



260 HILLSBORO ROAD
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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

APPROVED MINUTES

TOWN OF NORTH HIGH SHOALS, GEORGIA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING*

December 14, 2020

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

Council Members Absent: Jason Presley

Visitors: Fred Johnson (online)

Call to Order

Greetings and Declaration of Quorum

- Mayor Bradberry called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35pm.

Agenda Setting

- Council Member Evans made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Council Member Dawe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation of Draft Minutes

- October 2020 Draft Minutes
 - Mayor Bradberry found a typo—bug instead of big
 - Council Member Evans found the following typos: page 3, number 4 “lot owners”, page 4 new presenter Pam Hendricks, second dot “increased water runoff”, next paragraph how/now, page 6 near bottom—rephrase Council Member Kurtz’s statement to read “add unknown costs to surrounding property owners.”
 - Council Member Dawe notes that Rays Church Road should be spelled with an apostrophe s
 - Council Member Evans made a motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on October 19, 2020 with the stated changes. Council Member Kurtz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- November 2020 Draft Minutes
 - Council Member Evans noted that at the top of page 3, though should be thought
 - Council Member Evans made a motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on November 16, 2020 with the stated changes. Council Member Kurtz seconded the motion and it passed with Council Member Carlson abstaining.

*Due to COVID-19 restrictions the meeting was held virtually using GoToMeeting.

Presentation of Financial Statement

- On the revenue side, Clerk Wilson explained to Council that \$16,000 of the expected property taxes had come in, TVAT (Title Ad Valorem Tax) revenue was down approximately 20% over this time last year, and it will no longer be a reliable revenue source.
- Other items of note: the sprinkler system was fixed so the water bill should be back to normal and the audit will be done on time
- Council Member Evans made a motion to accept the November-December financial statement as presented. Council Member Kurtz seconded the motion and it passed with no objections.

Citizen Comments on Non-agenda Items—none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 1—Adding a Guardrail on Rays Church Road

Mayor Bradberry informed Council that according to the representative for the County who installs guardrails and is a DOT approved vendor, there is not enough shoulder along that stretch of Rays Church Road to put a guardrail.

- Council Member Dawe asked if the Town could put up reflector poles instead and Mayor Bradberry agreed it was worth exploring and checking with Oconee County to see what they do.

Item 2—LMIG Grant ideas

Mayor Bradberry gave Council Member Kurtz a brief overview of the LMIG grant. He stated it was provided by the Georgia DOT, required a 70/30 percent split for funding, and had to be used for road related projects. It is an annual funding opportunity. Council discussed the following ideas as potential projects for the 2021 LMIG grant application:

- Improving the intersection of Hillsboro and Rays Church Road to slow down traffic
 - Mayor Bradberry reminded Council that they had voted on and approved adding half circle reflectors to the road to create a sharper right turn; project approved up to \$5,000
 - Mayor Bradberry suggested the Town could hire also deputy for traffic enforcement
- Repaving of roads in Hickory Ridge and Hickory Lake
- Fixing Plantation Road—Mayor Bradberry does not think this project is large enough

Council decided to wait until the January meeting to vote on projects for the LMIG grant to allow time for the mayor and clerk to get project quotes.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 3—New Ordinance for Stealing Political Signs (Fred Johnson)

Citizen Fred Johnson spoke to Council about the theft of political signs during the recent presidential election. At least 29 signs were stolen by his count. Each of the property owners reported the theft to the sheriff's office. As a deterrent to this action, Johnson would like the Council to consider changing the Town ordinances to allow for a fine of up to "x" dollars. He acknowledges it will be nearly impossible to catch people stealing signs but argues that the fine will make people think twice about stealing the signs. Johnson sees the theft of the signs as a First Amendment issue. Discussion followed:

- Mayor Bradberry suggested advertising a fine on Facebook and the Town's website and then following through with a new ordinance

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- Mayor Bradberry also mentioned the need to work out with Oconee County the ability to prosecute people for various Town offenses such as parking violations
- Council Member Kurtz supports an ordinance penalizing people for stealing signs, especially those placed on private property
 - She recommends looking at ordinances from other municipalities to use as a model.
 - She is against publicly stating there is an ordinance before an ordinance exists.
- Council Member Dawe suggested putting a reminder online and on the electronic sign to respect your neighbors, personal property, etc.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

- Disc Golf Proposal
 - Mayor Bradberry is waiting on an aerial map from the designer detailing the location of the proposed holes. Discussion of the proposal will be at the January meeting.
- Holiday Gathering for the Council? The Council decided to forgo the annual holiday gathering due to the pandemic.
- Council Member Evans asked if we were sending out the usual gift baskets to other county departments. Mayor Bradberry confirmed.
- Council Member Dawe brought up creating a mission and vision statement for the Town to help guide Council in future decisions.
 - Council Members and Mayor Bradberry agreed it was a good idea.
- Mayor Bradberry reminded Council that the year-end note to all citizens was going to be mailed soon.
- Clerk Wilson gave Council an update on streetlights for Hickory Ridge and parking lot lights for the Community Center
 - A new streetlight pole—the regular wood pole with no installation is \$350
 - The Georgia Power outdoor lighting representative will tour Hickory Ridge in January
- Council Member Carlson asked when the new speedbump on Jefferson Road would be put in and Mayor Bradberry informed him that Lee Moody was waiting on parts that are on back order.
 - Council Member Dawe inquired when the new radar signs would be installed, and Mayor Bradberry replied as soon as Lee was available.

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 8:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Laura Wilson
Clerk, North High Shoals