

Mayor –Robert M. Beall  
Post 1 –Jason Wisniewski  
Post 2 – Steve Holzman  
Post 3 – David Lawrence  
Post 4 – Stephen Arnold  
Post 5 – Violet Dawe

# Town of North High Shoals

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## OFFICIAL MINUTES TOWN OF NORTH HIGH SHOALS, GEORGIA FEBRUARY 20, 2012

### Council Present:

Mike Beall                      Violet Dawe                      Jason Wisniewski  
David Lawrence                Steve Holzman                Stephen Arnold (slightly late arrival)

### Visitors:

John MacKay                      Trey Downs                      Tim and Lisa Jackson  
Butch, Sheila and Wes Shepherd

### REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Beall called the regular monthly council meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Mayor Beall asked if there were any changes to the agenda or to the January, 2012 minutes. Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept the agenda, with an order change. Council Member Lawrence made the second, and the vote was unanimous. Council Member Lawrence made the motion to accept the minutes with a minor correction, and Council Member Holzman made the second. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Beall presented the financial statement and account balances. Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept the Financial Statement. Council Member Wisniewski made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

### Item 1. Business Occupation Tax Certificates

- a) Athens Area Insulation – Mr. Tim Jackson stated that his request was mostly for office use, and that most of the insulation storage, etc. would be at his son's house in Walton County. After discussion regarding home occupation regulations, the product, business procedures, delivery and other traffic, sign regulations, etc., Council Member Holzman made the motion to approve the application, and Council Member Dawe made the second. The vote was unanimous to approve a Provisional Business License (as the property location is zoned residential) and to issue the letter from the town attorney regarding Provisional Business Licenses as well as a copy of the Home Occupation Ordinance.
- b) Berry Coating (BCI) – After discussion, Council Member Holzman made the motion to approve the application for a regular business license for BCI. Council Member Wisniewski made the second, and the application was approved, with Council Member Arnold abstaining due to his employment with the firm.
- c) Tops Tree Service – Council discussed the permit application and that Mr. Brown's property purchase was in the 1980's (before the current zoning was effective). After discussion, council agreed that commercial vehicles in this district should be limited to 3 vehicles. Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept the Provisional Business License, and Council Member Arnold made the second. The vote was unanimous to grant the application and to also send the letter from the attorney and the Home Occupation Ordinance.

### Item 2. Street Update

Council Member Lawrence stated that he had not received an update from Oconee County regarding the state survey of Hillsboro Road. He did report that the Georgia State Patrol is checking in the area for traffic violations.

Council Member Arnold will contact the Sheriff's Office about the need for more patrol on Elder Road.

Discussion included truck traffic, and it was suggested that the Department of Transportation or the Department of Public Safety might have suggestions. Council also discussed speed limits, radar use, stop signs, flashing lights near the park and/or fire station, and speed bumps. Mayor Beall will set up a meeting with Oconee County representatives to discuss Hillsboro Road. He will also contact the city attorney, Mr. Reitman, with questions on possible speed bump liability issues, etc.

### Item 3. City Park Update

Council Member Lawrence reported that more bulbs have been planted, and that there are still bulbs left to be planted around the flagpole. Other topics discussed included the property located near the park, park lawn maintenance, etc.

Council discussed a request for park usage for the April 7 Tony Serrano Century Bike Ride. Council Member Lawrence made the motion to approve the request, and Council Member Dawe made the second. The vote was unanimous.

Council also discussed a request from the High Shoals Christian Church to use the park on April 8 for a community Easter Egg Hunt. Council Member Lawrence made the motion to approve, and Council Member Arnold made the second. The vote was unanimous.

### Item 4. Disk Golf Request

Mr. Butch Shepherd introduced his son, Wes Shepherd, who distributed disk golf informational folders. They asked council to consider adding a 9-hole disk golf course (9 metal baskets on poles) to the High Shoals Park. Discussion followed regarding the course, a possible 6-hole course, future plans for the park, possible grant, etc. This item is tabled for more study.

### Item 5. Dog Day

Mr. John MacKay, organizer for the annual event discussed Dog Day and the need for some type of electricity for microphone and the Dock Dog exhibit.

### Item 6. Speed Monitor

Payment has been mailed for the speed monitor, and Council Member Holzman will transport it. Discussion followed regarding installation, the weight of the sign, the concrete mold, pole, warranty, etc.

### Item 7. Rules of Order

Council Member Holzman will update the town's website regarding the rules of order, which is a part of the code.

### Item 8. Ray's Church Road

Council Member Holzman stated that the town's request to change some house address numbers on Ray's Church Road (from 3 digits to more uniform 4 digits) is being worked on by Oconee County staff.

### Item 9. Historic Signs

Council Member Dawe asked council members to photograph or draw any interesting small signs depicting a town's historic district for ideas for North High Shoals signs.

### Item 10. Speed Bumps

Council agreed that strategically-placed speed bumps are effective in managing traffic speed. Mayor Beall will discuss this option with the attorney. Mayor Beall will contact engineer Mark Campbell about a speed bump on Plantation Road and its possible relocation due to a homeowner request.

### Item 11. Fire Department

Mayor Beall stated that he had received a note from the Fire Department (NHS station) asking for financial assistance. Mayor Beall will talk with Chief Thaxton regarding their specific needs, as well as their opinion on speed bumps.

Item 12. Blue Bird Trail

Council Member Holzman stated that he had built three blue bird houses and will install them at the park soon.

Item 13. Possible Town Hall Subcommittee

Mayor Beall asked if council might want to appoint a committee to investigate the possibilities for a new Town Hall. Council agreed, and a notice will be posted.

Item 14. Mayor's Update

- a) Mayor Beall and Council Member Wisniewski updated council on their recent training in Athens.
- b) Mayor Beall discussed the future construction of a Caterpillar equipment facility on Highway 316.
- c) Council Member Dawe reminded council that the zoning regulations should be updated soon, and a fall work session was suggested.
- d) Mayor Beall shared a letter from the Department of Transportation about an upcoming training that the clerk or a council member should attend.
- e) Mayor Beall suggested that the building inspector, Morgan Wheeler, visit the park to determine the specifics of running electricity to the pavilion. Council Member Dawe made the motion in favor, and Council Member Arnold made the second. The vote was affirmative, with Council Member Lawrence casting an opposing vote.
- f) Mayor Beall stated that he had not received a notice of a follow-up meeting date for the Service Delivery Agreement with Oconee County, but will let council know when it's been set.
- g) Mayor Beall stated that the town needed a large updated official zoning map. Council Member Holzman volunteered to work on this project. Council Member Dawe recommended a work session to gather information.
- h) Mayor Beall asked about the black vultures that nest in the old barn on park property. Discussion about the barn will continue next month.
- i) Mayor Beall asked council for clarification regarding his discussions with the attorney. Council agreed that Mayor Beall could use his discretion in attorney use.
- j) Council Member Lawrence volunteered to bush-hog an overgrown section of park property.

There was no other business or comments for the regular council meeting, and Council Member Holzman made the motion to adjourn. Council Member Wisniewski made the second, and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.



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Carolyn Pritchett, Clerk