

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
Cell 706-202-8995

Draft

Minutes

October 9, 2006

Present: Councilman Wade Thomas
Councilman B.J. Ivie
Councilman Fred Johnson
Councilwoman Violet Dawe

Others: John Westman 221 Hillsboro Rd High Shoals
Judy Cantrell 2371 Rays Church Rd. High Shoals
Rev. Cathy Blount
Johnny Blount
Jeff Campbell 1140 Arborwood Ridge
Heike Mueller 1150 Falcon Ridge Dr
Karl Berg 307 Jefferson Road High Shoals
Ann Evans 280 Hopping Rd. High Shoals
Walter George 1080 Arborwood Ridge High Shoals
Donald Dawe 300 Shadyfield Lane
Kim Kraeling Ray's Church Road
Pansy Rivier 300 Crystal Ct. Athens

Monthly Business:

1. Presentation of the financial statement for the month of September, 2006. Motion to postpone until November meeting: Councilman Johnson; second: Councilwoman Dawe. All in favor.

Before making the motion to postpone, Councilman Johnson questioned the idea of what it means to "recuse oneself," when someone should do so and if any member of council should do so during the discussion of the financial statement. Mayor Thomas explained the definition of recuse and its uses citing Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (10th edition), Emmet Bondurant (attorney & bd. Member of Common Cause) and Earl Barns, member of Georgia Board of Natural Resources. Councilman Johnson also suggested that if a member did recuse that they needed to provide a reason. Mayor Thomas responded that he would seek an answer from legal counsel.

2. Presentation/approval of the September 06 Draft Minutes. Motion to approve with minor corrections: Councilman Ivie; Second: Councilman Johnson – three members approved the motion and one abstained.

Old Business:

City Park

- a. Mayor Thomas asked the Council for their opinion as to whether the back side of the park should be cut for the winter months. Councilman Johnson thought that it should wait until spring.
- b. Councilwoman Dawe inquired as to future plans for cleaning up the red barn. Mayor Thomas stated that the plan was to wait for cold weather.

Law Enforcement Update:

Mayor Thomas reported that Sgt. Brooks continues to patrol our city streets: performing license checks and enforcing No Thru Truck procedures in accordance with the Oconee County Sheriff's Department regulations. The question was raised as to if Sgt. Brooks had regular patrol hours. Mayor Thomas response was no.

Tree:

John Westman, 221 Hillsboro Road, asked for an update of the situation concerning the removal of a tree in his yard. Mayor Thomas informed the Council and Mr. Westman that he has forwarded this issue to the Oconee County Commission Chairman for his consideration/assistance.

Paint Contract Bids:

Mayor Thomas asked the Council how they wanted to proceed with the bids placed for the painting of city hall. Councilman Johnson suggested that the city re-advertise for sealed bids and made the motion to do so. Councilwoman Dawe seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Proclamation:

Mayor Thomas informed the Council that the proclamation approved by the council has not yet been written in the proper form.

New Business:

Final Plat Procedures:

Mayor Thomas reviewed final plat procedures with the Council referencing Section 301 of the Land Subdivision Regulations of the Town of North High Shoals – Final Plat Section 301 of Land Subdivision Regulations (page 11...)

1. Final plat shall conform to preliminary plat as approved, except where special conditions make compliance impractical.
2. Sewer system requires approval of the Georgia Department of Public Health with approval obtained prior to making an application. The approval must be in writing.
3. Sub-divider must provide one of the following:
 - A: registered engineer's or landscape architect's report certifying that all improvements meet the requirements of the city regulations
 - B: A security bond from a surety bonding company in an amount sufficient to cover the entire cost
 - C: A deposit of cash ...
4. Final plat must be filed within 12-months (at least 5-copies)
5. Final Plat, if found to be in conformity with the laws and requirements of the city regulations, Mayor authorized to approve (subsection 5 page 12 – 401.2 page 15) or ask council to review
6. Approved final plat shall be filed with Clerk of Superior Court.
7. Must be submitted at least 15 days prior to regular meeting
8. In addition to preliminary plat... final plat must (see Section 401.5 page 16-17 entitled Content of Plat).
9. No changes to be made to a final plat or other data sheets after approval without...

City Streets:

Mayor Thomas informed Council that he was working with the DOT concerning the paving of the rest of Elder Road.

Mayor's Update:

Mayor Thomas informed the Council of the need for an executive session for the express purpose of updating the Council concerning the lawsuit filed by Donald Dawe would be necessary at the end of the regular meeting.

Donald Dawe, a resident of the town, asked the Council what the goals of the town are, and suggested a Town meeting for a discussion of future goals. Mr. Dawe also asked that copies of the monthly financial statement be made available to the public.

The question was raised by a resident as to the status of the Historic District classification and what it will mean in terms of home improvements, etc... Councilwoman Dawe responded that she thought the new classification should be in place soon and that the

new classification would have no affect on a resident's ability to make changes to their home/property.

A general discussion among the Council and the pubic concerning the internet led to Councilman Johnson stating that he had talked with Steve Holtzman concerning the development of the Town's webpage and to agreeing that he would work with him to come up with a possible list of items that might be placed on the proposed North High Shoals website. A selection of names for the website will also be supplied.

Planning Commission Oath:

Mayor Thomas issued the oath of office to Mr. Karl Berg as the new representative to the Oconee County Planning Commission for the Town of North High Shoals.

Council Concerns/Requests for Next Months Meeting:

Mayor Thomas entertained items to be placed on the November agenda

Executive Session:

Mayor Thomas informed the public that the Council would have a short executive session to discuss legal issues regarding the Dawe's lawsuit after which, the Council would return to its regular meeting – long enough to receive a motion for adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned: by a unanimous vote (Johnson; Ivie. all in favor)

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff D. Thomas - Mayor

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
Cell 706-202-8995

Draft

Minutes

October 9, 2006

Addendum

Walter George, 1080 Arborwood Ridge, inquired as to the status of a final plat submission for Bella Rosa Subdivision. Mayor Thomas informed Mr. George and the Council that he had not received a final plat, nor a request for one to be considered at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff D. Thomas - Mayor