

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES
TOWN OF NORTH HIGH SHOALS, GEORGIA
FEBRUARY 21, 2011
REGULAR MEETING

Council Present:

Kim Kraeling	David Lawrence	Steve Holzman
Jason Wisniewski	Violet Dawe	Stephen Arnold

Visitors:

Tony Glenn	Chuck Horton	Cory Tiller	Jessica Tiller
Eddy Tiller	Mike Beall	John McKay	

Mayor Kraeling called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

She asked if there were any changes to the agenda or to the January, 2011 minutes. Council Member Holzman made the motion to move the bike ride request to the front of the agenda. Council Member Wisniewski made the second. The vote was unanimous. Council Member Holzman made the motion to move a building permit request closer to the top of the agenda, and Council Member Lawrence made the second. The vote was unanimous.

Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept the January minutes with minor corrections. Council Member Arnold made the second. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Kraeling presented the bank balances and the financial statement. Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept the January Financial Statement. Council Member Arnold made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Comments:

Mayor Kraeling introduced Oconee County Commissioner Chuck Horton. Mr. Horton addressed council about the county's budget and other items. He asked council to let him know of any city concerns that he could assist with.

Request for Bike Ride Approval:

Dr. Tony Glenn asked council to approve the route through town for a 62-mile bike ride scheduled for May 7, 2011. The group has also requested use of the park as a rest stop. After discussion, Council Member Holzman made the motion to approve the Tour de Oconee bike ride and park use. Council Member Dawe made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Building Permit Applications:

Mr. and Mrs. Cory Tiller submitted a building permit application to construct a detached garage near their home. Council Member Holzman made the motion to approve the application. Council Member Arnold made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Dorrie Bond submitted a building permit application to remodel a kitchen. A part of the project will be to change the electric stove for a gas stove. Council is requesting a letter of safety from the gas company representative. Council Member Arnold made the motion to accept the application. Council Member Wisniewski made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Kraeling asked for a volunteer to help her in updating building permit application and fees. Council Member Dawe volunteered to work with Mayor Kraeling on this project.

Old Business:

Item 1 – Street Update.

Mayor Kraeling stated that she had approved a request from Mr. Trey Adcock to improve Dickens Lane. Mr. Adcock installed some gravel on Dickens Lane. Council Member Holzman stated that he would talk to some contractors about filling in cracks in the pavement of Jefferson Road. Council also discussed the damage to the roads by the large trash trucks and possible solutions to this issue. Mayor Kraeling will contact Mr. Reitman about the legality of limiting the number of vendors servicing the town, collecting franchise fees, etc. Also, she'll ask if it is possible or recommended for the town to take responsibility for bidding the service, billing, etc. Discussion also included leaf and limb collection, the ability of residents to "opt out," etc.

Council Member Lawrence shared with council two estimates that he has received for gravel for Speedway Lane and Dickens Lane. Discussion followed on street needs, traffic, etc. Council agreed to table the discussion about gravel or paving until the next meeting.

Item 2. City Park Update.

Council Member Lawrence stated that he and Karl Berg had met at the town's park to determine the areas to include on the lawn maintenance request for bids for the newspaper. The bidding process for lawn care service for the town hall and the park was discussed.

Council Member Lawrence suggested changing the fees for use of the park pavilion. After discussion, Council Member Holzman made the motion to charge \$10 for town residents (and \$20 for non-residents) to reserve and use the pavilion. Council Member Dawe made the second. The vote passed, with Council Member Lawrence casting an opposing vote.

Council Member Lawrence stated that a resident had asked if a small skateboarding platform could be permanently installed at the park's paved walking path. Council Member Lawrence made the motion to deny this installation. Council Member Arnold made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Council Member Lawrence discussed the cost of a volleyball court and a possible future baseball game with Bishop.

Council Member Lawrence also shared with council information regarding the cedar trees along the park's walking trail. It was agreed that these trees should be trimmed from the bottom to allow for more walker visibility. Council also discussed the pine tree at Town Hall, and it was agreed to solicit three bids for removing this tree.

Item 3. Dog Day, April 23

Resident John MacKay updated council about plans for the Annual Dog Day planned for April 23. Some vendors might want to sell items, and it was agreed to ask them to pay \$25 to pay for advertising signs, etc. This income can be used for Dog Day items.

Item 4. Soldier Support Update

Council Member Arnold confirmed that the boxes of donated items for soldiers have been sent to six individual soldiers.

Item 5. Logging Permit Process

Council Member Dawe stated that she had talked with Joe Reitman about the recent timber cutting activity that had been done without a permit or notice within the city limits. Mr. Reitman had written a letter to be approved by council. It was agreed that Council Member Dawe will get the names and addresses of the appropriate recipient and get the information to Mr. Reitman, who will sign and mail the letters. Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept the advice of the attorney and set the fine as suggested. Council Member Lawrence made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Item 6. Frazier Hill Road Update.

Mayor Kraeling reported that the forms transferring ownership had been signed, notarized, and returned to the attorney. Mr. Reitman will send these on to the Oconee County Clerk's office.

Item 7. Cell Tower Update

Mayor Kraeling reported that engineer Mark Campbell is overseeing this project for the town. She read the letter from Mr. Campbell regarding alterations and progress of the cell tower.

Item 8. Code Enforcement

Mayor Kraeling stated that council should discuss hiring a part-time Code Enforcement Officer for the town, and she read a letter of interest from Catlyn Vickers (current Oconee County Animal Control Director). Council Member Holzman suggested that council request a letter from the Oconee County Administrative Assistant stating the county's approval of her employment with the Town of North High Shoals.

Item 9. Business License Request

An Occupational Tax Certificate renewal request has been submitted by Tops Tree Service (Stan Brown). Council Member Holzman stated that he has received comments about the tree service vehicles. It was suggested to grant a Provisional Occupational Tax Certificate, with the provision that large commercial vehicles be limited to three for that property, due to its residential zoning classification. Council Member Dawe made the motion to grant this Provisional Tax Certificate request with the parking provision. Council Member Lawrence made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Item 10. Resolutions.

Mayor Kraeling read the resolution appointing Morgan Wheeler as Building Inspector for 2011. Council Member Dawe made the motion to accept the resolution. Council Member Wisniewski made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Kraeling read the letter and Solid Waste Management resolution that the town received from the NE Georgia Regional Commission. Council Member Holzman made the motion to accept the resolution. Council Member Lawrence made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

Council discussed the recent Animal Control Ordinance revision voted on by the Oconee County Board of Commissioners. The town will need to accept this ordinance. The ordinance was discussed and will be voted upon at the next meeting.

Item 11. Budget Discussion

Council discussed the budget. Mayor Kraeling stated that the Georgia Power bills for the streetlights would be increasing almost \$100 per month. Council agreed that a few lights could possibly be removed from service.

Item 12. Upper Oconee Water Plan and Development Update

Council Member Dawe attended the NEGRC meeting and brought back material for council members. She reviewed topics discussed at the meeting, mainly the Upper Oconee Water Management Plan. She urged council and visitors to review the material and email in any concerns they might have. She stated that there would be a public comment period and meeting in May. Council Member Wisniewski also helped to explain the maps, handouts, and process. Council Member Dawe also stated that John Devine could assist the town in planning grant applications, specifically the Safe Routes to School grant. Council Member Dawe suggested that Council Member Lawrence meet with Mr. Devine to see if it would be feasible to apply for this grant. No action was taken.

Item 13. DOT Survey

Mayor Kraeling asked for assistance in answering a DOT questionnaire, and Council Member Holzman volunteered to do this road measuring and reporting.

Item 14. Park Bike Rides

Council received a letter requesting approval for the Tony Serrano Century Bike ride. They want to use the park on April 9. Council Member Holzman made the motion to approve. Council Member Wisniewski made the second, and the vote was unanimous.

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



Carolyn Pritchett, Clerk