

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

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

June 15, 2009 at 7:30 pm

Regular Monthly Meeting

Council and Staff Present: Mayor Jeff Thomas
Council Member Violet Dawe
Council Member Fred Johnson
Council Member Eddie Cape
Council Member Steve Holzman
Town Treasurer Kate George
Town Clerk Carolyn Pritchett

Others Present: Scott Wilson Brian Gilley
Sarah Donegan David Lawrence

Mayor Thomas called the June, 2009 meeting of the City Council of North High Shoals to order on June 15, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. The regular council meeting followed the public hearing regarding the proposed 2009-2010 budget.

Agenda Setting

The first order of business for council was to accept or reset the arrangement of the agenda items. **Council Member Fred Johnson made the motion to accept the agenda after making three order changes. Council Member Steve Holzman made the second, and the vote was unanimous.**

Monthly Business

1. Financial Statements/Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Kate George detailed a complete list of all recent financial actions. She stated that the balance of the money market account is \$34,166.67, and the general fund account has a balance of \$58,803.05. **Council Member Steve Holzman made the motion to accept the May, 2009 financial statement, and Council Member Violet Dawe made the second. The vote was unanimous.**

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After discussion of the 2008-2009 fiscal year financial reports, **Council Member Fred Johnson made the motion to also accept these reports, and Council Member Steve Holzman made the second. The vote was unanimous.**

2. Draft Minutes for May, 2009. Draft minutes from the last meeting were presented to council for approval. After one minor correction regarding the no-parking signs, **Council Member Fred Johnson made the motion to accept these minutes. Council Member Violet Dawe made the second, and the vote was unanimous.**

3. Public Comments. There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

Old Business

1. Street Improvements. Mr. Brian Gilley, representative from All About Asphalt, updated council on city road improvement needs and costs. All About Asphalt was awarded the contract to resurface Jefferson Road from Highway 186 to the forks of the road, and this discussion focused on other minor road maintenance needs. After discussion, **Council Member Violet Dawe made the motion to authorize an extra \$2,000 for additional road repair and maintenance costs, as necessary. Council Member Steve Holzman made the second, and the vote was unanimous.**

2. Budget Reallocation Resolution; Treasurer Report. Treasurer Kate George presented supplementary financial information, as well as a resolution for council approval. The resolution will officially accept the changes that were previously approved regarding transferring funds from one category to another category within the 2008-2009 budget. After discussion on the appropriations, **Council Member Fred Johnson made the motion to accept the resolution, and Council Member Violet Dawe made the second. The vote was unanimous.**

3. Town Clerk Report. Written report was submitted by the Clerk; no discussion.

4. Town Budget for 2009-2010. Council considered the proposed 2009-2010 budget that was presented at the May, 2009 council meeting, as well as at the public hearing. Topics included the budget categories, the anticipated expenses and revenue, the November election expenses, the park loan, street improvement expenditures, payroll, legal expenses, training

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expenses, etc. The future SPLOST funding was also discussed. **Council Member Fred Johnson made the motion to accept the 2009-2010 budget of \$157,700, which includes the contingency account. Council Member Eddie Cape made the second, and the vote was unanimous.**

5. Building Permits; Inspector Position. Mayor Thomas reported that no permits have been applied for in May. He also stated that he would have a discussion with Mr. Rick Dudley regarding inspection fees and his interest in serving on an as-needed basis as Building Inspector for North High Shoals.

6. Business licenses. Mayor Thomas stated that no town business licenses have been received, although a regular insurance license fee had been received.

7. City Park. Mayor Thomas reminded council and visitors of the June 18 meeting to gather city park improvement suggestions. He asked park committee member David Lawrence to update council about the park meeting plans or agenda. Mayor Thomas suggested that a glass-enclosed bulletin board and that a suggestion box could be installed at the park, and Council Member Eddie Cape suggested using a residential mail box as a suggestion box. Council Member Violet Dawe suggested using an aerial map for planning purposes. Council Member Eddie Cape discussed the “no parking” signs for the park roadside, and it was decided to ask Oconee County to assist in installing these signs. Mr. Lawrence stated that the cord that raises the American flag at the park was broken. Mayor Thomas will ask a resident to assist with this project

8. High Shoals Elementary School. Mayor Thomas recommended that council and the town citizens support the elementary school by offering funds to the school that could be used for benches, library books or other school needs. He suggested that money which had been previously designated for the volunteer fire department could be reallocated to the elementary school this year. Council Member Violet Dawe suggested that council could meet with school officials to determine what items were needed, and Council Member Steve Holzman suggested donating \$1,000 for library books and possibly \$2,000 for other items the school might want. Discussion followed. Mayor Thomas stated that he would talk with Dr. Jackson (Oconee County Board of Education) about a possible financial donation from the citizens of North High Shoals. Mr. Lawrence stated that the school would like to have a print of the High Shoals water fall. Mayor Thomas will contact the Oconee Chamber of Commerce to request a copy of the print for the school. Discussion will continue at the next Council meeting.

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9. Sidewalk Safety Survey. A Sidewalk Safety Survey has been prepared for possible use in a Safe Routes to School grant application and for council information. Discussion followed about a sidewalk, future costs, including a potential crossing guard, etc. A letter and sidewalk safety survey was distributed to council for review and suggestions. The survey requesting citizen comments and information could be mailed to residents and possibly included in the welcome packets distributed by the school. Council Member Fred Johnson is heading this grant project, and Mayor Thomas stated that he would help in any way that he could. **Council Member Eddie Cape made a motion to proceed with the survey, and Council Member Steve Holzman made the second. The vote was unanimous.**

10. Street Reflectors for Speed Platforms. Council Member Eddie Cape suggested that the town should recruit someone who is covered by insurance to install the reflectors to the speed bumps. It was suggested to contact B.J. Ivie or All About Asphalt to complete this assignment.

11. Keep High Shoals Beautiful Day. Mayor Thomas stated that a dumpster can be placed at the park for resident use for a cost of \$300. After discussion, it was agreed by council to wait until a weekend later in the year to order this container.

12. Web site. Council Member Steve Holzman stated that the city council minutes (1996-Present) are now posted on the website, as well as the park meeting and call for park suggestions. Town businesses will be updated also.

13. Fire Department. Council Member Violet Dawe stated that she has nothing new to report regarding the Fire Department, and Council Members Eddie Cape and Violet Dawe suggested that this item could be removed from the regular council agenda until requested or needed, and council agreed.

14. New City Code. The updating and compilation of new city codes was discussed. Council Member Fred Johnson suggested scheduling additional code work sessions. It was agreed to meet on July 9 and July 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall to work on the new city codes and to publicize the work session dates.

15. FEMA. Council Member Violet Dawe stated that she had been in contact with the Oconee County Emergency Management Department secretary regarding FEMA. The Emergency Management secretary will get in touch with Quinton Still (retired) and will forward the information to city council. Council Member Violet Dawe stated that the flood-

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plain map has been revised and that the council would need to adopt a new ordinance. This new ordinance would require a review by the town attorney and a publicized public hearing. The deadline for this updating is September 2, 2009. Mayor Thomas suggested that B. R. White (county employee) could help, as he is in charge of this for Oconee County. Mayor Thomas gave Council Member Steve Holzman a computer disk with the new flood plain map, and passed out other information to council. Council Member Violet Dawe is assigned the task of updating the ordinance.

16. Citizen Question on Home Fire Safety. Mayor Thomas stated that a citizen has asked about a water line extension into town for home fire safety. Discussion followed about running a line from Highway 186 to Jefferson or Plantation Road. Mayor Thomas stated that this would probably be accomplished with the SPLOST funding.

17. Occupation Tax/Business License. Mayor Thomas stated that the old business license forms would be replaced by the occupation tax application. Application draft forms were circulated, and discussion followed about the form and the charges. Discussion topics included the administrative fee, which could be \$25 and would cover up to 5 or 10 employees, and a possible fee for additional employees, up to a certain amount. Also discussed was maintaining just the current \$25 flat fee. After discussion, Council Member Eddie Cape suggested using the current \$25 fee and sending the draft to the attorney for approval, and council agreed.

18. Mayor's Future Plans. Mayor Thomas answered a question from resident David Lawrence about the Mayor's resignation, and Mayor Thomas stated that he would not retire before the next election, and has no set plans at this time.

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 the Town Clerk. Look for the agenda for the next council meeting on the town's web site or office bulletin board a week before the next meeting. The next council meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2009)

1. NEGRC Commission. Oconee County Board of Commissioners recommended Amrey Harden as the 2009-2010 representative for Oconee County to the NE Georgia Regional Commission, and Mayor Thomas has agreed that Mr. Harden would be a good choice.

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2. Walton EMC Franchise Agreement. Walton EMC has sent a franchise agreement to be signed and returned for franchise fees to be included on the bills and to be collected for the town. **Council Member Violet Dawe made the motion to ask Walton EMC to list and charge the franchise fee. Council Member Steve Holzman made the second, and it was unanimous.**

3. Monroe Gas Transition. Monroe Gas service has been transitioned over to Georgia Natural Gas Light Company. The city council has until August 21, 2009 to select an alternative provider, if council does not want to use Georgia Natural Gas.

4. Census. Mayor Thomas reported that the 2010 Census Meeting was held in Watkinsville, and that Oconee County employee B. R. White will be in charge of this project.

5. July Meeting Change. Mayor Thomas stated that there would not be a quorum for the regularly-scheduled July 20 city council meeting and suggested changing the meeting date. **Council Member Violet Dawe made the motion to change the meeting date from July 20 to July 27 at 7:30 p.m., and Council Member Fred Johnson made the second. The vote was unanimous.**

6. Telecommunications Tower. Mayor Thomas excused himself from the Mayor's position on this item of business, as the property belongs to him. Mayor Tempore Violet Dawe led this portion of the meeting. She asked Mayor Thomas about the status of the proposal insofar as the Planning Commission is concerned. Council Member Fred Johnson suggested asking the town's representative on the Planning Commission to notify council when the cell tower discussion will be heard by the Planning Commission. Other questions were asked regarding the property, company, etc. The cell tower is being applied for by Verizon Wireless and it is on Mayor Thomas' property. Council Member Steve Holzman asked about AT&T co-locating on the same tower. Council Member Steve Holzman also updated council on legislative procedures regarding cell towers.

There was no other business or comments, and **Council Member Fred Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Council Member Eddie Cape made the second, all agreed, and the meeting was adjourned.**