



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

August 16, 2021

Regular Council Meeting 7:30pm

Minutes

Council Members Present: Acting Mayor Eric Carlson, Ann Evans, Violet Dawe;
via video conference, Jason Pressley, Hilda Kurtz

Council members absent: None

Special Guest Sheriff James Hale, Oconee County Sheriff

Guests: John and Josephine Westman, Josh Dudley, Meagan Cundiff, Dr. Stephen Goad,
Fred Johnson, David Lawrence

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Acting Mayor Eric Carlson

Greetings and Declaration of Quorum: With all members present, a quorum was established

Agenda Setting:

Council member Dawe made a motion for three items to be moved to the September meeting due to an expected long meeting with the Sheriff present. Council member Evans seconded. Motion was passed without objection. With no changes to the agenda, Council member Evans made a motion to accept the agenda, with items moved to next month. Council member Kurtz Seconded. Motion passed.

Presentation of Draft Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Motion was made by Council member Evans to approve the minutes with the following changes:

- a. Council member Kurtz name to be corrected
- b. "Clerk Bishop" to be changed to "Clerk Sue Bishop" for clarity
- c. "NTH" and "OTH" to be changed to "New Town Hall" and "Old Town Hall"
- d. One spelling error to be corrected

Motion seconded by Council member Dawe. Passed unanimously.

Presentation of Financial Statement:

Council member Evans motioned to accept with the addition of SPLOST expenditures. Council member Dawe seconded. Passed Unanimously.

Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Item:

Special Guest - Oconee County Sheriff James A. Hale, Jr spoke at length about growing up in the County, was in school with Mayor Toby.

He spoke some about the murder that had occurred at the RaceTrac. Still looking for info and being helped throughout the investigation by the GBI.

He identified specific things about the County and the Town that resonated with Town residents who were present. He spoke about Sheriff's Department changes in the way the County is laid out for patrol providing more effective coverage to the ever-growing population. He discussed the reasons

for the changes and the labor that went into preparing things before changing the way the County was patrolled.

The Sheriff spoke of “Law Enforcement having a bad wrap”. Oconee County has more applicants than positions to fill, so they are able to be very selective in the hiring process. In his discussion he stated that “No one hates a bad cop more than a good cop.”

Visitors had questions regarding speeders, trucks, firearm firing in Town, etc. The Sheriff spoke and answered questions for approximately one hour.

Unfinished Business

Participate in Georgia Cities Week October 3 – 9, 2021

Council member Dawe made a motion to establish a special meeting, scheduled for Saturday, August 28, 2021, at 3:00 PM for the purpose of planning and organizing the activities for Georgia Cities Week. Seconded by Council member Evans. Unanimously approved.

Some discussion of items to be considered at the special meeting occurred.

1. 231 Shadyfield Ln – Demolition and Building Permit

Council member Evans made a motion to approve Building Permit pending presentation of plumbing and HVAC Affidavits. Plumbing to be provided immediately, before building can begin. HVAC water and gas to be provided later, when ready to install.

Council member Dawe seconded. Passed unanimously.

A secondary motion was made by Council member Dawe to approve the Electrical permit.

Motion was seconded by Council member Evans. Passed Unanimously.

New Business:

1. 1151 Hawk’s Nest Lane - Land Disturbance Permit -building of watering trough for animals.

Motion was made by Council member Evans to approve the Land Disturbance after the fact as work has been completed. Town Inspector Wheeler had been to the property and seen the animal watering trough. He stated that it was very well constructed, not near the flood plane and constructed in a very professional manner. Council member Kurtz seconded the motion. The trough was approved without objection.

2. High Shoals Elementary School – Land Disturbance Permit – new addition and park/play area.

- a. Council member Kurtz noted that a single page Permit application didn’t provide enough information. Mr. Wheeler stated that the school system did not provide plans.
- b. Reference back to the civil drawings. Give them an opportunity to get started and we can get the other info we need.
- c. Request for guidance sent to our attorney to determine how involved our inspector needs to be since the County School Board has their own inspectors. Mr. Wheeler would like to remain involved as an observer.
- d. The School Board of Oconee County has oversight of the construction, both building of the addition and the adjoining playground/ballfield. Mr. Wheeler, the Town Inspector will be involved with the School Board as an observer. He will participate, as needed, in an advisory capacity.

- e. Motion made by Council member Evans to approve the Land Disturbance permit. Council member Kurtz seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
- 3. Increase in property value results in tax increase. If Council wishes to keep current millage rate, three public hearings will be necessary to justify the increase. If Council wishes to keep revenue about the same as it was in 2020, adopting a millage rate of 1.079, no public hearings would be required. After much discussion of the numbers appearing on the tax Digest form, Council member Dawe made a motion to approve the rollback of the Town millage rate to 1.079 to give Town residents some tax relief and avoid the required 3 public hearings. Council member Evans seconded. Three members approved the rollback, one abstention. Millage rate to be roll back.
- 4. Beautification ideas for the Park in preparation for "Georgia Cities Week:" Work day? Mulch is being ordered for the playground. The workday was scheduled previously in this meeting so there was no further discussion at this point.
- 5. Lighting for the parking lot and side walkway area to go to the back of the building. Proposal from Highfill for 3 lights in the parking lot and a light on the building at the far side of the building above the walkway. Mr. Wheeler stated lights needed to be directional to make sure lights don't glare and disturb neighbors. Members would like pictures and more info about lighting. Motion by Council member Kurtz to seek more proposals/bids to be considered at the next meeting. Council member Evans Seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
- 6. Mulch for playground proposal for 18 yards of mulch for 20' x 25' area for playground \$544.50 delivered, then Town would need to have someone spread the mulch. Mr. Fowler, town Landscaping Co., will provide a quote to spread the mulch once delivered. Do we want mulch for the exercise areas? Motion made by Council member Evans to accept the proposal of \$544.50 for 18 cubic yards of playground mulch, delivered. Seconded by Council member Dawe. Passed unanimously.

Mayor's Update:

"That was the last agenda item."

Motion made by Council member Evans to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council member Dawe. All agreed to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10.05 PM by Acting Mayor Carlson.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Bishop
Town Clerk