



## TOWN OF HIGHLAND LAKE

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### REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024  
6:30 PM  
The Anchor

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chase Moore at 6:31 PM.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Chase Moore, Sid Nelson, Ramzi Malek,  
Bobby Rhodes, Carl Randall, Sam Pearson

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Scott Kon – Police Chief  
Tim Moore – Building Inspector  
Alex Smith - Attorney  
Mary Ann Allen-Town Clerk

Invocation was given by Sid Nelson

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Council

#### **RECOGNITION OF VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY:**

Mayor Moore read the proclamation declaring the month of November as a time to honor those who have served and who serve in the United States Armed Forces.

He asked people to stand as their branch was named so they could be recognized and thanked.

Mayor Moore had a plaque made with the proclamation and it will be displayed at the Blount County Memorial Museum in Oneonta.

#### **SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:**

They were not able to make it.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **Approval of October 1, 2024 Public Hearing Minutes:**  
Sid Nelson made the motion to accept the minutes, and Sam Pearson seconded. Carl Randall and Sam Pearson abstained, and all others voted yes. The motion passed.
- **Approval of October 1, 2024 Work Session Minutes:**  
Ramzi Malek made the motion to accept the minutes, and Bobby Rhodes seconded. Sam Pearson abstained, and all others voted yes. The motion passed.
- **Approval of , 2024 Regular Session Minutes:**  
Sid Nelson made the motion to accept the minutes, and Carl Randall seconded. Sam Pearson abstained, and all others voted yes. The motion passed.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Building and Grounds - Carl Randall**

The workers are supposed to start working on getting the popcorn ceiling taken off this week in the Anchor. The generator has not been delivered. If approved, the tables on the back deck need to be worked on.

With all the work on the Anchor, the Lady Lakers reminded the council about the Lakeside Christmas on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Lake Preservation Committee – Bill Rush**

No Report

### **Ordinance Committee – Sid Nelson**

No Report

### **Public Safety Committee – Sam Pearson**

Chief Kon stated that the four items were sold at the auction and after commission, the items brought in around \$11,000.

The grapple bucket for the skid steer has been picked up.

The committee is working on Lake rules that will need to be signed when decals are purchased.

Another email needs to be sent out telling residents not to put yard debris in the ditches. It is time to pay LESO dues which are \$250.

Sam Pearson made the motion to pay the \$250 LESO dues and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

### **Roads Committee – Josh Beck & Sam Pearson**

Josh Beck explained that they are still looking at a way to fix the drainage issues on Kennedy Drive.

The next steps are to have the 1.2-mile part of the road from bridge to bridge paved, and to work on the Five-Year Plan.

## **Finance Committee – Bobby Rhodes**

The .gov domain account is ready, just need to finish sending out the new emails.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be December 9, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

## **OFFICER REPORT – Chief of Police - Scott Kon**

Chief Kon reported that the department responded to eleven service calls for the month of October.

The department will be receiving a reimbursable grant for ballistic vests for the officers. They have been fitted and the cost of the vests will be \$4,900.

He stated that he would like to go on and pay for these out of the criminal funds account. Also, each officer may need to have an equipment pouch for their vests.

Sam Pearson made the motion to approve up to \$5,500 from the Criminal Fund for the vests and Equipment pouches, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

He made the statement that at this point, they have done all that the 911 Board has asked.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **1. Maintenance**

No change

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **2. Discuss Blount County 911 Contract**

Nothing in addition to what was discussed during the Work Session

### **3. Invoices to discuss**

- **AMIC**

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to pay the invoice and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

- **Blount County Commission**

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to pay the invoice and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Blount County 911**

Hold until more time to review contract

- **Blount County Economic Development Council**

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to pay the invoice and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Discuss Insurance Renewal**

Sid Nelson is going to review over the materials.

**5. Discuss lowering of the Lake September 2025**

Nothing in addition to what was discussed at the Work Session

Ramzi Malek made the motion to lower the Lake in September 2025, and Sid Nelson seconded the motion. Carl Randall voted no. All others voted yes. Motion passed.

**6. Lady Lakers Requests**

- **Food Drive Box for Bridging the Gap**

Bridging the Gap provides a food pantry for people of Blount County. The Lady Lakers would like for the Town to be a drop off spot.

- **5K Run and Barks in the Park April 19, 2025**

This would benefit the Animal Adoption Center of Blount County.

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to approve both projects for the Lady Lakers and Sam Pearson seconded the motion . The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Todd Barlock's request to rebuild dock**

He would like to rebuild and extend toward the adjacent property and rebuild the staircase. Tim Moore, Building Inspector, discussed the project with him and sees no issues with the plans.

Sid Nelson made the motion to approve Todd Barlock's request and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Dr. Malek's request to widen pier**

He would like to widen the pier by five to six feet. Tim Moore saw no issues with the plan.

Sam Pearson made the motion to approve Dr. Malek's request and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. Dr. Malek abstained, and all others voted yes. The motion passed.

**9. Alabama Master Gardeners request to use Anchor September 17, 2025, for Lunch and Learn**

They travel to different towns in Blount County to have their monthly Lunch and Learn. Irene Mosley will be the speaker in September.

Sid Nelson made the motion to approve the use of the Anchor at no cost as long as they do not charge for the event. Sam Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **10. Finance Committee Items**

- **FY-24 Financial Closeout**

Bobby Rhodes went over the financial report and answered questions.

- **Transfer Residual Funds to Raymond James**

After going over the financial closeout, it was recommended to move \$30,000 over to Raymond James.

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to move \$30,000 to Raymond James, and Carl Randall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Discuss unpaid Lake Use Fees**

After some discussion it was decided to invoice unpaid Lake Fees for the past two years and send certified mail with thirty days to pay.

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to invoice the unpaid fees as stated above, and Carl Randall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Discuss Auditor estimate**

Hollon Accounting Services sent a quote for doing the Town's audit.

1 Year - \$16,000 – 17,000

2 Year - \$13,500 - \$15,000 per year

- **Recommend expenditure to resurface metal picnic tables**

The cost would be \$750 each for a total of \$2,250 to come from remainder of COVID funds and residual money.

Carl Randall made the motion to resurface the picnic tables as stated above. Sam Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **11. Other business items as determined by the Council**

With no other items to discuss, Sid Nelson made the motion to adjourn and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

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Mary Ann Allen – Town Clerk

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Dr. Ramzi Malek – Mayor Pro Tem