

Town of North High Shoals

Jeff Thomas
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

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June 16, 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
Tony Capomacchia 2320 Elder Road
Susan Marcantonio 1441 Arborwood Ridge
Town Lawyer Joe Reitman
Karl Berg 307 Jefferson Road
Gabriel Carlson
Margo Candalario
Lindsay Morgan
Lauren Huff
Jeff VanDeMark

Public Hearing

1. Budget 2008-2009

- Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order to discuss the proposed budget. Members of council were allowed an opportunity to speak before the Mayor opened the meeting to public comment. Upon the conclusion of questions, Mayor Thomas closed the public hearing on the 2008-09 fiscal budget.
- Questions on Timber, Public Safety, Clerk Salary, Park Maintenance, Law Enforcement, & Property Tax

Monthly Business

1. Financial Statement for May postponed 5-0. Motion by Council Member Cape & 2nd by Council Member Ivie
2. Minutes for May postponed 5-0 Motion by Council Member Johnson & 2nd by Council Member Dawe
3. Council Member Johnson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss minutes. Mayor Thomas advised that an executive session can only be called for certain matters and the motion was withdrawn.
4. Council Member Holzman requested that persons wishing to talk, but unable to remain for the entire meeting be allowed to do so at this time. Mayor Thomas advised that this was not proper. Council Member Holzman then specified that Gabrielle Carlson had a specific question and she was allowed to inquire as to park maintenance work bidding.

Old Business

1. City Park

- Council Member Johnson thanked community members for participating in the park work day on June 14th.
- Mayor approved the purchase of mulch to be placed in the park as a maintenance item and for citizens to take.
- Two citizens (Mr. Hernandez & Ms Carlson) inquired about how to bid on the maintenance contract for the park. The council decided to assign this item to a work session. Council Member Johnson requested that the grass be cut higher in the park.
- Park Chair David Lawrence erected the pole in the park for Memorial Day, but expressed disappointment that Mayor Thomas did not respond to his request to get the city's U.S. Flag flying. Council Member Cape expressed concern that a person is flying a U.S. Flag on the pole without city permission and without proper lighting. Mayor Thomas said he would take action. David Lawrence suggested that the Mayor hand over the city's Flag so that it could be flown and that he would be willing to place the light in the park.
- No motion was made on the topic and discussion was offered.

2. Law Enforcement Update

- Council Member Dawe reported on a possible work agreement with the Sheriff's Department for extra patrols in the form of three two hour shifts at a cost of \$270.00 per week and was waiting on a final budget approval before proceeding. Mayor Thomas recommended a work session to insure the details are in place.
- No motion was made on the topic and discussion was offered.

3. Street Improvements

- Mayor Thomas suggested that this year the Council needs to pave a road. Council Member Holzman inquired as to how road work priorities were set; the Council discussed how the decision will be made.
- Discussion on Hillsboro Rd. speed signs and reduction of speed, street lights, parking signs along Hillsboro Rd by city park. Council asked to consider at least two more street lights on Ray's Church Road at the next meeting.
- Council Member Dawe suggested that street improvements along Plantation Road were taking too long.
- Speed limit reductions on Hillsboro had been suggested earlier in the meeting before discussion was halted on the issue as being out-of-order.
- No motion was made on the topic and discussion was offered.

4. HSES

- Mayor Thomas announced that he had spoken with Dr. Jackson and had been informed that the High Shoals Elementary School would be housing the Oconee Elementary School students after the October intercession.
- No motion was made on the topic and discussion was offered.

5. City Web Site - Look for information on the web at <http://www.northhighshoals.org/> -

- When asked for past financial statements again, Mayor Thomas said he has lost past financial statements, although he may have some. Council Member Holzman offered to scan paper copies.
- Council discussed the extensive problems with the writing of minutes this year. Recording of minutes on the town's web site and the official capacity of the web site was discussed by Council and Lawyer

Joe Reitman. Mr. Reitman recommended that the council formalize the relationship of the web site with a contract and make certain we keep accurate records.

- The city attorney recommended that the recordings be maintained if they were a part of the public record.
- No motion was made on the topic and discussion was offered.

6. Audit Update

- Mayor Thomas has no new information on the audit. He expects to present this to the council at the July meeting.
- Council Member Johnson made a motion that Mayor Thomas present the findings of the audit at the July meeting, as suggested by Mr. Reitman; second by Council Member Holzman. Vote 5-0

7. Meeting Rules of Order

- Council Member Johnson made a motion to accept the rules of order which the town has been reviewing for 5 months, held a work session, and which have been reviewed by the town attorney. Second by Council Member Dawe. Extensive discussion.
- Extensive discussion on NHS Code of Ordinances with Mr. Reitman.
- After discussion and input from the city attorney, Council Member Johnson agreed to withdraw his motion to adopt the rules of order presented to the council until the attorney and members of council had time to review and compare; however, the council did agree that tonight's presentation could be considered as a first reading – This was accomplished by an amendment to the original Johnson motion to make this the first reading – second by Council Member Dawe – the vote was three in favor and two opposed (Council Members Cape & Ivie). The item will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Opportunity for comment was provided.

8. Business License

- Motion by Council Member Johnson to accept the business application from Lauren Huff; second by Council Member Dawe. Amendment to the motion by Dawe to include business license in the application. Approved 5-0.

9. Follow-Up on Advertising for permanent City Clerk

- Mayor Thomas said that he did not advertise for the city clerk as instructed by the council because he needed more information from the council to provide to applicants. Extensive discussion ensued led by Mayor Thomas.
- Motion by Council Member Holzman to hold a work session before the next meeting to discuss the clerk packet and the park maintenance requirements. Second by Council Member Johnson. Approved 5-0

10. Noise

- Council Member Dawe presented research done by Mrs. Goad which concludes that no County rules exist requiring people to build in modifications to their buildings to minimize noise.
- Mr. Reitman described an example of a noise ordinance from another town and suggested we work from this example. Mr. Reitman will email the noise ordinance to the council. Item placed on agenda for next meeting.
- No motion was made on the topic and discussion was offered.

11. Fire Department

- Council Member Dawe advised that Jay Daniel of the fire department would like for the council to consider a thermal unit – approximate cost of \$5000. Council felt that Jay Daniel, or a representative of the department should come present the proposal.

- Council Member Dawe also indicated that council members would be receiving email updates from the fire department informing them of their activities.
- No motion was made on the topic and discussion was offered.

12. Building Codes Enforcement

- Motion to remove item to September meeting by Council Member Cape and 2nd by Council Member Ivie. Approved 5-0. Discussion was offered.

13. SPLOST

- Council Member Johnson reported that Council Members Dawe and Holzman attended a meeting of the cities called by Mayor Luken of Watkinsville along with community members Bill Kraeling & David Lawrence. Council Member Holzman reported that the process is moving forward and all cities are involved at this stage.
- The council was informed of its need to send a letter to the Oconee County Commission informing them of our desire to be included in SPLOST discussions.

14. Budget 2008-2009

- Motion to accept the 2008-2009 Budget by council Member Johnson & 2nd by Council Member Ivie. Approved 5-0. Discussion was allowed.

New Business

1. Stream Protection

- Council Member Holzman introduced the topic to the Council and provided copies of a stream protection ordinance for review and action in the future. Mr. Reitman suggested that he has an example of this type of code he could provide from another city.
- No motion was made on the topic and discussion was offered.

2. Meeting Duration

- Council Member Cape asked members to consider limiting the amount of time for each meeting. The city attorney suggested that some cities use work session to increase effectiveness since people are usually not 'as sharp' after two plus hours in session.

3. Motion on the Clerk

- Council Member Cape said this could be handled in the executive session.
- No other discussion on this item at this time.

4. Sidewalk Ordinance

- Council Member Johnson asked the council to plan to revamp the sidewalk ordinance because members of the council had voiced the opinion that it was not on strong legal footing.
- Mr. Reitman suggested that he has a good sidewalk ordinance he can provide the Council.

5. Mayor pro-tem duties

- Council Member Holzman asked about who had keys and who was on the checking accounts; Mayor Thomas stated that he was working on getting post office box keys to the clerk.

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 work session will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday, July 14, 2008.)

1. Council Member Johnson asked the Council to change the date of the July Meeting. The decision was postponed until after executive session.
2. Agenda item request were received for the July 08 meeting.
3. Motion by Council Member Cape to move to executive session to discuss legal/personnel matters & 2nd by Ivie. Approved 5-0. Town lawyer Joe Reitman was present during this session.

Executive Session on Personnel

4. The Council reconvened minus Council Member Ivie.
5. Motion to postpone July meeting and hold a work session on July 14 at 7:30 pm with public input to complete rules of order, clerk job duties packet, and park maintenance job description by Council Member Johnson and second by Council Member Holzman. Approved 4-0
6. Motion to adjourn by Council Member Cape and second by Council Member Holzman. Approved 4-0

Respectfully Submitted by Fred Johnson