



260 HILLSBORO ROAD
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HIGH SHOALS, GA 30645

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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

November 15, 2021

Regular Council Meeting 7:30 PM

DRAFT Minutes

Call to Order

Greetings and Declaration of Quorum: Acting Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. Since there were three members present, a quorum was declared.

Members Present: Acting Mayor Eric Carlson, Council members Hilda Kurtz, Jason Presley, and Violet Dawe.

Members Absent: Council member Ann Evans

Visitors Present: via Conference call Morgan Wheeler, Town Inspector; in person Meagan Cundiff; Fred Johnson; John and Dawn Howard; Morgan Phillips, from The Oconee Enterprise; Josh Dudley, Oconee County Sherriiff.

Agenda Setting: Council member Dawe made a motion to move the discussion of the building permit for the Howards to happen before Unfinished Business, since they were present. Seconded by Council Member Kurtz. Passed without objection.

Presentation of Draft Minutes from Previous Meeting: After noting numerous corrections and changes to be made, Council members Kurtz made a motion to accept the minutes with the designated changes. Seconded by Council member Pressley. Unanimously approved.

Presentation of Financial Statement: Council member Dawe suggested that funds be moved to a higher interest-bearing account at Robins Financial from the SPLOST 2015 account. After noting that categories that were not in the original budget passed in June 2021, Council member Kurtz made a motion to accept the financial statement. Seconded by Council member Dawe. Passed without objection.

Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Item:

Land Disturbance and Building Permit for John Howard - 3661 New High Shoals Rd. Council reviewed Mr. Howard's paperwork, and asked Mr. Wheeler for his expertise on the particulars of the application. Mr. Wheeler expressed no problems with the application, noted that the diagrams and other documents were in order. Mr. Howard was asked about his building background by Council member Kurtz. He stated that he had built several houses and this one would be their dwelling. Mr. Wheeler stated specifics relative to Mr. Howard building a home that would be his primary residence. He could be the building contractor since he would be living in it as his primary residence, however, if he were to sell it within 2 years of completion, he would have to return and resubmit his paperwork under a licensed contractor. Mr. Howard assured the Council that it would be his primary residence. Council member Dawe made a motion to approve Mr. Howard's building permit and all other permits associated with it. Council member Pressley seconded. Passed Unanimously.

Unfinished Business

1. Short Term Rental Ordinance - nothing new
2. Livestock Ordinance – nothing new
3. Signage proposal – no progress
In a preceding meeting, Council agreed to move Items 1 through 3 into 20 22. Items remain on the agenda with no progress. They will be addressed in January or February of next year.
4. Lighting for the parking lot and side walkway area which goes to the back of the building. After discussion, Council agreed that more research was needed before a decision could be made. Council member Kurtz volunteered to research the lighting which is in her community.
5. Georgia Cities Week October 23. All agreed; the event was a wonderful success. The event spawned an idea for a “meeting before the meeting” in February. Perhaps serve coffee and hot chocolate and have a history lesson with pictures about the history of the Town. Eric Wright and Tommy Eades will present the historical background program.
6. David Lawrence – Downspout-Recommendations were made to research costs. Mr. Lawrence had informed the Town Clerk that he had located a place to purchase a matching downspout, but the cost of shipment would be twice the cost of the downspout. Remove from agenda and pursue other options.

New Business

1. Land Disturbance and Building Permit for John Howard - 3661 New High Shoals Rd. Previously addressed.
2. Building Permit - roofing a deck/porch - Curt Frierson – 201 Hillsboro Rd- work has been underway for a while. Motion to approve by Council member Kurtz. Seconded by Council member Pressley. 2 approved, 1 abstention. Motion passed
3. Plumbing Permit for 231 Shadyfield Lane. Recommended to approve permit, by Mr. Wheeler. Motion to pre-approve plumbing permit, on 231 Shadyfield Lane, based on Mr. Wheeler’s recommendation, was made by Council Member Kurtz, seconded by Council member Pressley. Unanimously approved
(Editor’s note: Application was received on 11/17/21)
4. Pay for Council members and Mayor. Council member Dawe stated that she had reviewed the Town Charter. This process must be done by Ordinance, which requires two public meetings and announcements in the Newspaper before Council can vote on it. Current members can’t vote themselves a raise. It will require waiting. Probably wouldn’t go into effect for 4 years. Perhaps ask Town Attorney to write it for us. Acting Mayor Carlson will get a list of ranges in the area so Council can have more information. Visitor Fred Johnson pressed for a motion tonight to force the Council to agree to vote on it. Council agreed to put it on the December agenda, do the research, then decide in December how the ordinance should be written, make the necessary arrangements for publication, etc. Work diligently at following the process for Ordinances. Both meetings require newspaper publication. Each public meeting must have two consecutive announcements in the newspaper before the Council meeting. First public meeting is scheduled for January. Ordinance must be completed and submitted to the attorney before the first newspaper publication. This would need to be submitted by December 30, 2021, to make the required publication deadline.

5. Sidewalks – recommended by Mr. Johnson that sidewalks should be considered from the park to the Fire Station, down Ray’s Church Rd to Town boundary (?). Mr. Johnson has spoken to residents in that area; only one had objections. SPLOST 2021 should be able to be used for sidewalks. Lots of places need sidewalks. Council member Dawe suggested raised sidewalk as those found in public parks. Who was assigned this task? Begin by getting quotes for sidewalk between the Community Center and the Fire Department. Will move to Next month for more consideration.
6. New Playground equipment. Research and determine what kind of equipment we’d need. Discussion also included considering asphalt for a basketball court, a climbing wall, and other playground items. Research is to be done and recommendations to be submitted to the Council in December. A work session was also scheduled for January 23, 2022. Residents are to be invited to bring their ideas.
7. Participate in Watkinsville Christmas Parade- Theme – Christmas Around the World- our theme – Christmas in North High Shoals – Past and Present. After discussion, it was determined that many Council members would not be available on the parade day, so North High Shoals will not participate.
8. Christmas /holiday bonfire? – Meagan Cundiff would like to have it begin at 5:30 on January 2, 2022. Meagan will check on food and beverages and what restrictions need to be observed.
9. Solid Waste Management Resolution- this is a routine resolution provided by Oconee County addressing “growth issues” over the next 10 years. Determined to be “business as usual”. Motion to sign for the adoption of Solid Waste Resolution Plan made by Council member Kurtz, seconded by Council member Dawe. Unanimously approved.
10. Add funds to Landscaping budget to cover:
 - a. the costs of edging along the walking path- General Fund
 - b. additional mowing during summer months - General Fund
 - c. extra pine straw as needed for better appearance - General Fund
 - d. cost of flowers for Town Celebration -SPLOST
 - e. include areas requiring sod - SPLOST
 - f. protection for trees, mulch, etc. - General Fund
 - g. install more trees, in early winter – SPLOST
 - h. new areas requiring sod – SPLOST
 - i. adding trees to improve the playground area - SPLOST

There will be the initial cost of accomplishing all these items, and then include ongoing annual upkeep costs.

A budget resolution is required for these items since it is a change to the budget.

It will be necessary to compile all the figures before a resolution can be prepared.

Mayor’s Update:

1. The school asked if they could use Town playground. Check with the Town Attorney.
2. There are some places where a path is needed from parked cars on the lower level to the Community Center. Council member Kurtz suggested elementary students could make mosaic or other types of pavers for a path. She will speak with the art teacher/coordinator at the school.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Bishop
Town Clerk