

Mayoral Advisory Committee Meeting
March 7, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
3608 Hwy. 246 (New City Hall) and Via Teleconference (Zoom)
Sky Valley, Georgia

MINUTES

Those Present: Chairman Bill Oliver, Tony Allred, Lise Rozier, Tim McClelland, Police Chief Baumes, Mayor Hollie Steil, City Clerk Fleming, and Communication Specialist Van Camp

Those Absent: David Spears

Welcome

Mr. Oliver opened the meeting at 10:00 and stated that this meeting will be the initial start of preparing a local emergency plan including a plan for residents in need. The purpose of the Committee is to talk about major issues and put together a suggestion to present to the Mayor and potentially to the City Council.

Mr. Oliver asked the members to introduce themselves as this is the first meeting of the year with the newly appointed members.

Approval of Minutes-June 22, 2023

Mr. Allred made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. McClelland, unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss the need for a Sky Valley Emergency Plan – Relating to natural events such as severe extended power outages, major road blockages, wildfires, etc.

*** Focus on taking care of residents that may need doctor appointments, food, medicine, transportation, etc.**

Mr. Oliver stated that a discussion had started at last year's City Council planning session. Mr. Allred told the Council of his experience helping with other volunteers at the Fire Department in Scaly. The group was organized after Hurricane Helene came through this area and parts of North Carolina. The area of Baltimore in North Carolina was hit especially hard and was left with mass devastation. The volunteers had asked for donations consisting of supplies to take to the worst hit areas and they also assisted at the Fire Department with residents in the Scaly Community that were left with no electricity, which also meant no water for many. Mr. Allred had suggested that Sky Valley have a plan of action in

place for any emergencies caused by natural events. Rabun County has a plan in place, but Sky Valley could have a more customized plan to fit our needs which could include residents' checks. A few things to consider: Budget preparedness, Organization, and the Remoteness of our area.

Mr. Oliver read the City Public Work's plan for storm events which consisted of: Timeline for preparedness, media notices, lodging, if needed, having supplies on hand, generators fully serviced, and monitoring of rising waters.

Chief Baumes stated that residents on oxygen are a great concern with the loss of power. The Police Department stays in contact with Georgia Power to get updates. Mr. Oliver suggested having a list of residents relying on power for any medical devices. The loss of power can also affect communications. Many residents do not have land lines anymore, so batteries run down for cell phones and there is no way to charge them unless you have a portable charger or a generator. Chief Baumes also stated his department has Sky Valley divided into four sections. He advised that each section have a designated spokesperson that could keep the rest of that section updated during the event. Ms. Rozier suggested that visitors have a way to stay updated as well. Mr. McClelland stated that having a database in place which could include medical needs would be helpful. The Property Owners Association has put out a form that the members can fill out and share with the Police Department which gives names and contact information for the "Buddy System".

Fire Chief Sigler talked about his firefighters which consist of 25 volunteers. The firefighters are scattered about the county and usually help the residents in their specific area with tree clearing and other needs. He stated that he could open both of the department's locations, if needed, to assist in an event. His department is always ready to assist with any call that comes in. The fire house in Scaly is equipped with showers and can accommodate up to 40 with enough water for four days. They also have five portable generators that could be used for medical devices. Local citizens make up the volunteers in these situations. Mr. Allred suggested finding additional accommodations such as timeshares, churches, and possibly the Club House. The fire department is notified by Macon and Rabun County with any fire events that have potential of spreading towards our area. The Forestry Service is notified if any fires get out of hand so they can assist using helicopters with water.

Mayor Steil suggested the use of a digital communication board to aid during such events.

Next Steps:

- Keep the Property Owners Association (POA) Buddy List updated which would be shared with the Police Department. Also, send out reminders for this endeavor in hope of additional participates.
- List of homeowners with contact information for each.
- A checklist for Public Works.
- Contact Ryan, general manager for the County Club, concerning the Club House as potential accommodations in an emergency. Also, contact Sky Valley Chapel and Time Shares of Sky Valley, Inc. for same possibility.

Mr. Oliver asked the Committee to be thinking about other suggestions/thoughts for the next meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Allred made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. McClelland, unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Karen Fleming, City Clerk