

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA, COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE LODGE, 696 SKY VALLEY WAY**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Goodgame, President Lively, Councilors Durpo, Larsen, MacNair, and Steil; City Manager Lapeyrouse and City Clerk Fast, Police Chief Estes and Officer Baumes

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Goodgame called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Cathy Turner gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Goodgame.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 3, 2017 Organizational & Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Steil made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Lively seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mayor Goodgame requested to move the Pickleball bid evaluation and award to the last item under New Business. Councilor Lively made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Steil seconded and passed unanimously.

**MAYOR'S REMARKS**

Mayor Goodgame thanked everyone for attending. He stated Sky Valley is moving forward. Real Estate sales have increased and a lot of low cost inventory properties have been sold and prices will start moving upward. We have done a lot of social media and billboard advertising and the Visitor's Center has been very successful.

He wants Sky Valley to shine and show progress, we have four events this year 1) Memorial Day Weekend- Red, White and Bluegrass 2) July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration 3) Solar Eclipse 4) Fall Festival. A thank you note was received from the Rabun County Tourism Development Authority for the Hotel/Motel Taxes received.

**COUNCIL REMARKS**

Councilor MacNair thanked everyone for coming to the Council Meeting and he is looking forward to the sunshine.

Councilor Larsen advised Dee Moore and his wife have moved to Florida and she will provide address and thanks for showing her support.

Councilor Durpo thanked everyone for the phone calls and e-mail. He agreed that real estate is picking up and stated Sky Valley is the best kept secret in Georgia. He said there still is a lot to put Sky Valley on the map.

Councilor Steil loves Sky Valley. It is a special place. He also thanked everyone for the community support.

Councilor Lively stated a lot had changed in one year 1)Real Estate values have increased 2) Cell tower is complete 3) Lodge is being renovated and serving the community 4) Sewer study 5) Welcome Center. He is proud of what council has done.

**CITY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT REPORTS – EXCEPTIONS AND QUESTIONS**

City Manager Lapeyrouse presented her Departmental Reports

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Approval of 2016 Budget Amendment**  
Councilor Lively made a motion to approve 2016 Budget Amendment. Councilor Durpo seconded the motion and passed unanimously.
- **Approval of 2017 Budget Amendment**  
Councilor Steil made a motion to approve 2017 Budget Amendment. Councilor Lively seconded the motion. Councilor Durpo asked why was the money being moved from roads when roads so important to everyone. City Manager Lapeyrouse stated we are trying to modify the budgeted departments to reflect guidelines per the Chart of Accounts. Money was move to Buildings and Grounds Department which did not exist before. Line items in the roads department which affect paving and repairs were not affected. Since the department is new this year, it may be modified again later in the year. Money was taken from various departments based on the expenditure such as shop repairs and landscaping and moved to Buildings and Grounds. The Culture and Recreation Department was further divided into Special Events and Parks. The monetary amount did not change. Councilors Steil, Lively, Larsen & MacNair voted in favor. Councilor Durpo voted against.
- **Approval of John Awtrey as Police Officer-Chief Estes recommends**  
Councilor MacNair moved to approve John Awtrey as Police Officer – Chief Estes recommends. Councilor Larsen seconded the motion and passed unanimously.
- **Mayor's Arbor Day Proclamation**  
Councilor Larsen made a motion to approve Mayor's Arbor Day Proclamation. Councilor Lively seconded the motion and passed unanimously.
- **Approval of Auditor's Proposal, Mixon's & Associates \$8,500**  
Councilor Lively made a motion to approve Auditor's Proposal from Mixon & Associates for \$8,500. Councilor Steil seconded the motion and passed unanimously. Councilor Durpo asked what the fee was last year. It was approximately \$6,500 - \$7,000. This proposal is more than the last auditor, but he is not interested in doing the audit this year. The proposal is less than we paid prior to last year.
- **Declaration of Surplus Property 058C 261 Lot 16A, Part 1 of Bee Gum Gap**  
Councilor Durpo made a motion to approve the Declaration of Surplus Property 058C 261 Lot 16A, Part 1 of Bee Gum Gap. Councilor Steil seconded the motion and passed unanimously. Councilor MacNair asked how many lots does Sky Valley own. Approximately 11 lots that are not being used. City Manager Lapeyrouse stated some of the lots are not buildable.  
Councilor MacNair suggested we take bids for all the lots as a bundle. Councilor Steil suggested we have our attorney research this to see if this can be done. Mayor Goodgame said we needed to make sure the lots have no future use.
- **Consider Request from Brenda Hinkle for Water Bill Adjustment 1345 Ridgeway Drive** – City Manager Lapeyrouse provided the information on the bill and city's procedure on adjustments. The Council serves as the appeals board. Mayor Goodgame stated we have only provided additional relief in a couple of hardship cases that he can remember. Ms. Hinkle advised her contractor left the water on and then did not finish the job. Councilors Larsen and MacNair stated we should reconsider her request and provide some additional help. Councilor Lively asked if a payment plan would help. Several in the audience stated she should file a claim with the contractor's insurance company. Councilors Durpo, Lively and Steil to voted to deny request. Councilors Larsen and MacNair voted against the denial.
- **Pickleball Bid Evaluation and Award**  
Mayor Goodgame presented the one bid that was received from Talbot Tennis for \$41,798. Councilor Durpo recommended postponing the vote for 30 days in order to provide full

transparency regarding the pickle court, and its cost. Our tax payers deserve full disclosure. Mayor Goodgame spoke with Timeshares and they will be lining off two pickleball courts on the tennis courts. It takes at least four courts to have a tournament. Steve Brett stated we cannot count on what the Timeshares is doing and guests are not permitted to use the Timeshare facilities if the homeowner is not a member. Councilor Larsen asked would people have to check in to play, who will maintain them and where will they park. Mayor Goodgame said the city would maintain the park and explained the protocol he has seen at most facilities taking turns to play. Everyone always finds somewhere to park at parties and events in the City. There would not be dedicated parking. Helen Kleiber stated pickleball courts would be an asset to Sky Valley. Councilor MacNair asked if the courts would be locked. The Police can lock up each night. Mayor Goodgame the public park would be good for citizens and visitors. Paul Wheeler asked about water and bathrooms and stated there is more to be considered with the overall land use. Bill Otis is concerned it appears Councilors are just receiving the information and flipping through packets at the meeting. Council packets have been available for over a week except for the bid amounts. Bids on the courts were not due until yesterday afternoon and were e-mailed to council approximately 30 minutes later. Debbie McAfee said it is important to move forward. Dan McAfee said the money is available in the budget and Councilor MacNair suggested a port a potty. Steve Brett having served as Mayor said we do not need to keep putting this off and vote on it today. Will Gurley stated construction companies are getting busy and there is no reason to delay it. Councilor Lively moved to approve the bid for the pickleball court Councilor Steil seconded the motion. Mayor Goodgame, Councilors Larsen, Lively and Steil voted in favor of approving bid. **Councilors Durpo and MacNair voted against approval.** The bid was approved with a four/two vote.

## **PUBLIC FORUM AND GENERAL COMMENTS**

Helen Kleiber thanked Hollie Steil and the city for continuing to have the bear at the visitor center.

Steve Brett said he cannot thank the Police Department enough for helping him after his hip surgery.

Paul Wheeler asked where can citizens review the sewer study and comprehensive plan. Mayor Goodgame advised it is available at city hall.

Bill Otis asked if the water meters could be monitored by the Police Department when they are out on patrol. City Manager Lapeyrouse will get information on a smaller reading device and send to Council.

Debbie McAfee stated water is our most precious resource, where do we get it from. City Manager Lapeyrouse advised five groundwater wells and two on Winding Ridge system. The wells pump water to the lines and the storage tanks.

Cathy Turner advised the Solar Eclipse is coming up in August and we can expect a great crowd. She touched on several of the events the weekend leading up to the eclipse August 21<sup>st</sup>. Helen Kleiber added that pets should be protected so as to not injure their eyes.

Will Gurley stated the Eclipse is a huge event and Police Department will be very busy. A broken tree in North Carolina needs to be removed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**


Councilor Larsen made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Steil seconded and passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hughel Goodgame".

Hughel Goodgame, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ella Fast".

Ella Fast, City Clerk