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MAYOR TOBY P. BRADBERRY

POST 1: ERIC CARLSON

POST 2: JASON PRESLEY

POST 3: ANN EVANS

POST 4: HILDA KURTZ

POST 5: VIOLET DAWE

DRAFT MINUTES
TOWN OF NORTH HIGH SHOALS, GEORGIA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 20, 2020

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

Visitors: From Girl Scout Troop 12157: Rhiannon Eades, Laurie and Julie Trail, Ginny Marie and Ivy Giacchino, and Derek Miess

Call to Order

Greetings and Declaration of Quorum

- Mayor Bradberry called the meeting to order at 7:38pm and declared a quorum.

Swearing in of Council Members

- Mayor Bradberry started the meeting by swearing in the new Council Member Hilda Kurtz. Next he swore in Council Member Eric Carlson.

Agenda Setting

- Council Member Evans made a motion to move Girl Scout Troop 12157's Trail Upkeep proposal to the top of the agenda. Council Member Kurtz seconded the motion and it passed without objection.
- Council Member Evans made a motion to accept the revised agenda. Council Member Kurtz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation of Draft Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Council Member Kurtz noted the misspelling of Butler in the first paragraph under Item Three. Council Member Dawe noted a typo in the first paragraph of page three. Under Item Six, Council Member Dawe requested the statement "turned up no bad news" be rephrased and under Item Nine she requested "lit exit sign" be changed to "lighted exit sign." Further under Item Nine, Council Member Dawe asked that the word "it" in the last sentence be changed to "he" for clarification.
- Council Member Evans made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on December 16, 2019 with the stated corrections. Council Member Carlson seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.

Presentation of Financial Statement

- Clerk Wilson updated Council about the increase in the water bill at the Community Center due to the new sprinkler system. She also informed them that monthly revenue came in the form of insurance license fees and property taxes.
- Council Member Kurtz inquired about the two AT&T line items on the financial statement. Clerk Wilson explained it was for the two different accounts. Council Member Carlson asked for clarification regarding keeping the AT&T line at the former Town Hall. Mayor Bradberry stated he wanted to make sure the new tenants did not want the line before cancelling it.

- Council started a general discussion about moving money around in the budget. Mayor Bradberry recommended doing that at another meeting.
- 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 Julia Trail proposed building a Free Little Library for the Town Park as part of her Silver Award Project for Girl Scouts. She explained that the Silver Award Project is supposed to be community based and have a lasting impact on the community. Council Member Dawe informed Julia another member in the community already asked to install one of these libraries. She proposed maybe Julia could work with this family or that the family might let Julia complete the project on her own. Council Member Dawe stated that she had given this family an old newspaper box that said “High Shoals Messenger” on it as a potential case for the Little Library. Julia also brought up the possibility of creating two library boxes, one specifically designed for small children. Council Member Dawe suggested creating a schedule detailing what Julia was going to do on the project and when upkeep would be performed. Mayor Bradberry stated the Town would put Julia in touch with the family who had initiated the Free Little Library idea. Council Member Kurtz stated it would be ideal if the project could be completed by the Open House for the Community Center at the end of March. Council Member Kurtz made a motion to accept Julia Trail’s Silver Award proposal to build and install a Little Library at a location to be determined in the Town Park. Council Member Presley seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.

Mayor Bradberry swore in Council Member Jason Presley. (Approximately 8:08pm)

Item 1—Trail Maintenance by Girl Scout Troop 12157

Girl Scout Troop leader Rhiannon Eades introduced herself to Council and explained that her troop is composed of girls in the 7th through 9th grades and they meet regularly at High Shoals Christian Church. Her troop is interested in community-based projects and would like Council’s permission to clean up some of the trails in the Town Park. Specifically, Eades mentioned spray painting roots that had become trip hazards, snipping briars, removing overhead limbs/brush, and raking leaves. She further mentioned that there were two trees that have fallen over the trail that need to be cut and removed. The root ball of one of the fallen trees has become exposed destroying a section of the trail in the process.

Another visitor (did not get name, nor did she sign in) asked for a proposal to reroute the trail safely around the fallen trees or for Council to remove the trees. Visitor Derek Meiss addressed Council stating he had experience working with trees and believed that the work required is too advanced for a Girl Scout project. Mayor Bradberry stated for safety and liability purposes, the Town preferred to work with a licensed and insured company to take care of the trees. Council Member Carlson concurred. Mayor Bradberry asked for 30 days to review the proposal.

Council Member Evans suggested having a map of the trail would be a great benefit to the park as well. Discussion followed amongst council members about a map of the trail system created by a boy scout about two years ago. Council Member Carlson made a motion to explore the upkeep of the trail, excluding the work with the trees, in support of the Girl Scout’s project. Council Member Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Item 2—Ivy Giacchino Gold Award project for Girls Scouts, creating bridges in the park

Ivy Giacchino proposed to Council that she would like to build two bridges over where the park trail crosses the creek in fulfillment of her Gold Award project. Mayor Bradberry stated it was a wonderful idea and that the bridges were needed in the park, however because the park was on public land there would be specific criteria that would need to be followed. Council Member Dawe suggested researching other bridges in public parks and what was needed. Council Member Kurtz reinforced the idea that if the bridge was not up to code, it failed, and someone got hurt that it would be a big problem. Council Member Carlson made a motion to approve the preliminary research phase on the Town Park Bridge Project. Council Member Dawe seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 3—Furniture for the Community Center

Mayor Bradberry informed Council that the last proposal from McGarity's excluded the proper number of carts for storing the chairs as well as a bookcase for the clerk's office. He stated the total order was approximately \$32,000. Council Member Kurtz asked where the carts for the tables and chairs would be stored and Mayor Bradberry told her in the storage room off the meeting room. Clerk Wilson asked if Council had any preference on fabric color for the umbrellas on the back patio; discussion followed. Council Member Carlson asked if they would be brought in all the time and Mayor Bradberry explained that they would be chained to the concrete in the same manner that the rocking chairs would be.

Item 4—Historic Images to Print for the Community Center

Mayor Bradberry asked if everyone had the opportunity to look over the images. Council Member Dawe interjected that she had many more images coming for Council to consider after meeting with local and longtime High Shoals citizen Pam Kilpatrick Crawford. She also stated it would be nice to investigate who owns the copyright for the book High Shoals Then and Now for the purpose of reprinting. Discussion followed about what kind of photos to print, how many photos, and what size. Council decided to hold a work session on February 2nd at 3pm to make final photo selections.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 5—Resolutions and Appointments

Council Member Evans made a motion to accept Laura Wilson as Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Qualifying Officer for Elections. Council Member Carlson seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.

Council Member Evans made a motion to accept Steven Strickland as the representative for the Town of North High Shoals to the Oconee County Planning Commission. Council Member Presley seconded the motion and it passed with Council Member Dawe abstaining.

Council Member Carlson made a motion to reappoint Joe Rietman as attorney for the Town of North High Shoals. Council Member Kurtz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Dawe made a motion to accept Morgan Wheeler as the Certified Building Official for the Town of North High Shoals. Council Member Evans seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.

Council Member Dawe made a motion to move the December 21, 2020 meeting to December 14, 2020. Council Member Presley seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.

Council Member Evans made a motion to nominate Council Member Carlson as Mayor Pro tem. Council Member Dawe seconded the motion and it passed with Council Member Carlson abstaining.

Council Member Dawe made a motion to nominate Council Member Evans as Presiding Officer. Council Member Kurtz seconded the motion and it passed with Council Member Evans abstaining.

Item 6—Building Permit for 201 Hillsboro

Mayor Bradberry summarized the application for 201 Hillsboro stating that the applicant would like to add a free-standing garage, an attached sun porch, and deck. Council Member Kurtz asked for an overview on how the approval process worked for building permits. Mayor Bradberry explained that the Council did not have to worry about enforcing code; that Morgan (the Building Official) did that for the Town. Discussion of the application followed. Council Member Evans made a motion to accept the building permit for 201 Hillsboro as presented. Council Member Presley seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Item 7—New Mailbox at the Community Center

Mayor Bradberry and the Council discussed where to put a mailbox at the Community Center—near the building under the portico or out by the road. Council Member Evans volunteered to research potential mailboxes.

Item 8—Renting the Former Town Hall to the Wrights

Mayor Bradberry updated the Council on the status of the lease negotiations with Wrights. The main issues the Wrights had with the lease included the changing the time of written notice of termination from 90 days to 180 days, increasing the lease term to five years instead of two or three years, and adding 48 hours written notice for any kind of intent to enter the property. Areas that still need to be settled are the amount of annual rent and the amount of liability insurance coverage provided by the tenants. Discussion followed about liability insurance. Council Member Kurtz made a motion to keep the clause about a million dollars of liability insurance provided by the tenants in the lease. Council Member Dawe seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.

Item 9—Plumber Call to the Community Center

Mayor Bradberry informed Council that a plumber had to be called to the Community Center because the toilets were not flushing correctly. It turned out that a pump that helps relieve the drain field was not plugged in. The plumber also trimmed and capped some of the PCV pipes in the field.

Item 10—2020 Census

Clerk Wilson informed the Council that a census worker stopped in the Community Center saying they are still looking for volunteers. Mayor Bradberry suggested offering the Community Center as a location for people to come fill out the census if they did not have computer access. Council did not find any mistakes with the map of the Town's boundaries provided by the census.

Item 11—Storage Unit for the Community Center

Mayor Bradberry informed Council that a storage facility in Farmington off 441 has a section of “Scratch and Dent” units available at a reasonable price. He proposed purchasing a 16x12 unit with double doors and no windows for approximately \$3600. He would like to place it on blocks with a ramp up to the double doors, in the park behind the second fit trail sign. Council Member Evans made a motion to purchase a storage unit for the Community Center as presented. Council Member Dawe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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 9:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Wilson
Clerk, North High Shoals