

# 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

**May 12, 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  
Heike Mueller        1551 Falcon Ridge Ln  
County Commissioner Chuck Horton  
Bishop Mayor Johnny Pritchett  
Ashley Hood & daughter  
Lenora Vaughn  
Linda Goad

## Monthly Business

1. Financial Statement for April accepted 4-1(Dawe Against). 1<sup>st</sup> by Council Member Ivie & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Cape

- Mayor Thomas reimbursed Council Member Cape for yard damage by Oconee County road trucks. Council Member Cape explained that pictures and explanation were turned in to the Mayor.
- Mayor Thomas decided to spend about \$2,000 for a laptop computer and software for the interim-city clerk to use without the approval of the council; he was questioned and said he decided to move forward because we had a budget item for office equipment.

2. Minutes for April accepted on a 5-0 1<sup>st</sup> by Council Member Cape & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Holzman

- Discussion about past 4 months minutes not being completed.
- 25 minutes spent correcting the draft minutes because of many errors made in the draft minutes.
- Complaint about the time spent on this made by Susan Marcantonio-Capamachio.

## Old Business

### 1. City Park

- Weed Wrench loaning discussed.
- Park clean-up was discussed and set for June 14.
- Information for reserving the park will be placed on the web site

- Park equipment ideas discussed. Council approved efforts by citizens to make a balance beam out of cedar logs donated to the city. Motion by Council Member Dawe & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Johnson to approve the installation of cedar beams in park. Approved 5-0.

## **2. Law Enforcement Update**

- Council Member Dawe presented a resolution approved by Sheriff Berry and Captain Phillip Gainy. Insurance and authority for extra patrols would be under the Sheriff; \$30/hour for three hour minimum. This job has not been posted at the Sheriff's office, however, several officers are interested; Council Member Cape apologized for his mistake of informing the council that had been advertised. Motion by Council Member Holzman & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council Member Dawe to approve the resolution. Approved 5-0.
- Council Member Dawe was asked to discuss the time periods and equipment needs with Sheriff Berry.

## **3. Street Improvements**

- Discussion of work being done on Rays Church and Mayor Thomas asked Council Member Ivie to get patch fixed on Plantation Road. This is the fourth request to have Plantation Road holes repaired.

## **4. HSES**

- No updates from Mayor; Council Member Holzman reported that he has also checked and been told that there are no plans in place for the school to be open for the beginning of next school year.
- Violet Dawe talked with Sheriff Berry about traffic at the new school, and he said they are making plans for traffic. He will keep us informed as his plans develop.

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

- Council Member Steve Holzman asked for minutes to be given to him for this year, 2008.
- Discussion about the design of the web site; a few more council members asked to be linked to the web site. Mayor was asked again to provide city documents such as monthly spending reports which have been requested for the web site.

## **6. Audit Update**

- Will be done by July according to the Mayor.

## **7. Meeting Rules of Order**

- Council Member Johnson asked council members if they have had time to reflect on these items over the last 3 months since the council last held a work session and the lawyer has gone over them. Council Member Johnson asked council members to be prepared to discuss the rules at the next meeting.

## **8. Business License**

- Mayor Thomas took questions from the council on his proposal; he then proposed the first hearing on this change in city code to be held immediately before the next council meeting.
- Mayor Thomas then presented two business licenses. First business offering tech support and sales (LG Electronics Mobile Communications, USA) was tabled for further information, and second business selling bows (Sweetbows) online was approved 5-0. Motion made by Council Member Johnson and Seconded by Council Member Holzman.

## **9. Job Description/Advertising for permanent Town Clerk**

- Mayor Thomas argued that we need to work on this item in more depth in a special called meeting or work meeting and then get approval from GMA and other steps.
- Council Member Johnson argued that we should proceed with designing our job description.

- Mayor Thomas complained that we were moving too fast and that the council was using the town lawyer too much.
- Council Members Johnson and Holzman continued to push the council to discuss what they want in a job description. Council Member Cape raised other issues like providing the clerk a work place. Mayor Thomas pointed out a few of the items in the job description which were repetitious.
- Mayor Thomas said he could go with the Watkinsville job description in their charter and then read it to the council at the request of Council Member Johnson. Motion was made by Council Member Holzman to adopt the Watkinsville job description and seconded by Council Member Cape. Approved 5-0
- Motion by Council Member Cape to remove the title of interim from our present clerk was seconded by Ivie. Failed 2-3 (Dawe, Johnson, & Holzman voted no.)
- Motion made by Council Member Holzman to use the job description to advertise in the local paper and the GMA web site; second by Council Member Johnson. Council Member Cape repeatedly accused other council members of having ulterior motives, and Council Member Johnson pointed out that we should not attack fellow council member's motives. David Lawrence made a statement concerning the demands of citizens for more professional and transparent government; he said advertising this position would move toward that. Susan Marcantonio-Capamachio spoke out against formalizing the clerk job description and advertising the position. Passed 4-1 (Cape voted against.)

## **10. Mayor pro-tem duties**

- Council Member Johnson suggested we move this to a future meeting

## **11. Noise**

- Council Member Dawe reported that she looked into this with the Sheriff and citizens; she asked the council to consider a more restrictive noise ordinance.
- Linda Goad asked the council to take action on noise within the city. She has approached the city, mayor, and Oconee County Sheriff's Office over the last few years about this.
- The Council discussed possible actions. Mayor Thomas told Mrs. Goad that people are required to insulate buildings for noise and Oconee code enforcement or Sheriff could be contacted to enforce this Oconee County noise restriction.

## **12. Fire Department**

- Oconee County has not finalized their budget, and Chief Daniel will get back to Council Member Dawe with request.
- David Lawrence reported that the fire department has said they would love to have the donated basketball goal which he painted at the fire department.

## **13. Building Codes Enforcement**

- Mayor Thomas reported that when the Oconee Comprehensive Plan is finished we will be able to adopt a resolution to work with the County on this item.

## **New Business**

**1. January & February minutes** – need to accept copy of the minutes with corrections outline in previous meetings

- Mayor Thomas asked Council Member Johnson for help in finalizing these.

## **2. SPLOST Ideas**

- Council Member Johnson asked the Council to consider ideas to be presented to the county and to review the 2004 SPLOST law he emailed to council members. He presented the ideas of retiring the park debt, installing sidewalks, and building a new town hall. The council spent more time discussing how to proceed on the town hall; town members spoke in favor of this

**3. Bishop Mayor Johnny Pritchett** invited the council to attend a dinner on Tuesday night which will be a community gathering and political forum for new candidates.

**4. Ashley Hood of Hickory Lake** came to the Council to thank the town for purchasing of the weed wrench and Council Member Holzman for coming to their privet pull to help remove privet. She also informed the council that she is running for a Board of Education seat and is the only person in the High Shoals area running for the BOE.

### **5. 2008-2009 Budget Considerations**

- Mayor Thomas asked the Council to consider the town's budget for the next year.
- The mill rate will have to be adopted in the next couple of months, but the budget has to be adopted by June 30.
- The Council decided to have a work session to discuss the city budget on Tuesday, May 27 from 7-8pm

### **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, June 16, 2008.)*

1. June meeting date was changed to June 16. Motion by Council Member Holzman and Second by Council Member Dawe. Vote 5-0.

2. Council Member Johnson brought forward concerns by a citizen concerning the cost of hooking up to water lines; Mayor Thomas responded that there are normal fees that apply and he would take the citizens questions. Council Member Johnson also reported a request for the city to look into new avenues for the cable franchise as suggested; Mayor Thomas said he would contact the person with ways they could help.

3. Motion to adjourn by Council Member Johnson and second by Council Member Dawe. Vote 5-0

Respectfully Submitted by Fred Johnson