

Town of North High Shoals

Jeff D. Thomas
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

108 Jefferson Road
P.O. Box 129
High Shoals, Georgia 30645
706-769-4289
Fax 706-769-5944

Minutes September 13, 1999

Members Present:

Mayor Jeff Thomas
Councilman Carter
Councilman Sosebee
Councilman Thomas
Councilwoman Dawe

Sherry Bales - Clerk
Patrick Beall - Attorney

Others Present:

Ms. Ginger Dakin Hickory Lake
Mr. Fred Johnson Candidate/Council Post #3

Monthly Business:

1. Approval of the **August** Financial Statement. Motion to approve by Councilman Sosebee. A second to the motion by Councilman Thomas. Councilwoman Dawe approved the motion and Councilman Carter abstained.
2. Approval of **Draft Copy** of the **August** Minutes. Motion to approve by Councilman Sosebee. A second to the motion by Councilwoman Dawe. Councilman Thomas and Councilman Carter both approved the motion.

Public Hearing:

1. Mayor Thomas distributed letters to the Council members with different possible millage rates. Mayor Thomas proposed a 2.1 millage rate which would conform to the approved budget for 1999-2000.

After discussion from all Council members and the public, some of which showed concern for lowering the millage rate too low, the public hearing was closed and the Mayor and Council went into the regularly scheduled meeting.

Old Business:

1. After much discussion in the public hearing and again in the regularly scheduled meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Carter to set the millage rate at 2.2 mills. A second to the motion was made by Councilman Sosebee. Councilman Thomas and Councilwoman Dawe both approved the motion.

2. Mayor Thomas reminded the Council that the Special Election would be held on Tuesday, September 21, 1999 between the hours of 7:00am and 7:00pm. At this time, Sherry Bales and Joe Queen will be working the polls. Another worker will also have to be hired.

Mayor Thomas also reminded the Council of the General Election, to be held Tuesday, November 2, 1999. The qualifying for this election will be held September 13 - 17, 1999, between the hours of 1:00pm and 6:00pm.

Mayor Thomas noted that there were some problems with the voting list. The Mayor encouraged everyone to make sure that their name was on the list. The Mayor stated that some people who have voted in the past are now not on the voter registration list.

3. Mayor Thomas tabled the discussion on Steeple Chase Subdivision due to the fact that the application was incomplete, therefore the representatives would be meeting with the Oconee County Planning Commission in September and would meet with North High Shoals possibly in October.

4. Mayor Thomas reported that although the rental properties discussed at the August meeting were in bad shape, there was nothing at this time the Health Department could sight the owner for. Mayor Thomas went on to note that he would be seeking assistance from the State.

New Business:

1. Mayor Thomas reported that Michelle McElhannon had requested a Business License from the town. The Mayor went on to explain that Ms. McElhannon had no intention of running her business, an antique shop in Madison, within the town but had been told by the County that she should receive her business license from the city where she lived, due to a new state law.

Councilman Carter requested a physical address of the business, rather than just an address at Ms. McElhannon's home.

After much discussion, as to the feasibility of this new state law, Councilman Carter made a motion to approve the Business License with the stipulation that issuing of this license would mean that the business could be operated at the Madison address and could not be operated at her home address, which is in a residential zone within the town. A second was made to the motion by Councilman Sosebee. The motion was approved by all other council members.

2. Mayor Thomas noted that he would like the fee for business licenses put on the October agenda.

3. Mayor Thomas introduced Ms. Ginger Dakin who was representing the Hickory Lake Homeowners Association. Mayor Thomas noted that Ms. Dakin would like to speak to the Mayor and Council about a concern over the rumble strips at the end of Elder Road.

Ms. Dakin reported that she had obtained 25 signatures from residents in Hickory Lake who would like the rumble strips to be removed. These signatures came from everyone who had attended the last homeowners association meeting.

Ms. Dakin went on to note the reasons for the request to remove the rumble strips.

1. Noise Factor - the noise is very loud
2. Real Estate Value - it is felt that the values of the property will go down.
3. Safety Factor - there are people going around the rumble strips on the wrong side of the road.
4. Homes - residents feel that they will not be able to sell the property in the culdesac due to the loud noise from the rumble strips

Ms. Dakin goes on to state that they would not like to see the rumble strips just toned down, but completely removed. The recommendations made by the homeowners association were, possibly a flashing sign, along with a speed reduction sign and a barricade at the end of the road. The complaints were also noted that individuals sleep has been disrupted. It was also noted that the rumble strips on New High Shoals road could be heard from the Hickory Lake subdivision.

After much discussion from the Council and another resident, Mayor Thomas stated that his desire was to work with the Homeowners of Hickory Lake to find a solution that is both beneficially and economically feasible for the town and that will enhance the serenity of the town. The Mayor went on to note, that even though he has seen cars driving on the wrong side of the road to bypass the rumble strips, there has been no reported accidents since the rumble strips were put in to place. The Mayor also stated that there were increasing numbers of black skid marks on Elder Road at the end of Whiporwill Road because the signs are not heeded.

Mayor Thomas went on to state that there needed to be something at the end of Elder Road to make people aware that they are coming to the end of the road. Also, the Mayor

noted that a flashing sign would not be feasible at this time unless the homeowners would like to help deter the cost.

Mayor Thomas stated that the homeowners did have a legitimate complaint but he was not sure of the legality of the problem causing noise pollution, which had been earlier questioned, but that he would within the next short period of time, consult with Maxey Brothers and see what the possibility of removing some of the rumble strips would be and if it would be beneficial to the noise problem. Mayor Thomas stated that this issue will be addressed and hopefully there will be a solution in the near future.

4. Councilwoman asked the Mayor and Council about participating in the Casulon Open House this year, as in past years, by placing an ad. Councilwoman Dawe reminded everyone that this fund-raiser is to help deter legal costs in the fight to stop the Rock Quarry.

Mayor Thomas stated that this would fall under the head of public safety and asked for a motion to approve this request.

Councilwoman Dawe made a motion to approve \$100.00 for an ad in the Casulon booklet. A second was made to the motion by Councilman Carter. All other councilmembers approved the motion.

5. The question of having a full time employee had been brought before the Mayor and he noted to the Council that if the millage rate was to remain in effect, that it would be cost prohibitive to have a full time employee at this time.

6. Mayor Thomas reported that Shadyfield Lane was scheduled to be repaved by December of this year through the LARP program. Mayor Thomas went on to note that Jefferson Road and Plantation Road were on the request for next years LARP program.

Mayor's Update:

1. Mayor Thomas reported that it had recently come to his attention that the Walton County Reservoir Project had plans to draw water from the Apalachee River at High Shoals. Mayor Thomas went on to note that this would be of no benefit to the town, therefore, the Mayor asked that the town attorney look into this project.

2. Mayor Thomas reported that the Mayor and Council were being ask to respond to the following questions by Burke Walker with the RDC.

1. Q: What is the level of community support for preservation or protection of these resources? (Historic Resources)

A: It is felt that there is strong community support.

2. Q: Are these resources currently being affected by incompatible land uses or other human activities? If so, what will be the likely long-term consequences?

A: It is not felt that the residents of the town are currently being affected.

3. Q: What is the likelihood that these resources will be affected by incompatible land uses or other human activities in the future?

A: It is felt that there are some strong possibilities such as having a Rock Quarry within a mile of the town and having water withdrawn from the Apalachee at High Shoals.

4. Q: What is already being done to manage or protect the resources? Are these management measures sufficient to prevent any possible negative effects identified above? What additional measures might be needed?

A: The town is supporting citizen actions and resources. The town is opposed to the withdrawing of water and the rock quarry. The town is trying to get the historic district underway, and the town is trying to get more support from various groups and also get more zoning.

3. Councilwoman Dawe asked about the possibility of an open public hearing about the Hard Labor Creek proposed reservoir project. Councilwoman Dawe also would like everyone to write for a public hearing on this issue.

Having no further business to discuss, Councilman Sosebee made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Thomas made a second to the motion. Councilwoman approve the motion and Councilman Carter opposed. The meeting was adjourned at this time.

Respectfully;



Sherry Bales
Clerk

Town of North High Shoals

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Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Agenda

September 13, 1999

Monthly Business:

1. Presentation of *Financial Statement* for month of August.
2. Presentation of *Draft Minutes* for the month of August.

Public Hearing:

1. Millage Rate

Old Business:

1. Millage Rate
2. Special Election/General Election
3. Steeple Chase Subdivision
4. Rental Properties
5. Business License/Attorney

New Business:

1. Rumble Strips
2. Casulon
3. Full Time Employee
4. LARP

Mayor's Update:

The Mayor and Council encourage all persons interested to attend this meeting.

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July 12, 1999

The Mayor and Council of the Town of North High Shoals welcome you to the regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council. Please sign your name in the space provided. If you wish to address the Mayor and council concerning a specific issue on the agenda, please indicate this in the space provided. In accordance with the standard practices of this governing body, we desire to give every individual an opportunity to speak; however, in the interest of effective government, we ask that individual speakers avoid repetition of comments. The Mayor reserves the right to establish time limits as needed.

Name and Address	Agenda Item to Address (if any)
1. Fred Johnson 1191 Falcon Ridge High Shoals	rumble strips
2. Ginger Dakin 1020 Lakeside Ct . Bishop.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

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Mayor

Office of the Mayor

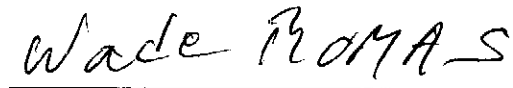
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The draft copy minutes of August 9, 1999 regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Town of North High Shoals are hereby officially approved as of September 13, 1999.

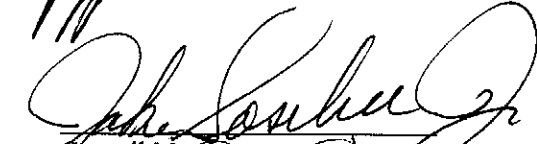
Signed:



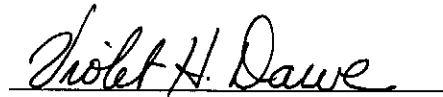
Mayor




Council Member



Council Member



Council Member



Council Member

Council Member



Council Secretary