

Council:
Post 1 – Eddie Cape
Post 2 – Steve Holzman
Post 3 – Vacant
Post 4 – Violet Dawe
Post 5 – Fred Johnson

Town of North High Shoals

Mayor Jeff Thomas

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

Minutes

December 1, 2008 at 7:30 pm

Monthly Business

1. Presentation of Financial Statement for month of November 2008
 - No financial statement was presented.
2. Presentation of Draft Minutes for month of October 2008
 - Motion to accept the draft minutes of November 10, 2008 by Council Member Holzman and 2nd by Council Member Johnson. Approved 3-0.

Present: Council Members Steve Holzman, Fred Johnson, Violet Dawe, & Mayor Jeff Thomas

Others Present:

Suzanne & Mike Beall	212 Jefferson Road
Joey & John Westman	221 Hillsboro Road
Scott Wilson	427 Rays Church Rd
Horst Klein	1150 Falcon Ridge Drive
Heike Mueller	1150 Falcon Ridge Drive
Wesley & Sarah Donegan	202 Plantation Road
David Lawrence	175 Hillsboro Road
Felicia Kautz	180 Plantation Rd
Walt George	1080 Arborwood Ridge

Agenda Setting

- No agenda setting motions were made.

Monthly Business

1. Presentation of Financial Statement for month of October 2008
 - No action was taken by the council on this agenda item.
2. Presentation of Draft Minutes for month of October 2008
 - Motion to accept the draft minutes of November 10, 2008 by Council Member Holzman and 2nd by Council Member Johnson. Approved 3-0.

Statements by the Public

- No statements from the public were made.

Old Business:

1. Audit Update

- Council Member Dawe reported that she had been making inquiries to the town accountant, Mr. Hawkins. She was told by Mr. Hawkins today that the 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 agreed upon procedures were completed and forwarded on to the state. The room actually erupted in applause. Bound copies are ready for the city to pick-up; Violet said she would pick them up this week and start working on the 2008 audit. Council Member Holzman suggested that we could place these on the town website when they are approved.

2. City Park

- Council Member Johnson said several reports of trash in the park had been made. Mayor Thomas responded that the problem had been taken care of at the present.
- The council agreed to Mayor Thomas' tree lighting in the park for the Holidays.
- Council Member Holzman asked for the clean-up of privet in the park around the old home site and barn before vultures nest again in March; Council Member Johnson responded that he would contact people again to make sure this gets done before March.
- David Lawrence and Council Member Dawe raised questions about maintaining the walking path in the park due to crumbling edges and grass growing through and over the path.

3. Law Enforcement Update

- Council Member Dawe asked the council for a signed resolution for asking the Oconee County Sheriff's Office for extra patrols. Mayor Thomas read the resolution asking Oconee County to provide extra patrols for an agreed upon fee per hour. Motion was made to accept the resolution by Council Member Johnson and 2nd by Council Member Holzman. Approved 3-0.

4. Street Improvements

- Scott Wilson pointed out to the council that "left or right turn only" arrow street signs were missing at the intersection of Hillsboro and Rays Church Roads.
- David Lawrence reported that he was waiting for the weather to be better on a Sunday morning for him to re-paint the white triangles with reflective beads on the upper fire station speed bump.
- Mayor Thomas reported that he had talked to County Chair Melvin Davis who had assured him that the county would be making repairs on Plantation Road.
- Council Member Johnson made a motion to ask for bids for the paving of Jefferson Road from Hopping/State Road 186 to the intersection of Jefferson and Plantation Road. Second by Holzman Approved 3-0.

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- Mayor Thomas reported that the town is eligible for about 264 feet of state funded paving; the council had previously said this would be used on the upper area of Plantation Road.
- Additional stop signs, speed bumps, and street lamps were discussed. Council Member Dawe suggested that additional street lights should be added on Rays Church Road. Council Member Holzman said he would will check the poles and talk to the neighbors where Council Member Dawe was suggesting. David Lawrence suggested moving a light on Speedway Road, and Council Member Dawe suggested other lights in the city could be moved. Mayor Thomas stated that this could be done.

5. Business License

- Here are relevant notes from the November meeting concerning the issuance of a business license to Precision Motor Works. “Question from Mike Beall: “Does the issuance of a business license allow that business to operate in any manner regardless of the zone the business is located.” “Does the issuance of a business license allow the recipient to operate in any manner they want within the city regardless of the zoning regulations of the city?” “Does the business license supersede a zoning regulation?” He pointed out that our zoning regulation specifically prohibited garages from operating in a residential zones; garage repair is allowed only in B1 and B2 zones. He requested that we ask the city attorney these questions. Extensive discussion by council. Mayor Thomas said we will ask the attorney.”
- Council Member Holzman reported that town attorney Reitman informed the council that there is no cut and dry answer to the questions above concerning Precision Motor Works operating a garage in a residential zone. He said the city has granted certain rights to the business by issuing a business license. “It doesn’t trump it per say, but good faith reliance on it by the applicant and expenditures give certain invested rights.” He advised neighbors to try to solve the issue.
- Extensive discussion between the council and the Donegans, the owners of Precision Motor Works at 202 Plantation Road, occurred. Both sides agreed to consider talking with a mediator (hopefully an “outside” attorney) who will be selected by Mayor Thomas.

6. Hiring a City Clerk

- Council decided to move this item to executive session as a personnel manner.

7. SPLOST Update

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- Council Member Holzman reported the SPLOST numbers for three categories; repaving Plantation, Jefferson, and other roads as needed: \$191,000; creating sidewalks to connect the subdivisions on Elder Road to the school and city park: \$176,000; town hall: \$250,000; water lines: \$50,000.
- Mayor Thomas led a discussion about the merits and needs of each item. The council made no decision to change the council request which will be voted on by the Oconee County Commissioners on Tuesday, December 02, 2008. All council members and many citizens took part in the discussion.

8. Town Charter

- Council members pointed out that the next public hearing would be before the town's January 12, 2009 meeting. Citizens were invited to continue the great input they were providing and read the charter in preparation for that meeting. More copies of the charter will be provided to the public.
- Motion to set a work session from 6:30 to 7:00 pm on January 12, 2009 by Council Member Johnson and 2nd by Council Member Holzman. Approved 3-0.

9. Meeting Schedule Changes

- No schedule changes were made at this time. Council discussed possible called meeting in December for the audit or SPLOST and a possible additional meeting after the January 12, 2009 meeting.

10. March Special Elections

- Council Member Holzman reported that he delivered the council letter of request for help to the Oconee County Board of Elections to request help with running the March special election.

11. Golf Cart Friendly Town

- No action was taken by the council on this agenda item.

12. Cable Service (Franchise)

- Mayor Thomas stated that the new cable franchise agreement is not ready yet for consideration.
- Council Member Johnson will contact Watkinsville to find out more about their franchise agreement with their cable franchise to assist with holiday town decorations which hang on light poles.

New Business:

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1. Town Offices

- Motion by Council Member Johnson that the town office be designated for use by all council members, mayor, and clerk and that they all be provided with keys to use the town office. Second by Council Member Dawe. Approved 3-0.

2. Council Member and Clerk Training Registration

- Council Member Dawe made sure other council members had the registration forms and instructions for the mandatory council training.

3. Town Records

- Mayor Thomas delivered copies of past minutes and financial statements going back to 1996 to Council Member Johnson
- Council Member Johnson requested that Mayor Thomas leave the monthly bills in town hall office for review by council members.

4. Stump Removal on Hillsboro

- Council Member Johnson made a motion for the town to pay for the removal the stump in front of 221 Hillsboro as long as it does not exceed \$500. Second by Dawe. Approved 3-0

Mayor's Update:

(All requests to be on the agenda must be submitted at least 7 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 1 week before the next meeting. The next council meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday, January 12, 2008. A public Hearing will be held before this meeting on the Town Charter at 7:00 pm. A work session will be held before the public hearing at 6:30 pm.)

1. Felicia Kautz pointed out that there is no school sign with flashing light between Gober/Hillsboro and the High Shoals Elementary School. Many other people echoed the idea. Mayor Thomas said he would talk to the DOT about the sign issue.
2. Motion to move to executive session by Council Member Johnson and 2nd by Council Member Dawe. Approved 3-0.
3. Council went into executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters.
4. Motion to return to regular session by Council Member Dawe and 2nd by Council Member Holzman. Approved 3-0.
5. Motion to Adjourn by Council Member Dawe and 2nd by Council Member Holzman. Approved 3-0.

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The Mayor and Council encourage all interested persons to attend the monthly meeting of the Council.

Document Prepared by:
Council Member Fred Johnson, Post 5