

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 706-769-4289

Minutes March 10, 2003

Present:

Mayor Jeff Thomas
Councilman Wade Thomas
Councilman Eddie Cape
Councilman B.J. Ivie
Councilwoman Dawe

Others Present:

Douglas Northrop Resident

Public Hearing:

The Mayor and Council held the first hearing for an Adult Entertainment Ordinance.

Monthly Business:

1. Approval of the **Financial Statement** for the month of **February**. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Ivie. A second to the motion was made by Councilman Cape. All councilmembers present approved the motion.
2. Approval of the **Draft Copy** of the **February** minutes. Motion to approve with corrections made by Councilman Ivie. A second to the motion made by Councilman Cape. All members present approved the motion.

Old Business:

1. **City Park:** Mayor Thomas reported that the outfield had been worked on the previous Saturday. The Mayor went on to note that he had purchased a spreader and would be spreading fertilizer this week. Mayor Thomas stated that it was now the time to get some basketball goals up and to get the walking trail in place. It was noted that it would also be nice to have a pavilion in place.

A resident once again questioned as to whether any lights would be put up around the walkway.

The Council stated that there would be no lights at this time.

Councilman Cape asked about the possibility of getting someone to maintain the park on a regular basis. The Mayor stated that we could get some bids from various companies to see if it would be financially feasible to have someone maintain the park.

Councilman Cape reported that there was a deer stand in the park and asked if it should come down.

New Business:

2. **Sign Improvements:** Mayor Thomas reported that due to the weather there had not been any new signs placed within the town.

It was mentioned that we could possibly put in a "Speed Break" put on Hillsboro Road to help the speed down. It was agreed that this would be discussed at next month's meeting.

Mayor's Update:

1. Councilman Cape recommended that we ask if the Sheriff's deputies could make more patrols in the area.

2. Councilwoman Cape also suggested that we ask the DOT to set up some truck scales.

Mayor Thomas stated that he would put the request in writing and also ask the Oconee Enterprise to do an article on the problem.

3. Councilwoman Dawe reported that a ditch had been covered up on Harry Bradberry's property by the water company.

Councilwoman Dawe went on to note that the driveways were not made even when repaired by the gas company, especially on Shadyfield Lane.

Councilwoman Dawe asked about the junk on property on the corner of Jefferson Road and Anthony Lane. She was especially concerned about the mosquito population in the tires.

Mayor Thomas stated that he would find out who owned the property and get a letter out to owners and ask them to clean up the property.

Councilwoman Dawe ask that person vote against House Bill 237. This Bill will control the buying and selling of water rights. Councilwoman Dawe asked that everyone call their representatives and ask that they vote against HB237.

Councilwoman Dawe also explained that there was the possibility of imposing a "Taking Fee" when it comes to natural resources.

Councilwoman Dawe reported that there were kids playing around the Fire Station.

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Councilman Ivie to conclude the February meeting. A second was made to the motion by Councilman Cape. All council members present approved the motion.

Respectfully;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Bales". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sherry Bales
Town Clerk

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March 10, 2003

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. Douglas Northrop	
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The draft copy minutes of February 10, 2003 regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Town of North High Shoals are hereby officially approved as of March 10, 2003.

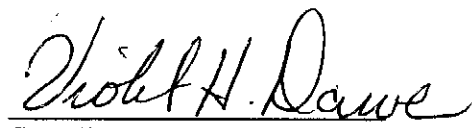
Signed:




Mayor



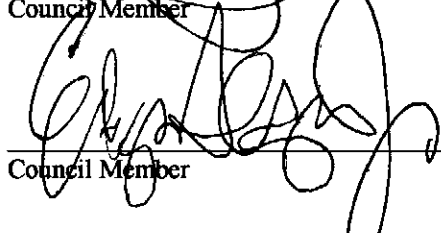
Council Member



Council Member



Council Member



Council Member

Council Member

Council Secretary

Town of North High Shoals

Jeff D. Thomas
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Agenda

March 10, 2003

Public Hearing:

1. Adult Entertainment Ordinance

Monthly Business:

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

Old Business:

1. City Park
2. Sign Improvements

Mayor's Update:

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

@issue

MORE INFORMATION AND OPINIONS ON TODAY'S TOPICS: An opinion column discusses the federal judicial nomination of Miguel Estrada. To learn more:

► ONLINE:
Biography: www.usdoj.gov/olp/estrada/bio.htm
Free Congress Foundation: www.judicialselection.org/nominees/estrada.htm

POLITICS

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House's water proposal drips with pretense

Water doesn't flow downhill. It flows toward money. So do politicians. As a result, Georgia taxpayers soon be cheated out of publicly owned water resources worth many millions of dollars.

The mechanism for this wholesale theft of public property is use Bill 237. Under its provisions, publicly owned water — the stuff that falls out of the sky onto rich and poor, old and young,

black, white and brown — will be privatized into a commodity that will be bought and sold like bushels of coffee.

Water flowing in Georgia rivers, sitting beneath aquifers held in common by all Georgians, could be claimed for free by private companies and converted to private property. The implications are dire: Cities that need drinking water for their residents could be forced to pay a private company considerable sums for access to that water.

Supporters of HB 237 go to great lengths to deny and disguise the fact. For example, Chris Gowen, a lobbyist for the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, insists that the legislation would not allow "the trading water permits" granted by the state.

Traded for what? I asked him. He agreed to give you my water permit, what might I get back in return? "Trade?"



"Well, money I suppose," he admitted.

(Harold Reheis, director of the state Environmental Protection Division, made a similar contorted admission Tuesday on the floor of the House under questioning from state Rep. Tom Bordeaux. The exchange is reprinted in the accompanying box.)

Even worse, water privatization is being peddled in some quarters as a way to protect rural Georgia from water-hungry metro Atlanta. Advocates are preying on the fear of downstream farming communities, particularly in the Flint River basin, that Atlanta will somehow steal the irrigation water that keeps their economies alive.

While their fear is justified, HB 237 would actually strip those communities of any protection and make their plight much worse.

Once we create a statewide marketing system that allows water to flow freely toward money ... well, nobody in the state has more money than metro Atlanta. Under that system, we'd soak up the state's water like a sponge. Water-rich farmers would sell us their irrigation permits and be content to never farm again, enjoying a perpetual income for doing nothing while allowing the farm communities they once supported to wither up and blow away like so much dust.

The biggest and most immediate consequence, however, would be felt on the Georgia coast.

PERMITS FOR SALE

On the House floor Tuesday, state Rep. Tom Bordeaux (D-Savannah) questioned Harold Reheis, director of the state Environmental Protection Division, to determine whether a House bill would allow sale of state water-withdrawal permits. The following is part of that exchange:



Bordeaux Reheis

Bordeaux: ... Under this bill, if this bill becomes law, am I permitted to sell my (water) permit?

Reheis: You are permitted to surrender a permit to EPD, and I don't know why you would necessarily want to surrender it unless you were in a restricted area where nobody else could get a permit and there was somebody who was willing to strike some kind of bargain with you to have your permit ultimately transferred through EPD to them. That can be viewed as selling a permit.

Bordeaux: If I have a permit to consume the water and I want

my friend Mr. Jackson here wants to get my permit to consume the water, does this bill permit me to take, oh, \$100,000 cash for that and we go down to the EPD office together and turn my permit in and y'all give it to him?

Reheis: It does not prohibit that at all.

Bordeaux: Does it permit it?

Reheis: Yes, sir, but it doesn't talk about any cash.

Bordeaux: Doesn't talk about it, but permits it, doesn't it?

Reheis: Doesn't disallow it.

Wood-products companies such as Rayonier, International Paper and Georgia Pacific have long held permits to withdraw millions of gallons a day, particularly from the Upper Floridan Aquifer, in order to run their coastal paper mills.

Those mills are now in decline and are reducing production or closing outright. However, while the industry no longer needs all that water, other people do. Water has become an increasingly precious commodity along the fast-growing coast, especially since withdrawals from the Floridan aquifer have maxed out and no new withdrawal permits are being issued.

As a result, those companies now look on their withdrawal permits as valuable property. Last fall, for example, Durango-Georgia Paper Co. closed its mill in St. Marys, putting more than 900 people out of work. However, the mill still holds a state permit

LIVE WEB CHAT

Jay Bookman will be online at 1 p.m. today to field questions about today's column and other topics. The Web address is www.accessatlanta.com/vajc/opinions/ajolive/

to withdraw 40 million gallons a day from the Floridan aquifer.

Under HB 237, that withdrawal permit would in effect be transformed into a property deed giving Durango-Georgia ownership of that water. The company could then sell it off — or "trade it," to use the chamber's euphemism — to the highest bidder.

No wonder advocates of HB 237 have such a hard time being honest about it.

Jay Bookman is the deputy editorial page editor. His column appears Thursdays and Mondays.

Don't let me be the worst for Estrada

By TISHA R. TALLMAN and CHARLES T. LESTER JR.

Too many people are treating this as the nomination of Miguel Estrada as a pure partisan politics. It is an important struggle over the future of the federal courts, more specifically about the federal courts' abandonment of the rights of individual Americans against abuses by states or others.

That central issue is getting lost in the fight by Estrada supporters that of his confirmation is somehow a Hispanic. Latino elected representatives, Latino civil rights groups and many have concluded that it is important to oppose Estrada's confirmation in light of his troubling record on issues such as civil rights, racial profiling and an action, along with his refusal to answer

important questions about how he would approach the confirmation and his role as a federal judge.

So the question who Estrada is, he would do as a federal judge. There is also

context that makes Estrada's views stonewalling even more important. Far-right groups who are using the federal courts to turn back the clock on civil rights protections and other crucial abilities of the federal government are ongoing Estrada's nomination.

Estrada is a member of the Federalist Society, the legal group behind the campaign to strip states' rights and to transform the constitutional protection of individual constitutional rights and national rights and Many federal court judges are also pursuing this goal, and if

successful, Americans will lose the courts as an important ally in preserving their rights and legal protections.

Of course, that is not how President

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Tisha R. Tallman is regional counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund.



Charles T. Lester Jr. is an Atlanta attorney.

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