

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

Town of North High Shoals

Mayor Jeff Thomas

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Minutes

November 10, 2008 at 7:30 pm

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

Others Present:

Suzanne & Mike Beall	212 Jefferson Road
Joey & John Westman	221 Hillsboro Road
Steve Tucker	Shadyfield Lane
Beth Schneider	Shadyfield Lane

Agenda Setting

- Council agreed to proceed with agenda as presented by Council Member Holzman. Motion by Cape & 2nd by Dawe. Approved 4-0.

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 October 13, 2008 by Council Member Holzman and 2nd by Council Member Johnson. Approved 3-0-1(Council Member Cape Abstains).
 - Motion to accept the draft minutes of October 27, 2008 by Council Member Holzman and 2nd by Council Member Johnson. Approved 3-0-1(Council Member Cape Abstains).
 - Motion to accept the work session minutes of October 20 by Council Member Holzman and 2nd by Council Member Johnson. Approved 3-0-1(Council Member Cape Abstains).
 - Motion to accept the work session minutes of November 03 by Council Member Holzman and 2nd by Council Member Johnson. Approved 3-0-1(Council Member Cape Abstains).

Statements by the Public

- Steve Tucker expressed his disappointment at a variance which was granted to property on Shadyfield Lane at previous meeting on October 27, 2008. Council Member Holzman responded by explaining the variance granted by the council on October 27 and pointing out that many of the other lots owned by Vicki Presley have been placed in conservation easement. Council Member Holzman shared information from GIS mapping and the Oconee County tax records which show problems with surveys which will have to be dealt with by the council in the future. Council Member Dawe also responded.
- Comment made on behalf of Tara Clark by Council Member Johnson in regards to her opposition to the Shadyfield Lane variance and hunting with rifles in town limits.

Old Business:

1. Audit Update

- Council Member Dawe reported that in her latest conversation with Town Accountant Hawkins there were still problems. He is having trouble getting the town's financial statements and the Department of Community Affairs forms to balance. Problems specifically with 2006 and 2004 were noted. The problem seems to be that the city has extra money that cannot be accounted for. Mayor Thomas is having trouble making contact with Hawkins. Mayor Thomas has not yet gotten to the bank to sign the forms to place Council Member Dawe on the town bank accounts.

2. City Park

- Council Member Johnson reported that placing the gate between the town park and HSES is making progress.
- Council Member Dawe reported that the Athens Banner Herald had a nice article on our Town's purchase and loaning of a weed wrench.

3. Law enforcement update

- Discussion of 4-wheelers in town, stolen aluminum, stolen decorations, and law enforcement.
- Motion by Council Member Johnson to allow Council Member Dawe to move forward with requesting extra patrols in the town by the Sheriff's Department during business days in the late afternoon and early evening. 2nd by Council Member Holzman. Approved 4-0.

4. Street improvements

- Extensive discussion on the condition of roads in town and creating a priority list. The State of Georgia has granted North High Shoals paving for approximately 300 feet. Council Member Holzman will ride the town roads and create a list of roads for paving.
- Speed bump location discussion for Hillsboro and Plantation. Speed bumps will be placed on the agenda for the next month.
- No information yet back from Council Member Cape about embedding reflective triangles in speed bumps.

5. HSES

- Reports of some vandalism at the school.

6. Web Site - at <http://www.northhighshoals.org/>

- Council Member Holzman will be adding charter, minutes, and hunting warning on site. The council also discussed placing the hunting rules and charter at the Post Office.

7. Business License

- Questions 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 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.

8. Hiring a City Clerk

- Council Member Dawe reported four resumes sent for the position thus far. Council decided to adjust the ad in the Oconee Enterprise this week to reflect the part time nature of the job; Mayor Thomas will call the Oconee Enterprise. In December the council will discuss the applicants and decide who to invite for interviews

9. Fire Department

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

10. Code Enforcement

- Council discussed community tire day where the council could organize a tire pick-up day. Another suggestion was made to have a trash dumpster day.
- Suzanne and Mike Beall asked if there had been a resolution for the questions brought out about the business located at 202 Plantation. No answers yet from the

town lawyer. They asked for customers, deliveries, and wreckers to be eliminated. They would like for the council to find a solution and enforce the town zoning while having the person operating the garage to be able to make a living.

11. SPLOST Update

- Council Member Holzman provided a map and list to the city of all city roads and their length. The council discussed the need of roads in the town when balanced with the other three priorities for SPLOST.

12. Town Charter

- Council Member Dawe reported on the work of the council on this document thus far. Extensive discussion about time table for finishing and advertising for public meetings occurred. Mayor Thomas stated that trying to complete the charter by the January meeting was unfair to the public considering that December and January were busy months; Council Member Johnson stated he was worried about finishing the process before resignations occurred which denied the council a quorum. Council discussion then proceeded into resignation timelines due to the impact resignation of the Mayor and a council member would have on completing the charter.

13. Resignation Request - Update

- Council Members Dawe reported that the city attorney said the best time for the mayor to resign would be at the end of the January meeting after the new charter was passed. Council Member Johnson asked Mayor Thomas and Council Member Cape about their resignation intentions because if they were to resign the Council would no longer have a quorum to operate.
- Extensive discussion of the implications of resignation for the completion of the town charter occurred. Mayor Thomas assured the council he will stay in his position and allow the town to maintain a quorum to complete the charter. The Council then proceeded to schedule hearings and meetings noted below for completing the new charter by February, 2009.

New Business:

1. City Code

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

2. Meeting Schedule Changes

- Motion to set the following work sessions, public hearings, and meeting dates by Council Member Johnson and 2nd by Council Member Holzman. Approved 3-0. (Council Member Cape had left the meeting at this time.)
 1. Work Session November 17, 2008 from 6:00-7:30 pm.
 2. Public Hearing December 01, 2008 from 7:00-7:30 pm.

3. Regular Meeting December 01, 2008 at 7:30 pm.
4. Public Hearing January 12, 2008 from 7:00-7:30 pm.
5. Regular Meeting January 12, 2008 at 7:30 pm.

3. March Special elections

- Motion by Council Member Johnson to approve a letter written by Council Member Holzman asking the Oconee County Board of Elections to provide assistance for the March special election to fill an open council seat. Approved 3-0.

4. Golf Cart Friendly Town

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

5. Cable Service (Franchise)

- Mayor Thomas presented the idea that the council needs to consider a resolution requiring state licensed cable franchises to pay certain city franchise fees.

6. Shadyfield Lane Lots Variance Request (Victoria Presley - owner)

- No action was taken by the council on this agenda item. Item requested to be removed from the agenda.

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, December 1, 2008. A public Hearing will be held before this meeting on the Town Charter at 7:00 pm.)

1. Discussion of the tree stump left in John Westman's front yard. Mayor Thomas will check into this and we will deal with this on the next month's agenda.
2. Schedule for hiring a clerk needs to be set.
3. Training deadlines were questioned.
4. Motion to Adjourn by Council Member Johnson and 2nd by Council Member Holzman. Approved 3-0.

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