

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Steil, Councilors Allred, McAfee, Turner, and Curtis. Councilor Oliver joined via zoom

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Streetman, City Clerk Fleming, Communication Specialist Van Camp, City Attorney Kidd, Lt. Baumes, Chief of Police Estes, and Building Inspector Pyburn

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Allred led the invocation/pledge of allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes

June 26, 2024 – Council Work Session Meeting at 8:30 a.m.

June 26, 2024 – Special Called Council Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Councilor McAfee made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Councilor Turner. Councilor Curtis had some concerns pertaining to the synopsis of the presentation given by auditor Joely Mixon, as was written in the Work Session minutes. A discussion ensued with input from the City Attorney. The vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Steil recommended that the agenda be amended, replacing Executive Session (item 12) with consideration of a Resolution for a capital Lease Purchase through GMA and adding for consideration a Resolution to surplus the 2009 F550. Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Councilor McAfee, unanimously approved

6. Mayoral/Council Remarks

Mayor Steil stated that the Independence Day event was wonderful and thanked all that participated and volunteered to help. She thanked City Manager Streetman for going the extra mile concerning the fireworks and also Fire Chief Sigler for donating cornhole sets. Ken Walton and Debbie Palmer for passing out ice water that brought in approximately \$600 for the Sid Weber Cancer Fund. Steve Mason for the use of golf carts to use during the day's events. Time Shares of Sky Valley for the donation of food for the cookout. Councilor Turner also thanked the Honor Guard that lead the parade and Councilor Curtis thanked reporter Megan Horn for the wonderful article that was in the local paper.

7. City Manager Report

City Manager Streetman's report consisted of thanking everyone that helped pull off the Independence Day event (staff and volunteers); several roads have recently been resurfaced and striped; the funds for these projects came from TSPLOST and LMIG; the application for the 2025 LMIG is in progress; Covered Bridge Lane will undergo some repairs; received the 2024 consolidation report from the County which helps in creating the 2025 budget; working on the 2025 draft budget. He also stated that on the financial side, we are at 68% on expenditures but have received over the budgeted amount for revenue.

8. Departmental Reports

Building Inspector Pyburn stated that he has written two warning citations which have been taken care by the property owner; issued one certificate of occupancy; five new homes under construction; three more pending new home applications; 20 permits issued in the month of June along with \$400 received from code violations.

Councilor Turner stated that some road mirrors need to be replaced. City Manager Streetman replied that the Road Department are currently changing those out. Councilor Curtis stated that it seemed like there is a water line break each month and asked if the City is keeping stats on those. City Manager answered yes and explained that the contributing factors are the age of the infrastructure and the pressure that is required for our system. He also explained that the system is being upgraded as it breaks, and the City is being proactive as potential issues arise. Councilor McAfee stated that the updated water line mapping system will aid with paving projects. Mayor Steil stated that newly purchased equipment also aids in water line breaks.

Chief Estes talked about the annual inspections that are now required for golf carts that are driven on designated roads. He gave the monthly stats for the police department, stated that running a stop school bus fine has gone from \$500 to \$1,000, and gave information about part-time new hire, Justin Cook.

Councilor Turner commented on the Bald Mountain Road intersection, caution light. The light is not dependable. He asked Chief Estes if he could contact someone concerning the sensors. Chief Estes explained that he has tried previously with NCDOT to no avail. He has also contacted the sheriff of Macon County. City Manager Streetman stated that the PW department has sprayed the corners to help with visibility.

Chief Estes stated that he would be leaving at the end of the month and wanted to express his appreciation to the people here. He has had the opportunity to create great memories. He will be moving to South Dakota. Mayor and Council expressed best wishes with his new endeavor.

8. Committee Reports

Councilor McAfee, also Chairman of the P&Z, stated that the commission will have a meeting next week to discuss the current tree ordinance and also the use of solar panels.

Gordon Brand, Marketing Committee Chairman, stated that media writer, Len Ziehm, has written a wonderful article about Sky Valley as a two-sport destination. He thanked Bill Thies for providing the accommodations for his visit. The Club is preparing for the GSGA Women's Club Championship.

Councilor Turner, also Chairman for the Special Projects Committee, stated that a Bald Mountain Road cleanup was coordinated before the Independence Day Event. The Committee is currently gearing up for this year's Fallfest.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Consider appointment of Jack Brandon as Country Club representative to the Sky Valley Marketing Committee Current representative, Lynne Menard, is moving out of the area, so Mr. Brandon will be the replacement.

Councilor Curtis made a motion to appointment Jack Brandon to the Marketing Committee, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

10. Consider approval of Resolution to select and approve the services of a professional engineering firm as required by the GEFA Septic to Sewers Grant

City Manager Streetman stated that in 2021 the City received a three million sewer and septic conversion grant. As we are moving forward with the sewer plans, one of GEFA requirements is to obtain a professional engineer for the project. Requests for proposals went out and three were received, (Turnipseed Engineers, Keck & Wood, Inc., and Engineering Management Inc. (EMI)). City Manager Streetman recommended EMI as the City has used them in the past. The sewer project will be at a cost of 4.5 to 6 million and hopefully other grants will be obtained to help offset the cost.

Councilor McAfee made a motion to approve the Resolution naming EMI as the engineering firm, seconded by Councilor Allred, unanimously approved.

11. Consider approval of IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) with Rabun County and all other municipalities within Rabun County for a \$25 million SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) agreement, a November 2024 voter referendum

Mayor Steil stated that she and City Manager Streetman, have been attending negotiations with Rabun County officials and local municipalities officials. The SPLOST funds, if passed, would be distributed based on population and could be used for capital outlay projects. The County 5.5 million, firehouse project, would come off the top and then the distribution would be County 72%, Cities 28%. The projected amount for Sky Valley could be \$594,000.

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

12. Consider approval of a Resolution to enter into a capital lease purchase for a 2023 F450 truck

City Manager Streetman stated that this item was added due to an emergency situation. Several safety issues have arisen concerning the 2009 F550. He stated that he wanted to hold off to see if pricing would go down and availability go up but the need is now. Ten to fifteen thousand has been spent on this truck in the past few years and is not worth

putting more money into it. The purchase could be through the GMA capital lease program with \$30,000 down and financing the remaining \$46,000± at 5.54% over five years.

Mayor Steil stated with all the safety issues that this is the way to go.

Councilor McAfee made a motion to approve the Resolution for the purchase of a new truck through the GMA lease program, seconded by Councilor Allred, unanimously approved.

13. Consider approval of a Resolution to declare the 2009 F550 as property surplus

This Resolution would be for the removal of a vehicle from the City's assets, to be sold as surplus. The truck would be listed for sale though GovDeals.

Councilor Curtis made a motion to approve the Resolution to declare the F550 as surplus, seconded by Councilor Turner, unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. Public Forum and General Comments

None were made.

15. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Hollie Steil, Mayor

Attest:



Karen Fleming, City Clerk