



260 HILLSBORO ROAD
PO BOX 129
HIGH SHOALS, GA 30645

WWW.NORTHHIGHSHOALS.ORG

MAYOR TOBY P. BRADBERRY

POST 1: ERIC CARLSON

POST 2: JASON PRESLEY

POST 3: ANN EVANS

POST 4: HILDA KURTZ

POST 5: VIOLET DAWE

**APPROVED MINUTES
TOWN OF NORTH HIGH SHOALS, GEORGIA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 16, 2019**

Council Present: Toby Bradberry, Ann Evans, Violet Dawe, Eric Carlson, Jason Presley

Visitors: Brian Patterson, candidate for District Attorney

Eric & Lori Wright

Hilda Kurtz, newly elected council member

Call to Order

Greetings and Declaration of Quorum

- Mayor Bradberry called the meeting to order at 7:39pm and declared a quorum.

Agenda Setting

- Council Member Carlson made a motion to move the Wright's proposal of renting the former Town Hall to the first item after Citizen Comments. Council Member Evans seconded the motion and it passed without objection.
- Council Member Evans made a motion to accept the revised agenda. Council Member Carlson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation of Draft Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Council Member Evans made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on November 18, 2019 with no corrections. Council Member Carlson seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.

Presentation of Financial Statement

- Clerk Wilson informed Council that the Georgia Power line item was composed of bills from November and December.
- Mayor Bradberry inquired about the price of the audit (\$6175) and Council Member Dawe asked about the insurance premium from the Georgia Municipal Association (Worker's Compensation/Self Insurance Fund) and maintenance costs for the Community Center.
- Council Member Presley made a motion to accept the financial statement. Council Member Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments on Non-agenda Items

- Visitor Brian Patterson introduced himself to Council as the current Chief Assistant District Attorney for the Western Judicial Circuit that includes Athens-Clarke and Oconee counties. He provided Council with background information on himself, his family, and his record as a prosecutor.

Item 1—Renting the former Town Hall to Eric and Lori Wright

Mayor Bradberry introduced Eric and Lori Wright and asked if Council had the opportunity to look over their proposal for renting the former Town Hall (108 Jefferson St.) for their business creating Japanese inspired housewares. Council Member Carlson asked what the building would be used for and Eric Wright replied it would be a wood working shop upstairs and a metal working shop in the basement. He stated they would use the former office room upstairs as an office as well as a space to display products they create. Eric Wright then provided background information about their current workshop and storage situation.

Discussion followed about whether to rent the entire former Town Hall or just the top floor. Council Member Dawe inquired about what kind of tools they use and how they related to fire safety. Eric Wright provided a detailed explanation about the forge used for the metal working component as related to potential fire hazards. Council Member Carlson wanted to know their preferred start date and Eric Wright replied as soon as possible. Council Member Dawe suggested checking with the Georgia Municipal Association regarding insurance. Clerk Wilson informed the Wrights about the current utility providers for the space.

Council was unanimous in their excitement about the potential for the building to be used again, particularly by a member of the community. Council Member Carlson made a motion to allow the Wrights to lease the property with the conditions that insurance be approved, and the Wrights approve the space. Council Member Dawe seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 2—Erosion on Jefferson Rd (in front of the Old Town Hall/Wright's Property)

Mayor Bradberry informed Council that he has spoken to the Wrights and they are aware of the work that needs to be done. Nothing else has changed with the situation.

Item 3—Landscape Installation at the Community Center

Mayor Bradberry asked if everyone has had a chance to look at the new landscaping. Council Member Evans asked when Butler Landscaping would come back for maintenance since it looked like one of the cypress trees in the back was leaning. Mayor Bradberry agreed it was a good idea to call Butler to have them come out and fix the leaning tree.

Clerk Wilson provided Council with an update on the new irrigation system. She explained how often it ran, how much water each plant received, how many zones the system had, and the rain/freeze sensor incorporated into the system. Discussion followed about adding more plants on the back hill and incorporating solar panels on that hill. Mayor Bradberry asked for estimates on how much it would cost to finish planting the back hill. Clerk Wilson replied the winter jasmine costs \$1760 plus the costs of the pine straw.

Discussion moved onto proposals from Butler for the parking lot and a new maintenance contract for the Community Center and former Town Hall. Council Member Presley inquired about why Council did not pave the parking lot originally and how often would new gravel have to be laid. Mayor Bradberry explained that during construction of the building, Council was led to believe that in order to pave the parking lot, a retention pond would have to have been constructed. Additionally, the cost of paving the lot was at least \$30,000.

Council Member Dawe asked how much per month the town currently pays Butler for maintenance and Clerk Wilson replied \$341.25 per month. Discussion then followed about what type of chemicals were being used to treat the lawn and if Butler and Georgia Landscapes were both treating the same area. Council Member Dawe was especially concerned about chemical leaching into the water table. Council Member Dawe would also like to investigate hiring a professional to trim the new trees and bushes.

Council Member Presley left the meeting at approximately 8:20pm.

Council Member Evans made a motion to accept the new maintenance schedule from Butler Landscape providing the Council received satisfactory answers regarding ballfield maintenance and removing the former Town Hall. Council Member Carlson seconded the motion and it passed with no objection.

Discussion resumed on the second proposal from Butler regarding the parking lot. Mayor Bradberry informed Council that yellow had been chosen to paint the curb opposite the front steps. He also explained that Butler would put out the remaining parking bumpers and anchor them into the ground. Council Member Dawe inquired about making those bumpers more visible with either paint or reflectors. Clerk Wilson will check with Butler on how to make them more visible.

Council Member Carlson made a motion to accept the parking lot proposal from Butler. Council Member Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Item 4—Year End Letter to Citizens

Mayor Bradberry asked Council to review the draft of the year end letter that will be mailed to citizens of North High Shoals. Discussion followed about other items to add to the letter including the town's gun ordinance, the work of the Greater Apalachee River Community (GARC), and more details about the leaf pick up scheduled for mid-January. Council Member Dawe suggested printing the letter on the new letterhead so community members could see the new town seal.

Item 5—Furniture for the Community Center

Mayor Bradberry informed Council that we met with the representative from Gainesville and that all that was left to do was send her final material selections. Clerk Wilson reviewed what furniture was chosen for each area as well as fabric and laminate selections. Mayor Bradberry reminded Council that they would have an opportunity to review the proposal one more time before the order was placed.

Item 6—Audit Results

Mayor Bradberry informed Council that the audit for FY 2019 was completed by Hawkins and McNair. The process was completely successfully with no problems reported. He reminded Council that the audit was required by law and that they each had a copy to look through. Newly elected Council Member Kurtz inquired what was the spending threshold that triggered the audit. Clerk Wilson replied \$300,000. Council Member Dawe asked if there was a special separate SPLOST audit that was needed. Mayor Bradberry instructed Clerk Wilson to investigate.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 7—Adding a mailbox to the Community Center

Mayor Bradberry reminded Council of the recent problems he encountered ordering items for the parade float. He is going to research getting a mailbox mounted to the building instead of at the road.

Item 8—Holiday Lunch or Dinner

Mayor Bradberry asked if anyone was interested in having a holiday lunch or dinner. Discussion followed about when and where to have it. Council decided to have a luncheon on Saturday January 4th with the meal starting at 1pm.

Item 9—Exit Sign Near Bathrooms

Mayor Bradberry explained that there is a problem with the lighted exit sign near the bathrooms. Essentially, it is illegal to have a lighted exit sign in front of a locked door. Mayor Bradberry stated that there are plenty of other exits in the room and he was going to check with Building Inspector Morgan Wheeler on simply just removing the problem sign.

Item 10—Christmas Gifts for County Offices

Mayor Bradberry reminded Council that they typically send small gifts to various county offices as a thank you for help throughout the past year. Council reviewed the list of offices to send a small gift and agreed it should be some sort of popcorn/candy/nut not valued at more than \$20 each. Council Member Dawe suggested that next year the town adopt a charity to support.

Item 11—Town's Video Camera

Mayor Bradberry informed Council that the town's video camera died after only a few years. However, the town had a warranty on the camera and received a full refund of the purchase price. Mayor Bradberry asked for input on purchasing the next camera and Council Member Carlson offered to research various products.

Item 12—Selecting Historic Images for Framing

Mayor Bradberry pulled up a sample of historic images on the TV monitor for Council to review. After going through the images once, it was decided that Clerk Wilson would put them in a Google Drive for Council to review again and make selections. Discussion followed about the number of images to pick, quality of images, scanning images, and how large to print and frame images.

Council Member Carlson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Evans seconded the motion and it passed without objection. The meeting ended at approximately 9:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Wilson
Clerk, North High Shoals