

Town of North High Shoals

Jeff D. Thomas
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

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Draft

Minutes

October 8, 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.
Bill Sosebee	301 Hopping Road
Don Walter	1031 Deepwood Court
John Jackson	392 Woodhaven Drive - Athens
Tony Capomacchia	2320 Elder Road
Susan Marcantonio	1441 Arborwood Ridge
Brad Wilson	1080 Old Bishop Road
Judy Cantrell	2371 Rays Church Road
Kim Kraeling	2407 Rays Church Road
Steve Holzman	349 Jefferson Road
David Lawrence	175 Hillsboro Road

Monthly Business:

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

Special Item Request: HSES UPDATE

Mayor Thomas asked the Council to allow Dr. John Jackson, assistant superintendent of Oconee County Schools, to speak first on item 4 of the agenda (High Shoals Elementary School).due to his need to return to the Oconee County School Board meeting in progress in Watkinsville. The Council agreed and Dr. Jackson presented an update of the school progress and also answered questions from the audience. Dr. Jackson suggested that the new school would mirror Rocky Branch; could house 600-students when completed it will be able to allow for another wing of 150 to 200 students; may be completed by October, 2008; will have and air conditioned gym and pad 'A" is poured. Dr. Jackson stated that the school could not pay for sidewalks – that the unwritten rule of the school board was to not encourage students to walk to school – that school flag, colors, etc... was usually determined by the school administrator; however he would be happy to work with the Town in developing a school sign of an historic nature. Dr. Jackson stated the school would have speed zones, as yet undetermined, flashing lights, and a police presence like the other schools in the county. Dr. Jackson was unsure as to the extent that 'big trees' would be used in landscaping and stated that the P.T.O and others generally helped with this. He assured residents that the bus would pick up students. According to Dr. Jackson, Georgia Power will set/determine lighting but that the school would be 'well lit'.

Old Business:

City Park

1. Mayor Thomas had little to report in the way of improvements other than the regular maintenance items, but he did state that the cost of the flag pole would be \$273.00 plus the flag cost and shipping.
2. Councilwoman Dawe advised that the planting of flower bulbs may need to be delayed because of the drought-like conditions and suggested that the bulbs could be placed in cold storage or a basement and wait until January or February to plant.
3. Councilwoman Dawe suggested that the walking path needed to be edged.
4. Resident Scoot Wilson inquired as to the use of sand in the baseball infield and it was explained that the intent is to blend the soil.

Law Enforcement Update:

1. 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 and that he his developing a new system to help track patrols.

2. The incremental reduction in the speed limit along Ray's Church Road (also included under new business), which was suggested last month, was approved by the unanimous consent of the council – beginning at 45mph and reducing to 35mph and then to 25 as Rays Church Road approaches the intersection of Hillsboro Road (and conversely as one exits the town). Judy and Kim Cantrell, residents of Rays Church Road, noted the need of a guard rail near the creek.

Street Improvements:

Mayor Thomas mentioned a new product (to him) that is rubber speed platform to be used in lieu of the paving, but the idea of trying this was not entertained after it was reported that this type platform is easily removed.

Mayor Thomas went on to report that he was hoping to meet with the asphalt company during the coming week to look at the street improvements noted in past council meetings.

HSES:

Noted above.

Comprehensive Plan:

Mayor Thomas presented the Council with a Partial Plan Update Resolution (also under new business) as part of the comprehensive plan update. Councilman Cape made he motion to adopt; Councilman Thomas made the second. The vote was four in favor and one abstention (Councilwoman Dawe).

Election Qualifying Results:

Superintendent of Elections, Sandy Brooks, notified council that she was currently seeking information and thought that one of the poll workers would be Yvonne Harper, the former clerk of Rutledge, Georgia. Mrs. Brook addressed the question concerning absentee ballots, but did not yet have a clarified answer for the question of advanced voting (question posed by Councilwoman Dawe). She will continue seeking answers from the state and Pat Hayes. The election will take place the first Tuesday in November.

New Business:

City Web Site:

.After discussion, it was agreed that in order to help avoid inaccuracies on the website that items placed on the web would come through the Mayor's office and that a link should be established indicating business licenses issued within the city.

Community Day:

The times were established for Community Day, Saturday, November 17th. The "Day" will begin at 9:00am and conclude at 11:00am. A more formal agenda of events will be determined at the November council meeting, but ideas such as a sack race, balloons for kids and having a fire truck present were discussed and the idea of asking a local ROTC group to be present for the flag pole dedication was approved. The use of a public address system was suggested and having a speaker to talk about the history of the Town was proposed. Trophies were offered by one resident for contest winners, etc...

Council Etiquette:

Mayor Thomas reminded the Council of the need of members to 'practice proper etiquette' when representing the Town and to follow the rules of order during meetings and issued council a letter to take home (at conclusion of meeting) (attached).

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

Councilwoman Dawe requested an audit update to be placed on the agenda and resident Horst Klien asked about the procedures for keeping up with who is building/constructing in the town. Resident Bill Sosebee questioned the cutting of the entire hedge along one section of the park fence and stated his concern for the loss of the buffer area. Resident Susan Marcantonio stated her concern of possible sex offenders living in the area and ask for this item to be on the agenda.

Mayor Thomas reminded the Council that in 2008 the Town would be celebrating 40-years since the charter was re-adopted and asked the Council to be considering plans for the birthday.

The meeting was adjourned: by a unanimous vote after a motion by Councilman Ivie and a second by Councilman Thomas.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff D. Thomas - Mayor