

Mayor –Toby P. Bradberry
Post 1 –Eric Carlson
Post 2 – Jason Presley
Post 3 – Ann Evans
Post 4 – Paul Dotterweich
Post 5 – Violet Dawe

Town of North High Shoals

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DRAFT MINUTES
TOWN OF NORTH HIGH SHOALS, GEORGIA
COUNCIL MEETING
February 20, 2017

Council Present: Mayor Toby P. Bradberry Ann Evans Eric Carlson
Jason Presley Violet Dawe

Visitors: Joe Reitman

Mayor Bradberry called the meeting to order and declared a quorum. He asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Council Member Dawe made two motions: to reorder the agenda to allow visitor and town attorney Joe Reitman to address several issues at the top of the agenda, and to accept the agenda with that alteration. Council Member Evans made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Bradberry then presented the draft minutes and financial statements. Council Member Carlson made the motion to accept the January minutes of the regular council meeting, and Council Member Presley made the second. The vote was unanimous. Council Member Evans made the motion to accept the financial statement. Council Member Presley made the second, and the motion passed unanimously. Regarding the town's finances, Mayor Bradberry suggested that the town should seek guidance from a professional financial advisor regarding the town funds. Discussion followed, and Mayor Bradberry will make this contact.

Item 1. Gun and Noise Control

Council Member Dawe spoke about the issue of shooting near her farm, the elementary school, and local neighborhood. Because there are so many shots being fired, it is assumed that it is target practice. Attorney Reitman and council read the town's ordinances regarding firearms and noise control, and Mr. Reitman offered suggestions on how to handle this disturbance. Mr. Reitman will make suggestions on potential revisions of the existing ordinance concerning the shooting of firearms within town limits and how the matter might be handled through an intergovernmental agreement with Oconee County courts and Sheriff's Office. He stated that he has worked on these ordinances for the cities of Newbern and Union Point, and can share these ideas with North High Shoals for consideration. After discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Reitman will send a letter on behalf of the town to the property owners addressing the situation.

Item 2. Park Liabilities

Mr. Reitman recently visited the town park and viewed the barn (which serves as a vulture habitat) with Mayor Bradberry and Council Member Dawe. He suggested, to reduce the town's

possible liability, that several signs be posted around the barn. He recommended that “danger” signs and signs citing the Recreational Property Act be posted.

Item 3. Conservation Easement

Mr. Reitman discussed the pros and cons of a conservation easement. This can be used to secure property for passive recreation for the town. The Athens Land Trust works with local governments to conserve greenspace. He stated that there would be a tax advantage to the owner, and the advantage to the city would be increased permanent greenspace and administrative control.

Item 4. Street Update

Mr. Reitman was asked about the necessity of utilizing private property to alleviate street drainage problems. Discussion followed about right-of-way, condemnation and fair market value, public benefit, prescriptive title, adverse possession, etc. He stated that the city is responsible for the right-of-way, and should address any drainage issues that affect the citizens.

Mayor Bradberry stated that the town had employed a company to vacuum leaves from the ditches, and that there had been many favorable comments.

Garrett Paving will soon begin work to facilitate proper storm water drainage. The estimate for the work was \$10,000, and a check from the Ga. Department of Transportation in the amount of \$8339.99 has been received and will be put toward the total cost. (This grant was awarded based on an application submitted to the GDOT on behalf of the town.)

Item 5. Park Update

The park signs that Mr. Reitman suggested have been received, and Council Member Dawe will supervise the posting at the park. She stated that some of the debris has been removed. Mr. Moorehead, who has been working to remove the wisteria, will finish cleaning around the barn and will post the signs.

Citizen David Lawrence will bush-hog some areas of the park, and Council Member Dawe will work with him to ensure worthwhile plants remain. Mayor Bradberry suggested burning limb refuse and will get a burn permit from the Ga. Forestry Commission for this.

Mayor Bradberry suggested a wooden deck placed in the middle of the “natural” area and made accessible by several mowed paths might be a good addition to the park, and council members agreed. It could be a space to rest and contemplation, activity (yoga, tai chi, etc.), picnicking, and other similar activities. Discussion followed regarding placement, etc.

The predicted arrival date for the new piece of play equipment, the Apollo Spinner, and its future location at the park was also discussed.

Item 6. Town Hall

Discussion topics about the new town hall included adding HVAC to the front room, the handicap ramp, presentation capabilities (sound system, etc). and security measures. Mayor Bradberry advised that the architect should be working on the next steps and will attend the March council meeting.

Item 7. Mayor's Update

Various topics were discussed, including land sales and zoning, as well as the patrols by off-duty deputies.

There was no other business, and Council Member Evans made the motion to adjourn. Council Member Presley made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Carolyn Pritchett, Clerk