



TOWN OF HIGHLAND LAKE

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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, December 6, 2024
7:00 PM
Town Hall Library

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro tem Dr. Ramzi Malek, at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL:

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Pro tem Dr. Ramzi Malek
Council Members: Sid Nelson, Bobby Rhodes, Carl Randall,
Sam Pearson

ABSENT: None

OTHER ATTENDEES: Scott Kon – Police Chief
Mary Ann Allen-Town Clerk

Carl Randall made a motion to nominate Gail Bailey for the position of Mayor, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to appoint Gail Bailey as Mayor, and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Gail Bailey was sworn in by Town Clerk Mary Ann Allen.

Invocation was given by Ramzi Malek

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **Approval of November 12, 2024 Work Session Minutes:**
Sid Nelson made the motion to accept the minutes, and Ramzi Malek seconded. Mayor Bailey abstained, and all others voted yes. The motion passed.

- **Approval of November 12, 2024 Regular Session Minutes**
Bobby Rhodes made the motion to accept the minutes, and Sam Pearson seconded. Mayor Bailey abstained, and all others voted yes. The motion passed.
- **Approval of November 26, 2024 Special Called Session Minutes**
Sam Pearson made the motion to accept the minutes, and Bobby Rhodes seconded. Mayor Bailey and Sid Nelson abstained, and all others voted yes. The motion passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds - Carl Randall

The inside of the Anchor has been completed. The project ended up costing \$200 extra because of painting both bathrooms.

The generator should be hooked up by the end of the month. The picnic tables are being worked on. There are four tables instead of three so the bill will be \$750 more.

It was discussed that the carpets and wood floors need to be steamed cleaned and that there is enough in the budget for this.

Carl Randall made the motion to approve the extra \$200 to paint the restrooms in the Anchor and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Carl Randall made the motion to approve the extra \$750 to cover the fourth table, and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lake Preservation Committee – Bill Rush

Birmingham Water Works will be here this week to take samples. The water samples for the last two quarters have been in range.

John Hand is having to resign from the committee due to having a full-time job. The council will need to fill his position.

It was discussed that before lowering the lake in September, there are some areas that need to be looked at closer due to erosion issues. This will be discussed further at the January meeting.

The dock fenders are in and will be installed when the water is warmer.

Wes Faulkner stated that the fish study has been completed. The recommendations from the study will be presented at the next Lake Preservation meeting so that a report can be presented at the January council meeting.

Ordinance Committee – Sid Nelson

No Report

Public Safety Committee – Sam Pearson

It was suggested to wait until Attorney Alex Smith is present to discuss the 911 contract. The siren is now working. There was a software issue on their side that had to be corrected.

Roads Committee – Josh Beck & Sam Pearson

They are working on the Five-Year Plan. It was discussed that an engineer needs to come

back out and give recommendations. Mayor Bailey said that she wants to be involved with the meetings.

Mayor Bailey reminded the committees to be sure to have approval before committing to work being done.

There are several members of the different committees coming up for renewal.

Finance Committee – Bobby Rhodes

The committee will meet on Monday, December 9, 2024.

With Gail Bailey being appointed Mayor, the committee needs to replace her position. He went over the financial report and answered several questions.

OFFICER REPORT – Chief of Police - Scott Kon

Chief Kon reported that the department responded to twenty-five service calls for the month of November.

Chief Kon reminded everyone to please be alert and report anything that doesn't seem right.

The Chief's Conference will be in Montgomery during February.

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to approve \$1,000 for Chief Kon to attend the Conference. Sam Pearson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Explorer needs to have the brakes worked on.

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to approve up to \$500 to repair the Explorer, and Sid Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Maintenance

Rusty Brown is coming in for an interview on Monday.

2. Discuss Blount County 911 Contract

It was decided to wait until the Town Attorney is present to discuss.

3. Blount County 911 Invoice

It was decided to table until the January meeting.

Sid Nelson made the motion to table the discussion on the 911 invoice until the January 2025 meeting. Sam Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Discuss and vote on one time pay increase for employees

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to approve the one time pay increase, and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Vote to remove Chase Moore from Hometown Accounts and add Gail Bailey

Sid Nelson made the motion to remove Chase Moore from the Hometown Bank accounts and to add Gail Bailey. Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Vote on ordering boat decals

The quote from Guaranteed labels was for black and white decals. To use color, the cost would be an additional \$300.

It was discussed if having a dock sticker is still necessary, since this information is available on Google Sheets.

Wes Faulkner knows a printer in the Locust Fork area, and is going to get information from him on costs and samples.

7. Discuss and vote on invoices

The invoices had already been approved in the budget.

8. Discuss AMIC Public Officials Bond

Since Bobby Rhodes handles the financials, it was felt that he needs to be covered.

Sid Nelson made the motion to add Bobby Rhodes to the policy, and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. Bobby Rhodes abstained and all others voted yes. The motion passed.

9. Discuss Christmas Ad in the Blount Countian

Carl Randall made the motion to not purchase an ad and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. Ramzi Malek abstained and all other voted yes. The motion passed.

10. Other business items as determined by the Council

Mayor Bailey mentioned that there are two printers in Town Hall that no longer work.

Sam Pearson made the motion to surplus the two printers and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Ann Allen – Town Clerk

Dr. Ramzi Malek – Mayor Pro Tem