

Town of North High Shoals

108 Jefferson Road
P.O. Box 129
High Shoals, Georgia 30645
706-769-4289

Mayor – Kim Kraeling
Post 1 – Jason Wisniewski
Post 2 – Steve Holzman
Post 3 – David Lawrence
Post 4 – Stephen Arnold
Post 5 – Violet Dawe

DRAFT MINUTES
TOWN OF NORTH HIGH SHOALS, GEORGIA
APRIL 18, 2011
REGULAR MEETING

Council Present:

Violet Dawe
Jason Wisniewski

David Lawrence
Stephen Arnold

Steve Holzman

Visitors:

Mike Beall

John MacKay

Tony Capomacchia

Perry Glass

Mayor Kraeling was absent due to illness, and Mayor Pro Tem Violet Dawe called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

She asked if there were any changes to the agenda, and council voted to rearrange two items. Minutes were reviewed, and Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept the March minutes. Council Member Arnold made the second, and the vote was unanimous. Council reviewed the financial statements, and Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept these. Council Member Arnold made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Item 1 – Timber Permit Fine.

Attorney Joe Reitman had sent a letter to the property owner and the timber company about the recent timber cutting activity that had been done within the city limits without a permit or notice and information about a \$500 fine. Council Member Holzman introduced the subject and the related ordinance (Section 7:14). After discussion, Council Member Holzman made a motion to reduce the fine by half to \$250. Council Member Lawrence made the second. Council Member Wisniewski abstained. The motion carried. (the clerk will send an invoice)

Item 2. Dog Day, April 23

Citizen John MacKay spoke on the progress of the upcoming Dog Day at the Park. Discussion followed. Council Member Holzman will contact Horst Klein about the animal litter bag dispenser, and Council Member Lawrence will help mark areas for different activities. Council Member Holzman will deliver a cd of parade music for the doggie parade.

Item 3. Street Update

The town is trying to secure LMIG funds for Jefferson Road. Council decided to postpone a public meeting on street needs until August, as the town should know by that time if these funds will be available.

Council Member Holzman will call Oconee County BOC regarding installing a traffic counting device for Jefferson Road.

Council Member Arnold discussed the "Adopt-a-Mile" program. Discussion followed about the program, litter, community service workers, and road selection. Council Member Arnold will email the information to council for consideration. Council Member Lawrence will see if school administrators might be interested in assisting with this project. Council Member Arnold will check with the Sheriff's Office to see if a resolution or something similar might be beneficial. This item will be further discussed at the May meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem read a letter about a DOT meeting that is scheduled in Athens for May 5 from 2:00-4:00.

Item 4. City Park Update.

Council Member Lawrence stated that he had met with the new lawn maintenance personnel at the park and thought they were doing a great job. Butler's Landscape will block off the entrance during the time that they are cutting grass (currently scheduled for every other Wednesday). Council Member Lawrence spoke of the recent bike ride, mulch needs, and other park activities. Council Member Lawrence suggested a work day in June, and this will be decided at next month's meeting.

Item 5. Animal Control Ordinance

At this third public hearing on the ordinance, Council Member Holzman read aloud parts of the revised Animal Control Ordinance. This has been approved by the Oconee County Board of Commissioners. Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept the revised Oconee County Animal Control Ordinance and to include it in the town's ordinances and the website. Council Member Lawrence made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Item 6. Abandoned Structures

Council discussed the abandoned structures and the need for a code enforcement officer. Council Member Lawrence asked council to review the code for further discussion at next month's meeting. After discussion, Council Member Holzman made a motion to mail this code section (7.13) to the two mentioned property owners by certified mail. The letter should ask for the owner's plans for the structure and request a response within 30 days. Council Member Lawrence made the second. Council Member Wisniewski mentioned the old barn at the city park and discussion followed about the barn and other structures. The motion passed with Council Members Holzman, Lawrence and Arnold voting in favor, and Council Member Wisniewski opposing. More discussion will be included in next month's agenda. The Mayor, Clerk and Council Member Holzman will work on the letter and addresses.

Item 7. Code Enforcement Officer

Council discussed the possibility of hiring a code enforcement officer on an as-needed basis. Mayor Pro Tem Dawe shared information about an applicant and stated that she had also talked with the clerk for the City of Watkinsville about their part-time code enforcement officer. She will also check with the Oconee County Code Enforcement Office and possibly other governments. Discussion followed, and this item will be further discussed at next month's meeting.

Item 8. Budget

Mayor Pro Tem Dawe invited written and oral comments about the 2011-2012 budget. She stated that a public hearing would be held prior to the regular council meeting in May. In addition, the budget will be approved in a public hearing right before the regular June council meeting. The clerk will advertise.

Item 9. Insurance

Mayor Pro Tem Dawe stated that the town had received an invoice for property insurance for the next year. The amount due is \$4,326.00. Mayor Pro Tem Dawe thanked Council Member Arnold for his work in securing and comparing insurance coverage. Council agreed to submit the check to GIRMA for insurance coverage. Discussion also included Workman's Compensation, and the clerk will ask for more information on this.

Item 10. Census

Mayor Pro Tem informed council that the census showed a population of 652 people. She asked the clerk to get information about the previous census.

Item 11. Summary.

Council Member Holzman requested a summary of the minutes for the website that will show the responsibility of the council members

There was no other business or comments, and Council Member Lawrence made the motion to adjourn. Council Member Wisniewski made the second, and the vote as unanimous.

Carolyn Pritchett, Clerk