



260 HILLSBORO ROAD
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HIGH SHOALS, GA 30645

WWW.NORTHHIGHSHOALS.ORG

MAYOR: VIOLET DAWE
POST 1: ERIC CARLSON
POST 2: JASON PRESLEY
POST 3: ANN EVANS
POST 4: HILDA KURTZ
POST 5:

December 13, 2021

Regular Council Meeting 7:30 pm

DRAFT Minutes

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by Acting Mayor Carlson

Members Present: Acting Mayor Carlson, Council members Evans, Kurtz, and Dawe in person; Council member Presley via video conference.

Members Absent: None

Visitors Present: in person Dr. Stephen Goad; Mason Goad; Eric Wright, newly elected Council member effective in January; Josh Dudley, Oconee County Sheriff's deputy; Chris Higgins, VIASAT/Ledcor representative; David Lawrence, Town Maintenance; via conference call Megan Cundiff, newly elected Council member effective in January; and Morgan Wheeler, Town Inspector.

Greetings and Declaration of Quorum: With all Council members in attendance, a quorum was declared.

Agenda Setting: Council member Dawe made a motion to move New Business ahead of Unfinished Business. Motion was seconded by Council member Evans. Unanimously approved.

Presentation of Draft Minutes from Previous Meeting: Council member Presley noted correction to his last name – one "s" not 2. On item 4 in New Business, following the comment that Fred Johnson pushed for Council to decide at the November meeting to vote on pay for Council and Mayor, make it clear that "Council agreed to put it on the December agenda."

Presentation of Financial Statement: Council member Dawe noted that Income is good, but concern on expenses. Council member Kurtz has questions regarding various items. Council member Dawe requested clarification on Property Maintenance funds expended. Does David's pay come here? Yes! Ballfield expenses? Cost of the pine straw near the ballfield. Council member Kurtz questioned the dollars in the category for Attorney's fees. This was high due to several questions and issues that needed to be addressed over the past several months.... election and swearing in issues, passing of Mayor Bradberry, etc. Acting Mayor Carlson noted that previous budgets were higher. This was made less than prior years because funds hadn't been used in the past. Council member Dawe made a motion to accept the Financial Statement, Council member Evans seconded. Unanimously approved.

Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Item:

Unfinished Business

1. Short Term Rental Ordinance - moved into 2022
2. Livestock Ordinance – moved into 2022
3. Signage proposal – moved into 2022

4. Lighting for the parking lot and side walkway area at the back of the building. Council member Kurtz presented some pictures and other information regarding lights in her subdivision, Hickory Ridge. Poles are approximately 18 feet high; light fixtures an additional 2 feet. Lights were installed by Georgia Power. The lights are attractive and give a substantial amount of light. Timer capable asked by Council member Dawe. Meagan suggested that lights in the parking lot be turned off an hour or so after sunset. Some discussion followed. Additional information will be acquired by Council member Kurtz. To be revisited in January.
5. Consider pay for Council members and Mayor- see documents from Town Attorney – can't be addressed until after new Council takes office in January. Much consideration about wording of Attorney's information. Question: "Is pay effective in 2 years or 4?" Have attorney write the ordinance which can be finalized in January. Collect information, decide how much money in the ordinance, vote on the ordinance in January. Put it out for public discussion after the January meeting. Announce a public meeting for the February meeting and advertise for 3 weeks prior to the February meeting. February would be public hearing. Advertise for 3 weeks prior to the March meeting that the resolution is coming up for a vote. March will be the second public hearing and final vote. One suggestion was to tie the pay to the budget. For example, total pay for the Council might be 4% of the annual budget. For NHS with a budget of \$120,000, total outlay for Council pay would be limited to \$4,800 annually. Limit to percentage of budget with stipulation "not to exceed". Some discussion followed. GMA has no guidelines. Different municipalities have a wide range of rates. Council member Dawe requested that everyone consider the pay and be prepared in January to determine how to disperse funds.
6. Sidewalks- nothing yet
7. New playground equipment- suggestions and prices available; SPLOST funds available. Many items were presented for consideration. Items were discussed relative to the "fall hazard", from how high up could a child fall? There are several children in the area and at least 2 families with handicapped children. A work session on January 23, 2022, was planned at the November meeting. Items viewed at this meeting will be used that day as well as suggestions brought by others.
8. Holiday bonfire? – Meagan Cundiff moved the bonfire to January 2, 2022. Meagan is working on details. Josh Dudley, our Sheriff's representative will help coordinate some of the details. Meagan will e-mail Council members and others for help, as needed.

New Business:

1. Stephen Goad to be nominated to serve on Planning Commission. Dr Goad addressed the Council expressing his desire to serve the Town. Council member Dawe made a motion to appoint Dr. Stephen Goad to the Oconee County Planning Commission. Seconded by Council member Evans. Unanimously approved
2. VIASAT/Ledcor Permits to install satellite dish, access to same and fence structure on 350 Jefferson Rd, property of Wayman and Sandra Whitehead. After some discussion, Council member Kurtz made a motion to approve the Commercial Fence permit for 350 Jefferson Rd. since it is not part of the overall scope of work described in the Building Permit materials. Seconded by Council member Presley. Unanimously approved. Council member Evans made a motion to approve the Land Disturbance Permit, Grading/Driveway Permit, and Building permit, (which includes the Commercial Electrical Permit) for 350 Jefferson Rd. Seconded by Council member Kurtz. Unanimously approved.

3. Adjust budget numbers to reflect 4 additional hours per week, as well as current additional hours already being worked on Fridays, for Town Clerk. Council member Evans made a motion to approve the payment of 4 extra hours per week, retroactive to August 1st, 2021 thru December 31st, 2021. Seconded by Council member Kurtz. Unanimously approved. Motion made by Council member Evans to approve 4 hours for Fridays as well as an additional 4 hours each week from Jan 1st, 2022, to June 30th, 2022, total of 8 additional hours each week. Seconded by Council member Dawe. Unanimously approved.
4. Adjust budget numbers to allocate funds for Town Event, \$3,356.84. Motion made by Council member Kurtz to allocate the needed funds from the town budget for the Town Event. Seconded by Council member Evans. Unanimously approved. Question by Council member Dawe “do we adjust the budget or take the funds from the Money Market account.”? Since the event was never part of the budget, it should probably come from the Money Market account. To use Money Market funds requires motion just passed to be rescinded. Motion was rescinded by Council member Kurtz, who had made the original motion. Seconded by Council member Dawe. Unanimously approved. Council member Kurtz then made a motion to take funds from the Money Market account to cover the costs of the Special Town event, \$3,356.84. Seconded by Council member Evans. Unanimously approved.
5. Adjust other categories as needed. After some discussion and note that some categories appear to be “catch-all” categories, it was determined that more information is needed before funds can be moved around in the budget. No motions were made.
6. New computer equipment for Clerk’s office- two proposals were presented from Athens Micro and Vision Computers. Council member Presley said he could secure equivalent components for less money. After some discussion, motion was made by Council member Kurtz to approve up to \$2,500 to purchase new computer equipment for Clerk’s office under budget category “office equipment” Seconded by Council member Evans. Unanimously approved.

Mayor’s Update:

1. Violet Dawe to be sworn in as Mayor – Mayor Pro Tempore, Eric Carlson, administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Dawe in the presence of the Council and visitors.
2. Info about newly elected officials training in February 2022. Information was presented for the two new Council members, Eric Wright and Meagan Cundiff, about training in February. The Town will pay their registration costs. (Editor’s note: registration was paid on December 15th for both new Council members.

Motion made by Council member Evans to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council member Kurtz. Unanimously approved.

Following the meeting, members in attendance and visitors enjoyed refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Bishop, Town Clerk

Addendum

Resolutions and Motions passed at December 13,2021 Town Council Meeting

1. Dr. Stephen Goad appointed to Oconee County Planning Commission
2. Permits granted for VIASAT satellite dish to be constructed on Whitehead property at 350 Jefferson Rd.
3. Budget adjustments to reflect Town Clerk hours
 - a. Retroactive to August 1, 4 additional hours per week reflected in Office Hours being all day on Friday rather than half a day.
 - b. Beginning January 1, 2022, to reflect 4 hours for Friday afternoons, and an additional 4 hours per week to work on sorting and arranging files from the move to the New Town Hall. Clerk will work 2 extra hours on Wednesdays and Fridays, closing the office at 5 and working until 7.
4. Budget resolution was passed to move funds from the Oconee State Bank Money Market account to the General Fund account to cover the cost of the Town event held on October 23, 2021. Total cost of the event was \$3356.84.
5. Council approved \$2,500 for new computer, printer, scanner, and monitors for Clerk's Office.