVs, at a residence. Fire Chief Sigler stated that the fire hydrant caps are color coded to show the range of pressure at the hydrant. If the cap is silver it has at least 100 psi, which could be an indicator if you have too much pressure coming into your house. His recommendation is to not have over 30-35 psi coming into your house.

7. Departmental Reports

Water Coordinator English reported that the Public Works Department is now back to full staff with the return of Ricky McKay. Road paving at Winding Ridge. Ridgepole replacement culvert is finished and went well. Re-defining ditches and leaf removal is underway. Water lines replaced at Forest Court and upon completion was resurfaced. The lead survey is underway which may require a City employee to verify information with the homeowner. A quote is being obtained from EMI to add telemetry to the Schonberg Lane water tank.

Councilor Turner requested that Rough Grouse Road be looked at for maintenance needs.

Building Inspector Pyburn stated that the pickleball court is finished and all courts would be ready for use on Wednesday at noon. A homeowner cited due to a fence issue. The house on Rebel Circle will be demolished and the lot put up for sale. Four new homes under construction. Twenty-two citations issued for non-registration of STRs and all but four have responded.

Chief of Police Estes stated that his department patrols Hwy 246 daily as aggressive driving has increased. There is a problem of drivers not stopping for a stopped school bus on this hwy. as well. He stated that the council may want to consider another traffic calming speed indicator at the lower end of 246, as the drivers' state confusion of the speed limit. A discussion over the installation of a radar/ticket issuing system on 246 ensued and City Attorney Kidd stated that he would check on the qualifications/requirements. Chief Estes also stated that bears have been getting into trash cans. Golf carts inspections can be scheduled, and he recommended residents to have cameras installed at their residence or having someone watching their homes if they are going to be away for an extended period of time.

8. Committee Reports

Cheryl Beckert, Sky Valley Landscaping Committee Chairperson, thanked the City staff for their assistance on several projects. She listed the projects for 2024 which included: Beautification of the corner of Rescue Lane and Evergreen. Sky Valley Garden Club donated a Kwanzan Cherry Tree. Don Rice donated bedding plants and shrubs which will be planted. Ornamental grasses will be added to the front corners of the pavilion and other plants added to the court area. Mountain laurel bushes will be replaced and day lilies divided and planted on the bank, at the mail facility. Pond area across from the TSSV maintenance building has had the overgrowth removed by the City crew. Additional street corners will have some plants added. Some of the plants are being donated by individuals and Sky Valley Garden Club.

Bruce Turner, Special Project Committee Chairman, stated that the committee is working on the Independence Day Celebration and Fallfest events. They are also planning a clean-up day along Bald Mountain Road and Evergreen.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Consider approval to amend the Sky Valley Solid Waste (Trash) Ordinance – 2nd reading and adoption

City Manager Streetman stated that the biggest reason for the amendment was to address the recent removal and ending of pick-up service, of the in-ground trash cans. Also, to better define dates of collection. This will be the second reading of the ordinance and he read the heading of the ordinance. "An ordinance to amend previous solid waste ordinances, to define terms and phrases relating to the collection and disposal of trash, waste, recycling and garbage, to regulate the receptacles and containers for the same for collection; to provide for the manner of collection of construction material, trash and garbage from commercial establishments and places of residence; to prohibit burying refuse, polluting waters, or spilling trash, garbage, and other debris upon city streets; to provide for kinds of collection service to be offered, the days of collection and schedule of charges therefor; to provide penalties for violation and to repeal all ordinances or portions thereof in conflict herewith".

Mayor Steil asked the status of the purchasing of trash cans. City Manager Streetman stated that he is checking on purchase prices/shipping costs. Councilor Curtis expressed concerns over certain aspects of the ordinance. He was answered that no ordinance is perfect, but the City does offer options to any dilemma.

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Ordinance, seconded by Councilor Turner unanimously approved.

10. Consider approval to amend the Uniform Rules of the Road Ordinance – 2nd reading and adoption

City Manager Streetman stated that there was one change to the current ordinance. Changing the term for renewal from five years to an annual renewal/inspection. He read the heading of the ordinance, "An ordinance to amend previous uniform rules of the road ordinances, to define terms and phrases relating to the uniform rules of the road, traffic signs, signals, and markings, speed limits, parking of motor homes, recreational vehicles, boats, and trailers, the permitting of personal transportation vehicles; and to provide penalties for violation and to repeal all ordinances or portions thereof in conflict herewith".

Councilor McAfee made a motion to approve the Uniform Rules of the Road Ordinance, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

11. Consider approval of Proclamation to celebrate and recognize Arbor Day 2024

Sky Valley has been designated as a "Tree City" for the past eight years. Arbor Day is in April each year in which the City participates. Communication Specialist Van Camp stated that 100 bare rooted red maples were made available to the residents and City Manager Streetman read the Proclamation. This year April the 16th would be proclaimed Arbor Day.

Councilor Turner made a motion to approve the Arbor Day Proclamation, seconded by Councilor McAfee, unanimously approved.

12. Consider approval of Proclamation of the 55th annual professional municipal clerks' week, May 5 – 11, 2024

Mayor Steil acknowledged the clerks with the City.

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approved the Municipal Clerks' Week Proclamation, seconded by Councilor McAfee, unanimously approved.

13. Consider adoption of the restated GMEBS member retirement plan per IRS requirements

City Manager Streetman that this is a formality to keep the tax-exempt status with the City's retirement plan.

Councilor McAfee made a motion to adopt the restated GMEBS plan per IRS requirement, seconded by Councilor Curtis, unanimously approved.

14. Consider approval of the 2024 Marketing Agreement with Forward Rabun

Forward Rabun is used as our required destination marketing organization (DMO). They are funded from our Hotel/Motel Taxes and receive 43.75 % of taxes collected for use in tourism advertisements. The tax was increased from five to eight percent in 2023.

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the agreement with Forward Rabun, seconded by Councilor McAfee, unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

15. Public Forum and General Comments

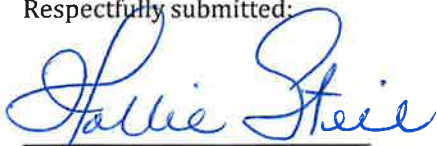
Debbie McAfee, 776 Alpine, wanted to thank the Sky Valley/Scaly Mountain Fire Department for being able to lower the ISO rating for Sky Valley and for the City opting for roll out cans. The cans can be picked up with a truck which could help avoid Worker's Comp claims.

16. 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 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Hollie Steil, Mayor

Attest:



Karen Fleming, City Clerk