

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

108 Jefferson Road
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OFFICIAL MINUTES
TOWN OF NORTH HIGH SHOALS, GEORGIA
November 19, 2012

Council Present:

Mike Beall	Jason Wisniewski	
David Lawrence	Steve Holzman	Violet Dawe

Visitors:

Fred Johnson	John MacKay	Corinne Stiving
Amy Lawrence	Owen Lawrence	

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

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

Council Member Holzman made the motion to change the agenda order. Council Member Wisniewski made the second. The vote was unanimous. Council Member Wisniewski made the motion to accept the October, 2012 council meeting minutes with minor corrections, and Council Member Lawrence made the second. The vote was unanimous.

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

Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

Mrs. Amy Lawrence asked council to consider a community event, such as a bonfire, at the park, and to decorate a tree at the park for Christmas. Discussion will be later in the meeting.

Item 1. Town Hall Roof

Council Member Dawe stated that Town Hall needs new shingles. Council Member Wisniewski suggested that gutters should be installed at the same time. It was agreed to gather estimates to have this work done, as well as estimates for the two former fire station buildings.

Item 2. Street Update

Mayor Beall stated that work had begun on Dickens Lane, including pipe, ditchwork, base, etc. He stated that the triple-surface paving method would be used and should begin, with county help, in the spring. This work will be done with LMIG funds from the Department of Transportation (\$5,896.40) and with SPLOST funds.

He also said that Elder Extension would be the next project and that he has also talked with Mr. Beshara about Shadyfield Lane. Discussion followed.

Mayor Beall also asked council to consider a different type of speed hump for Jefferson Road. Discussion followed. Council agreed to purchase the longer speed hump (7 feet in length x 18 feet wide), rather than the two smaller ones that are divided, and Council Member Lawrence will get prices for installation. Council Member Dawe made the motion to purchase this speed hump for Jefferson Road, and Council Member Lawrence made the second. The vote was unanimous.

Council also discussed a missing sign and out-of-order streetlight near Hickory Lake Subdivision, and the radar speed sign sleeves needed for relocating the sign (specifically to Elder Road).

Item 3. Paradiso Falls Subdivision

Mayor Beall updated council on Paradiso Falls Subdivision, which was approved in the 1960's, but which was never completed, except for Shadyfield Lane. Mayor Beall passed out information from the Oconee County Tax Appraiser's Office, which stated that the remaining unfinished section of the platted subdivision has been recombined and put in the Conservation Use plan for tax purposes. The owner, Ms. Victoria Pressley, filed a Quit Claim Deed which combined the unused lots into a 32.25 acre parcel (A-06-007E). Council agreed that the subdivision plan, including proposed streets, is invalid, since it is currently recombined, taxed and recognized as one parcel.

This change will be made on the zoning map. The map will require a public hearing, and this will be planned when the map is completed.

Item 4. City Park

Council Member Lawrence thanked those who helped on Park Work Day. He stated that the park sign would need replacing soon, and that a covered bulletin board would be an advantage for public notices. He also talked about the proposed park volleyball court and his discussions with Mr. Felker (the donor) and with Mr. Peters (a contractor). Discussion also included the exercise stations and signage that would be needed there, etc.

Council discussed the request by Mrs. Lawrence for a community event, and Council Member Lawrence made the motion to host a community activity on December 21. The town will furnish the hot dogs, buns, bottled water, and paper products. Council Member Dawe made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. John MacKay suggested the solar-powered LED lights on a tree at the park, and council will consider this purchase.

Council Member Holzman stated that he had talked with Oconee County Animal Control about the increase in feral cats at the park. The Animal Control Department will place live traps at the park, if council agrees. Council Member Holzman made the motion to authorize Oconee County Animal Control to place these traps, and Council Member Dawe made the second. The vote was unanimous.

Item 5. Electronics Recycling Day

Council Member Holzman stated that the December 8 recycling event notice has been posted on the website. This is a service for citizens. Residents can bring electronic items, and these items will be taken to the county's recycling facility. He stated that possibly a tire disposal day can be planned for the spring.

Item 6. De-annexation Request

Mrs. Corinne Stiving has petitioned the council to de-annex the section of her property that is located within the city limits. The petition is for property in the Stiving Sparkling Springs Limited Partnership located on Hopping Road (A 06 010). The petition is signed by Mrs. Corinne Stiving, Mrs. Kay Stiving Lowe, and Mrs. Lisa Stiving Jordan. Discussion followed. Mrs. Stiving stated that, because her actual home structure was outside the city limits, she had never been able to run for office, vote, etc. Council Member Holzman explained how the North High Shoals map was drawn according to the charter coordinates. Mayor Beall talked to Mrs. Stiving about placing a streetlight at her driveway, voiced appreciation for her valuable service to the community, etc. Mrs. Stiving had talked to the Oconee County Board of Commissioners about her de-annexation petition, but the council has not had access to the report of that meeting, and Council Member Lawrence made the motion, because of this, to table the matter until the next council meeting. Council Member Holzman made the second. Council Member Dawe recused herself from voting in the matter because her property joins the Stiving property. Discussion followed. Council Member Holzman voiced his concern about setting a precedent and how this could affect the town in the future. Discussion followed about several items, including Mrs. Stiving's ability to vote in town elections, Mayor Beall's conversation with the town attorney citing Georgia code (OCGA 36-36-22), etc. Citizen Fred Johnson spoke about the council's responsibility to protect the town and its other citizens, his hopes for a stronger town, his appreciation of Mrs. Stiving's contributions, other large landowners who don't reside within the city limits and therefore can't vote, etc. The council vote to postpone the discussion (which was made by Council Member Lawrence) failed with Council Members Holzman and Wisniewski voting against the motion. Council Member Holzman made the motion to deny the request for de-annexation. Council Member Wisniewski made the second. Discussion followed. The motion to deny the de-annexation petition passed (3/0).

Item 7. High Shoals Elementary School Request

High Shoals Elementary School has made a request for funding from the town to supply electricity to the greenhouse. The plastic greenhouse is built, but will need a power supply for light and heat. Funds are needed to run the required wiring to the building. Council Member Wisniewski stated that the project could benefit the students, as well as the town, with plants being propagated for the park. Council Member Lawrence will gather price information, etc. for the next meeting's agenda.

Item 8. Private Drive Name

Mr. Jeff Thomas has asked council to approve the naming of the closed section of Frazier Hill Road. The road was officially abandoned and given to the family, and they would like to name that section Wade's Way. Council Member Holzman made the motion to approve. Council Member Wisniewski made the second, and the motion passed.

Mayor's Update:

- Watkinsville Christmas Parade on December 1. Candy has been purchased and the tractor secured.
- New hours of the post office.
- Ray's Church Road addresses are almost updated and final.
- Queen Property – family is working to get this ready for town permit approval. Mayor Beall stated that they are working with the Planning Commission, and the town will await the commission's opinion.
- Zoning map wording, map public hearing, etc.
- the property swap between Mr. Bill Sosebee and the Board of Education has been corrected at the Board of Education and at the Oconee County Tax Office.
- Mayor Beall asked council to consider and make recommendations on the updated Building Permit forms.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Pritchett". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Carolyn Pritchett, Clerk