

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, March 2, 2015 at the Anchor. Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Skip Davis gave the invocation. The Mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Gail Bailey
Council members Skip Davis, Donna Hanby, Shani Ort, Tim Peek and Connie Vice

Absent:

Town Attorney Alex Smith was also present.

February 2, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes – Ort made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Council member Vice gave the monthly financial report. Davis made a motion to renew a CD maturing this month at Hometown Bank with an APY of 1%. This is an increase from .75 APY. Ort seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ordinances – Chairman Ort reported the committee did not meet in February due to the snow.

Lake – Chairman Davis reported the committee met February 9 and continued discussions regarding buoy replacement with permanent signs. The following estimate was presented:

Pilings \$125.00 (20' pole)
Signs \$ 75.00
Lights \$100.00 (solar lights on top)
Total Each - \$300.00

Total Required – 7 (includes danger/warning sign for spillway)
Total Estimated Cost - \$2100.00

Davis recommended that firm prices be obtained next for council review.

Buildings & Grounds – Chairman Donna Hanby reported the committee met and discussed adding a baby changing station for the ladies restroom in the Anchor, and maybe adding one in the men's restroom at a later date. The committee also discussed adding a full length mirror in the ladies restroom which would also be for the handicapped and some type of mirror for the handicapped in the men's restroom. Tim Moore will obtain pricing for the baby changing stations. The next committee meeting will be Thursday, March 19 @ 10:00 AM.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bill Rush reported that the Dredging committee met February 9. A council work session with the dredging committee was scheduled for Monday, March 16 @ 7:00 PM.

OFFICER REPORT

Police Chief Scott Kon was visiting with us tonight. Kon is still on inactive duty due to his strained knee. Kon mentioned that the fuel line in the police boat needs to be checked/replaced. Kon also mentioned that the female who was caught stealing on Bear Creek/Lakeshore plead guilty.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution HL-15-01 – Display national motto “In God We Trust” in the Town Hall/Council Chambers. Discussion took place. It was suggested further study into the organization and the reasoning behind this needs to take place. Davis made a motion to table. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes.

Kenny Branch – new 24 x 12 pier & walkway – Mr. Branch is asking for a walkway and pier that would be a total of 45 feet from the bank due to the shallow water at his property location. Building Inspector Tim Moore measured the depth of water at 40-50 feet from bank – it measured 4’ deep with the lake being up 12 inches due to all the rains. At 30 feet from bank, it was 1 ½ feet deep. Hanby made a motion to approve plans as submitted. Peek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Craig Crim – request for a seawall, uncovered deck & walkway and to dredge/clean out – Mr. Crim’s property is in Sand Creek where the water is very shallow. Discussion took place. Hanby made a motion to approve the 24 x 8 pier and 5 x 30 walkway plans. Peek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Peek made a motion to approve the 200 x 4 seawall. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Crim is requesting approval to dredge/clean out between the bank and an existing island so he can place his boat there. Hanby made a motion to approve the dredging/cleaning out request as long as what is removed is used as fill for the seawall or used on his property, or disposed of at an approved site, and not

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placed back into the lake. Also approval is based on Mr. Crim assuming all liabilities for damages. Peek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Mart Hitt – new 28 x 32 boathouse on vacant lot – Peek made a motion to approve plans. Vice seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Bob Neal – add 12 x 24 sun deck – Ort made a motion to approve plans. Vice seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

The Mayor mentioned that Coach Fuller of Appalachian had passed away last night and asked that everyone keep the Fuller family in their thoughts and prayers.

The Mayor stated that Danny Kelly of the Blount County Economic Development Council would like to take the council to lunch to discuss needs and opportunities on the horizon. They would also like for the council to see their website and what is proposed for promoting Highland Lake. It was agreed that a Monday would be the best day.

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public.

Marlin Vest commented that he thought the latest community newsletter was the best and most efficient one that had been sent out, and thanked the Mayor and Town Clerk. Vest also questioned if the dredging/cleaning out work that Mr. Crim was going to do would be detrimental to his neighbor, Pam Whittaker. The response was that it should not be.

Steve Poer questioned if the paving of the roads was still on schedule. The Mayor stated the roads will be paved most likely in the April timeframe, as soon as it is 50 degrees at night consistently. The Mayor added that the county recently scrapped places that had been worn down. It is the county's intention to come in and pave as soon as it warms up.

Steve Poer also questioned if the house on the corner of CR27 and Lake Highland Drive was in the town limits because it is an eyesore. The Mayor replied it is not in the town limits and the county does not have a zoning ordinance. The Mayor did commit to talk with Judge Chris Green about this.

Council member Skip Davis also commented that the property on the left of Skyview Road was beginning to be in the same situation.

The Mayor stated there is a derelict/unsafe boathouse that we have been trying to get the property owner to remove since the tornado. Our efforts have been unsuccessful and we may need our town attorney to handle. Information will be sent to Attorney Alex Smith for review.

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Paige Cutcliffe commented that one thing he likes about our community is that we have ordinances and zoning. However, he has seen something that has been growing and evolving on Lakeshore Drive. It appears there is a construction business being operated out of a home. Mr. Cutcliffe stated that cars are left there in a stabilized parking lot, a second driveway was put in, construction materials are stored there and it seems like it has grown. Mr. Cutcliffe asked the council to look into this since we are zoned Residential.

The Mayor stated the council will look into this issue and thanked everyone for their attendance and input.

With no other business to come before the council, Vice made a motion to adjourn. Davis seconded. All said I. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Submitted 4-6-15

Cheryl Storey, Town Clerk

Approved 4-6-15

Gail S. Bailey, Mayor