

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

Minutes

February 11, 2008

Present: Councilmember Steve Holzman
Councilmember Fred Johnson
Councilmember Violet Dawe
Mayor Jeff Thomas
Interim Clerk Sandy Brooks

Others Present:

Tara Clark	190 Shadyfield Lane.
Wesley Donegan	202 plantation Road
Horest Klein	1150 Falcon Ridge Drive
David Lawrence	175 Hillsboro Road

Monthly Business:

1. Presentation of the Financial Statement for the month of January, 2008`.
 - Council Member Johnson asked Mayor Thomas about having a running copy of the town's budget at the meeting, and Mayor Thomas replied that he would start supplying the council with a monthly cumulative update of the town budget.
 - Council members discussed the light bill in relation to Hickory Ridge. Mayor Thomas explained that the town pays for the electricity for the street lights in Hickory Ridge while the residents of the subdivision pay for the upgraded lights placed in the subdivision.
 - Motion to approve: Councilman Holzman; Second by Councilman Johnson. Two in Favor; One (Councilwomen Dawe) opposed.
2. Presentation of the January, 2008 Draft Minutes.

- Discussion took place over the role of the recording Council Member Holzman is making of the meeting.
- Due to three major corrections in the minutes, Mayor Thomas suggested that the council postpone the approval of the minutes. Council Member Johnson made the motion to postpone and Council Member Holzman seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.

Old Business:

1. City Park:

- Councilman Johnson reported that the old well had been filled in and sealed; that resident David Lawrence bush hogged. Council Member Johnson explained the roles of the Oconee County prison work crew, David Lawrence, and Oconee Well Drillers in filling the well in the park. The cost was \$1,200 paid to Oconee Well Drillers. Others supplied their services for free.
- Council Members Johnson & Dawe along with Horst Klein discussed the MLK Work Day. Council Member Johnson reported the compliments and offers of other citizens in regards to the park efforts.
- Discussion then turned to using past park plans and new suggestions to develop our future efforts in the park. Councilwoman Dawe reported that someone was interested in planting fruit trees in the park and recommended that this action be studied before the next planting season.
- Councilman Holzman suggested a work session centering on the city park before the fall season.
- Councilman Johnson made a motion to establish a Citizens Action Committee for recruitment and organization within the city park chaired by David Lawrence. The committee would be responsible for the spreading of mulch, fire ant prevention, etc. Councilwoman Dawe seconded. Approved 3-0.
- Council Member Johnson made a motion that the council approve the use of the County prison work detail for the clearing of debris and privet in the park around the house site and other areas from the parking lot back to behind the barn. Fuel, rental machines, and construction waste bin would be needed; permission was asked to be able to write a letter to the County requesting help with a ceiling \$2,000 to be spent. Seconded by Council Member Holzman. Approved 3-0

2. Law Enforcement:

- Councilwoman Dawe presented an initial draft of a Resolution for Extra Deputy Patrol for the

- Town of North High Shoals. Council motioned (Johnson) for Councilwoman Dawe to proceed with the document allowing for Sheriff Berry to make changes as required and to post the job opportunity. Councilman Holzman seconded the motion. Approved 3-0

3. Street Improvements:

- Council Member Dawe asked about holes being filled-in, and Mayor Thomas explained that it has not happened yet and Council Member Ivie is in charge of that.
- Mayor Thomas explained that the piece of Jefferson from 186 to the fork needs to be paved with cost of about \$18,000 so that the state will do work on the road in the future.
- Council Member Johnson related that a citizen wanted to report the missing 35 MPH speed limit sign on Rays Church
- Council Member Dawe made a motion to lower the speed limit from 45 to 35 MPH on Hillsboro between the entrance to the city and the speed bump at the fire station. Seconded by Council Member Holzman Approved 3-0
- Council Member Johnson shared a request for more efforts to limit speed on Plantation, perhaps more speed bumps.
- Council Member Johnson brought out a citizen request for Elder Road to be finished. Mayor Thomas explained that the unfinished section is on the program for this year, by this summer; last year our allotment only reached partly down Elder Rd.
- Wes Donegan discussed the need to get cars to stop at the stop sign in front of his home on Plantation; he suggested a speed bump which he was willing to contribute financially to and find bids for.

4. HSES:

- No discussion or action taken

5. City Web Site:

- Council Member Steve Holzman reported additions to the web site
- Council Member Holzman made a motion to post the audio recording of the meeting on the Town's web site within five days of the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Johnson. Approved 3-0
- Council Member Holzman and Johnson requested past minutes, agendas, and budgets in electronic files be provided to Council Member Holzman for posting on the web site; Mayor Thomas agreed.

- Council Member Holzman asked permission from the council to post a link for contacting Dave Lawrence about the park on the web site; the council said yes.

6. Audit Report Update:

- Mayor Thomas reported that he is working towards compiling information for the past three fiscal years to present to Mr. Hawkins and hoped to meet with him the following week.
- Councilwoman Dawe made a motion to seek the Sheriff's Departments assistance in obtaining city information currently in the possession of Donald Briscoe. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion. Approved 3-0

7. Noise:

- Mayor Thomas said that Council Member Cape who was in charge of this item was not present.

8. Lot Size Variance Request (Shadyfield Lane)

- No action taken because no one was present to represent the variance request. Tabled for one month.

9. Fire Department:

- Council Member Dawe reported that she had made several calls to the fire chief, but had not gotten an answer about their requests.
- Wes Donegan asked questions about citizen donations of equipment to the fire department

10. Building Code Enforcement.

- Mayor Thomas reported that he is awaiting a response from the commissioners office concerning an intergovernmental agreement on this issue. Mayor Thomas reported that he talked with Melvin Davis' assistant and related our interest in an intergovernmental agreement to conduct code enforcement
- Questions were asked about a home being torn down on Jefferson. Mayor Thomas reported that the owners plan to remove parts of the home, but then use what is good to rebuild the house. This is when they will get a building permit.

New Business:

1. Meeting Rules of Order:

- Council Member Johnson provided copies of the ideas members had discussed at the January work session.

- Council decided to have another work session from 8-9pm on March 3, 2008.

2. Election Board/Superintendent:

- Council Member Johnson reported that the Secretary of State told us we needed to talk to the town attorney about an election board.
- Council Member Johnson made a motion for the council to allow him to talk to the town attorney about item 2. Seconded by Council Member Dawe. Approved 3-0.

3. Hiring a Town Attorney:

- Council Member Johnson made a motion to hire Joe Reitman as the town attorney. Second by Council Member Holzman. Approved 3-0.

4. Meeting Day:

- No action taken. This item was removed from the agenda by acclamation.

5. Business Licenses:

- Council felt this item needs additional consideration during a work session to consider guidelines for issuance, etc.

Mayor's Update:

1. Aside from Old Business, no new items were requested for the agenda
2. The council set a work session for Monday, March 3 from 8-9 pm to discuss rules of order and business license.
3. Dangerous basketball goal in park pointed out by David Lawrence; he volunteered to take it down. Mayor Thomas suggested that the pole be pulled out of the ground.
4. David Lawrence also offered to help Council Member Cape install the flag pole in the Park.
5. Violet asked to add the Sheriff's resolution to the work session.
6. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent of the council.

Respectfully submitted,

Council Member Fred Johnson