

*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  
MARCH 19, 2012

Council Present:

Mike Beall                      Violet Dawe                      Jason Wisniewski  
David Lawrence                Steve Holzman                  Stephen Arnold

Visitors:      Trey Downs                                      Horst Klein                                      Heike Mueller                                      Fred Johnson

**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 February, 2012 minutes. Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept the agenda, and Council Member Wisniewski made the second. The vote was unanimous. Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept the minutes as amended, and Council Member Wisniewski made the second. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Beall presented the financial statement and account balances. Discussion followed. Council Member Holzman made the motion to amend the budget by moving \$886 from the administrative category to the maintenance category. Council Member Dawe made the second, and the vote was unanimous. Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept the financial statement, and Council Member Lawrence made the second. The vote was unanimous.

Statements on Non-Agenda Items: Sheriff candidate Trey Downs spoke to council about the upcoming election and his campaign.

Item 1. Street Update

Council Member Holzman stated that he had worked with Steve Hansford of the Oconee County Planning Department regarding the renumbering of several parcels of property on Ray's Church Road. Mr. Hansford suggested that the affected residents have six months to make address changes. Council Member Holzman will check these addresses and then a letter will be sent to those citizens.

Council Member Lawrence told council that he had met with Oconee County Administrative Officer Alan Theriault regarding Hillsboro Road. Mr. Theriault conveyed support about the town's wish to slow traffic. He stated that radar, speed bumps, and flashing lights could be possible upon the completion of the state survey. Council agreed to wait to consider any measures, though Mayor Beall stated that members could be gathering information.

Council Member Holzman stated that he would transport the radar sign to the Oconee County Public Works Department for their input about installation techniques.

Item 2. City Park Update

Discussion followed on park reservations, charges, plants, lighting, the bird trail, etc.

Council discussed the request to install a disk golf course at the park. By consensus, council felt that changes to the park are contingent upon the long range plan, what residents would use, and the possible location of the new Town Hall. In addition, the project seemed a little too expensive for the park's budget, and the park property may not be large enough for a disk golf course.

Mayor Beall shared an estimate from Deaton Electric to install electricity to the pavilion. It was decided to wait on this until the long-range plan is complete. Council Member Dawe expressed her concern about the park's walking trail. This project might be considered for next year's budget.

### Item 3. Speed Bump Relocation

Mayor Beall has consulted with engineer Mark Campbell about possible relocation of a speed bump due to a Plantation Road homeowner concern. Council decided to wait for any changes until decisions on other speed bumps have been made.

### Item 4. Street Resurfacing

Council discussed the resurfacing specifics of Jefferson Road and information received by Oconee County's Public Works Department director Emil Beshara and Georgia DOT. Council also discussed Dickens Road, the possible future closing of part of Jefferson Road, etc. Mayor Beall will write a letter to Alan Theriault asking for Oconee County assistance in preparing Jefferson Road for DOT resurfacing. The estimate for patching and preparation was around \$32,000.

### Item 5. Hazard Mitigation Meetings

Council Member Arnold updated council on the Hazard Mitigation Meetings. These state-mandated meetings are scheduled by Oconee County and involves identifying and protecting the most important structures in the county from natural hazards.

### Item 6. Budget Headings

Council set the following dates for budget meetings, and Mayor Beall read the information aloud:

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** The Town of North High Shoals will conduct a public discussion on April 16, 2012 at 7:30 p.m at Town Hall for the purpose of developing a city budget for July, 2012 – June, 2013. All citizens are invited to participate in the discussion and to provide written and oral comments concerning the FY2012-13 budget.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The Town of North High Shoals will conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed budget at Town Hall on May 21 at 7:00 p.m. The Mayor's Recommended Budget will be available for public inspection after May 1 on Mondays and Tuesdays at Town Hall and on the town's website – [www.northhighshoals.org](http://www.northhighshoals.org).

**BUDGET ADOPTION:** The Mayor and Council of North High Shoals proposes to take final action on said budget at its regular council meeting – 7:30 p.m. on June 18.

### Item 7. NHS Fire Department

The NHS station of the Oconee County Fire Department has submitted a request to council seeking a donation. Discussion followed on the requested items and possibly adding this to next year's budget, but no action was taken.

### Item 8. Tiller Hardship Request

Debbie Tiller has requested that the city approve another year to her mobile home hardship request. Council Member Lawrence made the motion to grant the hardship variance. Council Member Arnold made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

### Item 9. Severe Weather Warning System

Resident Heike Mueller asked council to consider acquiring some type of severe weather warning system. Council discussed price of a warning system, as well as the NIXEL program, the Midland radios, and a land-line telephone warning system. No action was taken.

Item 10. Possible Town Hall Subcommittee

Notices have been posted on the Town Hall bulletin board and at the post office seeking citizens to serve on a Town Hall Committee. The committee will gather ideas about the new Town Hall to be built with SPLOST funds.

Item 11. Tree on Hillsboro Road

A citizen contacted Mayor Beall about a dead tree in the right-of-way. Mayor Beall found that the county would take care of the tree removal, and the tree was removed prior to the meeting.

Item 12. Official Zoning Map

Council Member Holzman stated that he would work on a current zoning map, and will need information on changes to the old map.

Item 13. Zoning Committee

Council Member Dawe stated that the town should consider a zoning committee to work on the definitions and update the zoning districts.

Item 14. Service Delivery Plan

Mayor Beall stated that he had not heard of a meeting date, but that it should be set by the BOC soon. He asked Council Members Wisniewski and Dawe to look over the document and to meet with him about their ideas.

Item 15. Office Driveway

Council Member Dawe told council that the current office driveway can be dangerous due to the slope and the loose gravel. She asked whether some type of cloth or something similar can be used to keep the gravel and soil in place. Discussion followed.

Item 16. Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

Mayor Beall stated that this mandated 4-year agreement has been signed and returned to Oconee County. It is a routine GEMA-mandated program, enabling the town to get emergency assistance from other agencies.

Item 17. Sign Retroreflective Program

Council discussed this new sign mandate, and agreed that any new signs that are ordered or erected by the town would be acceptable according to this standard issued by the Department of Transportation and the Georgia Municipal Association. Mayor Beall read part of the requirements and stated that the town should move toward replacing all signs in order to meet these requirements, and council will be working toward that goal.

Item 18. Annexation

Mayor Beall passed around a letter that deals with the recent annexation of property owned by John MacKay and Lorena DeSanta. The annexation appears to be almost complete.

Item 19. DOT Training

Mayor Beall stated that a DOT training will be held in Macon on June 28. He stated that the clerk would attend, unless a member of council wanted to.

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



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Carolyn Pritchett, Clerk