

Town of North High Shoals

Jeff D. Thomas
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

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Draft

Minutes

November 12, 2007

Present: Councilman Wade Thomas
Councilman B. J. Ivie
Councilman Fred Johnson
Councilwomen Violet Dawe
Councilman Eddie Cape

Others Present:

Wesley Donegan	202 Plantation Road
Suzanne Beall	212 Jefferson Road
Horst Klein	1150 Falcon Ridge Dr.
Susan Marcantonio	1441 Arborwood Ridge
Brad Wilson	1080 Old Bishop Road
David Lawrence	175 Hillsboro Road
Dr. Mike Streetman	3391 Hwy 53 Watkinsville
Gayle Burch	2351 Rays Church Road
Robin Pannell	P.O. Box 203 High Shoals
Beth Sosebee	P.O. Box 185 High Shoals
Pansey Krich	319 Crystal C. Athens
Jeff Deloach	2500 Daniel's Bridge Road Athens
Traci Walter	1031 Deepwood Ct. Bishop
Heike Mueller	1150 Falcon Ridge
Scott Wilson	427 Rays Church Road
Karl Berg	307 Jefferson Road
Ann Evans	280 Hopping Road
Nick Capomacchia	2320 Elder Road
John Marcantonio	2320 Elder Road
Kate George	1080 Arborwood Ridge
Walt George	1080 Arborwood Ridge

Monthly Business:

1. Presentation of the financial statement for the month of October, 2007. Motion to approve: Councilman Cape; Second by Councilman Thomas. Four in Favor; one (Councilwoman Dawe) opposed.
2. Presentation of the October, 2007 Draft Minutes. Motion to approve with minor corrections: Councilman Cape and a second by Councilman Thomas. All in Favor

Old Business:

City Park

1. Mayor Thomas had little to report in the way of improvements other than the regular maintenance items, but announced that the flagpole has arrived at a total cost, with shipping plus flag, of less than \$400.00 (\$).
2. Councilwoman Dawe advised that the flower bulbs were safely stored at her house in the extra bedroom (without heat).
3. Councilwoman Dawe Johnson asked about cleanup around the ‘barn area’ with the possible use of a bobcat. Councilman Cape suggested that a ‘cleanup crew’ from the local jail might be available. Councilman Johnson will look at resolving this issue and the council voted on a motion by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilwoman Dawe to allocate \$200.00 to the task. The motion carried on a three in favor; one opposed (Ivie) and one abstention (Thomas). Councilwoman Dawe will also seek out individuals to give a price on repairing the barn roof. Councilman Cape suggested putting the item out for bids.
4. Councilman Cape motioned moving the park “Community Day” to a date in March to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the town’s inception. Councilwoman Dawe seconded the motion with all in favor. .

Law Enforcement Update:

1. Mayor Thomas reported that he had received notification from Lt. Brooks that he would be terminating his employment at the end of this year’s contract.
2. The new speed limit signs along Ray’s Church Road have not yet been installed due to illness within the road department.

Street Improvements:

Councilman Johnson offered that he would like for the Mayor to revisit the possible acquisition of a rubber speed platform to be used in lieu of the paving.

HSES:

Mayor Thomas had nothing to report beyond what he has read in the paper concerning the possible postponement of opening the new school in August of 09 instead of October of 08.

Concerning the sign for the school, Mayor Thomas reported that Dr. Jackson, at the suggestion of Susan Marcantonio, was working with Susan Burger, commercial designer and art teacher of OCHS, Chris Novak and others to develop a sign concept. Current ideas include (a) screen print, (b) cut metal overlay or (c) cut metal overlay produced in a different metal. More information will follow later.

Councilwoman Dawe asked if there might be some place to view examples of the ideas. Councilwoman Dawe also stated that she was making contact with someone from Georgia Power to discuss the idea of lighting for the school.

Comprehensive Plan:

Mayor Thomas and Karl Berg informed the council that the Plan was being forwarded to the Northeast Georgia Regional Authority for review.

Election Results:

Superintendent of Elections, Sandy Brooks, informed council that she has certified the election results and that incumbent Councilmember Cape and Mayor Thomas will retain their seats and Steve Holzman was declared the winner of the post currently held by Councilman Wade Thomas.

City Web Site:

Nothing new to report on the site (it remains on the agenda monthly); however one resident did ask for the site address, and Councilman Johnson, unsure himself of the address suggested that it might be good to include on the city letterhead.

New Business:

Bella Rosa Extension:

Jeffrey Deloach, speaking for the owners of the Bella Rosa subdivision, asked for an extension under the ordinances governing the zoning regulations of the town stating that because of the law suit, etc that they would like the additional time to prepare before submission of a final plat. After discussion and questions, a motion was made by Councilman Cape and seconded by Councilman Ivie to grant the variance extension of one year (January of 2009). The motion carried by a 3-1-1 vote (Councilmen Cape, Ivie and Thomas in favor; Councilman Johnson opposed; Councilwoman Dawes abstained).

Sidewalk Ordinance Variance Request:

Jeffrey Deloach, again speaking for the owners of Bella Rosa Subdivision, requested a variance which would “exclude exterior sidewalks on North High Shoals and the Elder Road portions of Bella Rosa per section 104 of the existing sidewalk ordinance. A motion by Councilman Johnson along with a second by Councilwoman Dawe to deny the variance was defeated by a 3-2 vote (Johnson and Dawe in favor). A second motion to allow the variance by Councilman Cape and seconded by Councilman Ivie was approved by a 3-2 vote (Council members Cape, Ivie and Thomas in favor). Per request of Councilman Johnson, the motion was in writing before the vote was taken: ‘Motion to approve the sidewalk ordinance variance request presented by Mr. Deloach on behalf of Mr. Campomacchia which would exclude sidewalks in the Bella Rosa subdivision on external streets of New High Shoals road and Elder Road per Section 104 of the existing sidewalk ordinance.’

Audit Report Update:

Mayor Thomas announced that apparently Mr. Haygood had helped prepare the way for a meeting with Mr. Briscoe and Jerry Hawkins (of Winder) to help get the past audit reports current, and the Mayor expected to have things completed rapidly.

Sex Offender Ordinance:

Susan Marcantonio presented ideas concerning the need for a possible sex offender ordinance for the town. Some discussion followed including: how to enforce this, etc... No action was taken by the council.

Noise:

Mayor Thomas asked all people present to give some thought as to how to approach the idea of limiting loud noises within the city.

Mayor’s Update/Council concerns & request for next months meeting:

Mayor Thomas gave ‘newly elected officials institute’ forms to members of the Council asking them to let him know which meeting they would be attending at next months meeting (either Athens in February or Tifton in March).

Councilwoman Dawe asked that the fire department be on the next agenda and that people be made aware of rifle discharges within the city. Susan Marcantonio suggested that Ms. Burger be invited to a meeting and David Lawrence asked that Tapes be on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilman Ivie (second by Councilman Cape) all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff D. Thomas - Mayor