

Town of North High Shoals

Jeff Thomas
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

108 Jefferson Road
P.O. Box 129
High Shoals, Georgia 30645
706-769-4289
Cell 706-202-8995

Minutes

April 14 , 2008

Present: Council Members Steve Holzman, B. J. Ivie, Fred Johnson, Violet Dawe, Eddie Cape, Mayor Jeff Thomas, and Interim Clerk Sandy Brooks

Others Present:

David Lawrence 175 Hillsboro Road
Heike Mueller 1150 Falcon Ridge Road
Horst Klein 1150 Falcon Ridge Drive
Tony Capomacchia 2320 Elder Road
Susan Marcantonio 1441 Arborwood Ridge
County Commissioner Chuck Horton
Karl Berg
Scott Wilson
Mr. Hawkins (new town accountant)
Quinton Still (Oconee Emergency Management Director)
Curtis Clarke

Old Business

6. Audit Update – The council agreed to move the audit update to this position because Auditor Jerry Hawkins was present and we wanted to let him conduct his business quickly so he could leave.

- The town is proceeding to have Agreed Upon Procedures done for the 2004-2007 years. The Agreed Upon Procedures must be done in chronological order. This procedure makes sure that our books say the same thing as the DCA (Department of Community Affairs) report; this method complies with the state law, but it is not an audit; audits are only required for cities with spending larger than \$300,000.
- Hawkins has talked with the state and the state will pass the 2003 audit as long as the 2004-2007 financial reports are done quickly and are in order.

- This is the fastest way to get the city in compliance. However, according to Mr. Hawkins an audit would give the city more assurance but be more expensive and take longer. The Agreed Upon Procedures is the same report Bishop uses.
- Mayor Thomas has collected some of the papers from our former accountant in the last couple of weeks and will be collecting more. The former accountant has been informed that we will use the Oconee County Sheriff's Office to collect these papers if necessary.
- If Hawkins has all the information, he will be able to finish these reports at about two weeks each; perhaps we could be finished with this process by July 1, 2008.

New Business

2. Oconee County Emergency Management Comprehensive Plan

- Quinton Still presented the report which the county is required to prepare along with representatives from the cities; Mayor Thomas was our representative. This report is required by FEMA.
- Vote to Approve 5-0, motion by Cape and 2nd by Johnson.

Monthly Business

1. Financial Statement for March accepted 4-1(Dawe Against). 1st by Council Member Cape & 2nd by Council Member Holzman

- Council Member Holzman asked about the running total promised by the Mayor. Mayor Thomas reported that he would do that next month and continue providing it after that.

2. Minutes for March accepted on a 4-1 (Cape Against)

- Addition to section on the web site was made to add Council Member Holzman's name as web master.

Old Business

1. City Park

- Weed Wrench presentation by Council Member Holzman. He proposed that the city purchase one for city use and provide it to citizens to check out in the future. He mentioned that Hickory Lake subdivision had a privet pull this year. Cost \$155 plus \$50 shipping. Council Member Holzman found examples of cities around the country who were doing this. Motion by Council Member Dawe & 2nd Council Member Johnson. Vote 5-0.
- Map of the park presented by Council Member Holzman.
- Council Member Cape said he still has the flag pole and just has not had the time to get it up the last 6 months. He will contact David Lawrence about passing the pole to David to get it up.
- Discussion of dogs in the baseball field by Council Member Cape.
- Presentation of pictures of the flowers blooming in the park by David Lawrence.

- Presentation of a list of plans for the park and suggested work days for the park by David Lawrence. David Lawrence also obtained approval to move the movable basketball goal to the fire station. Positive feedback was reported for the lowered basketball goal he modified at the park. All actions on the list were approved along with funding. May 10 was approved as the next work day in the city park.
- Resident Scott Wilson suggested that the baseball mound could use some work; perhaps a pile of dirt could be placed on the outside of the field to be used for repairs to the mound. Council Member Ivie said he called the league to get some work done on the field, and efforts have taken place by some crews.

North High Shoals Park Plans

April 14, 2008

Presented by Dave Lawrence, Chair of the Citizens Park Committee

Things to do:

Set flagpole	80 lbs. concrete	
Reset tall basketball goal	80 lbs. concrete	
Paint basketball goal's backboard.....	exterior white paint	(give to fire station?)
Spread piled gravel	tractor, fuel	
Bush hog back field	tractor, fuel	
Paint "park rules" signposts	exterior white paint	
Fill holes	wheelbarrow, shovel	
Emerging privet sprayed/pulled.....	poison ivy spray, sprayer	
Cut and move three small trees	chain saw, truck	
Remove metal pole by backstop	pick & shovel	
Treat and move picnic tables	water sealant/stain	
Plant summer flowers in raised beds	perennials or annuals?	
Other? -		

Needs:

Next Park Day: May 10th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Needs to be posted in Oconee Enterprise "Upcoming" section

Wish list:

- Plastic bottle receptacles for recycling
- Finials/post caps for rules sign
- Signs replaced, "play at own risk" or "park closes at dark"
- Donated trees planted in autumn; Jasmine vines, also?
- Walking path through woods reestablished
- Gutter and rain barrel off pavilion roof
- Other? -

2. Law Enforcement Update

- Council Member Dawe was unable to get appointment with Sheriff Berry due to Sheriff Berry being out of town on business.
- Council Member Cape and Interim Clerk Brooks said that they thought the position was already posted at the Oconee Sheriff's Office and no officers were signing up for it.

3. Street Improvements

- Mayor Thomas asked Council Member Ivie if he called the road department about the cracked cement in Hickory Lake Subdivision, and he had.
- Broken edges along Plantation Rd. have not been fixed yet.
- Council Member Holzman presented more research on removable speed bumps we could place in the city. The council decided to proceed with ordering one of the platforms.
- The council next discussed the paving of roads by the county through the city. Particular concern was raised about Ray's Church. Council Member Holzman and Council Member Johnson reported that they met with County Manager Theriault. He stated that we need to write a letter to the county asking for specific road work and the county will decide on their actions.
- County Commissioner Chuck Horton was present and said he would look into this matter and encouraged written requests.

4. HSES

- Resident Karl Berg reported that some problems are being ironed out concerning the gas line running in front of the school.
- Mayor Thomas reported that Dr. Jackson says they are looking at moving students from Oconee Elementary in October 2008 to clear the way for some renovations at Oconee Elementary; they might also move administrative offices there to clear the way for renovations.

5. City Web Site - Look for information on the web at

<http://www.northhighshoals.org/> -

- Council Member Steve Holzman will be adding pictures from the park and other information concerning the park. He wants to make event information known.

7. Meeting Rules of Order

- Mayor Thomas read an email from the city attorney Joe Reitman advising the town to wait to act on this until Mr. Reitman has been able to complete his research on town documents, etc. Mayor Thomas also said attorney Reitman reiterated this in a conversation with Mayor Thomas.

8. Business License

- Mayor Thomas says this should now be called an occupational tax.

9. Job Description/Advertising for permanent Town Clerk

- Mayor Thomas stated that attorney Joe Reitman advised the town through email and conversation with the Mayor that we should wait until Mr. Reitman furnishes the town with information on this issue.
- Cape made a motion to remove the title of “interim” from our present clerk’s title. Second by Ivie. Vote 2-3 (opposed Dawe, Holzman, & Johnson). Motioned failed.

10. Mayor pro-tem duties

- Mayor Thomas stated that attorney Joe Reitman advised through email and conversation with the Mayor that we should wait until Mr. Reitman furnishes the town with information on this issue.

11. Noise

- Council Member Cape reported that he has decided not to check on this item because neighbors reported fewer problems. He said he thinks the issue has subsided due to a decrease in noise. Mayor stated fewer complaints were reported.

12. Fire Department

- No new information on this item reported by Council Member Dawe.

13. Election Board/Superintendent

- Mayor Thomas stated that attorney Joe Reitman advised through email and conversation with the Mayor that we should wait until he furnishes the city with information on this issue.
- Council Member Holzman presented information from attorney Joe Reitman and the Secretary of States Office answering previous questions by the council.
- Council Member Johnson asked Mayor Thomas if he were going to resign this year. Mayor Thomas responded: “We will not have an election this year.” “I will not resign at this time.” He went on to say that the best time for his resignation for the city would be the regular 2009 election.

11. Building Codes Enforcement

- Mayor Thomas reported that he is working this out with Oconee County Commission Chair Melvin Davis & County Attorney Haygood through the joint comprehensive plan and an intergovernmental agreement

New Business

1. Community Day

- Council Member Cape said no date has been set.
- Council Member Dawe suggested that it was too late to plan this for May; we need 6-9months to plan this well. She said we need to work on this as a total council if we want to do it. Mayor Thomas suggested that the Saturday after HSES opens in October could be a good time for this. He said the week after fall break in October is the time when classes could be moved to HSES.

Mayor's Update and Agenda Requests

(All requests to be on the agenda must be submitted at least 15 days before a meeting. Direct your agenda items to Council Member Steve Holzman directly or to him through the Clerk, or Mayor Thomas. Look for the agenda for the next council meeting on the town's web site 2 weeks before the next meeting. The next council meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday, May 12, 2008.)

1. Mayor Thomas distributed copies of the budget and told the council that May was the traditional time we consider the budget each year. He asked council members to prepare to discuss the budget at the next meeting.
2. Review agenda order by Council Member Holzman
3. Motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss a legal matter concerning a possible law suit. Motion by Council Member Cape and second by Council Member Johnson. Vote 5-0
4. After returning to regular session a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Johnson and second by Council Member Holzman. Vote 5-0

Respectfully Submitted by Fred Johnson