

# Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at the Anchor. Mayor Vice called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Ramzi Malek gave the invocation. The Mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

## ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Connie Vice  
Council members Chase Moore, Donna Hanby, Denise Adams, Sid Nelson, Ramzi Malek  
Absent: None

Town Attorney Alex Smith was also in attendance.

**November 13, 2018 Work Session Minutes** – Moore made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**November 13, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes** – Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Adams seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**October 2017– September 2018 Financial Audit Results** – The Mayor reported the town received a clean opinion. Hanby made a motion to accept the report presented/reviewed by Lori Criswell, CPA during the earlier work session. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**Financial Report** –Council member Donna Hanby gave the monthly financial report. Hanby stated the legal expenses are getting high, mostly for police department issues. Hanby made a motion for legal expenses involving the police department be brought before the council for review and vote before expenses are incurred. Moore seconded. Discussion took place. Hanby stated it is the council's job to control the expenses and the council needs to make decisions on how money is spent. Town Attorney Alex Smith stated the council has authority to review invoices in advance of payment. Attorney Smith stated the council cannot restrict a Mayor's authority to consult the town attorney regarding legal business of the town. The council can restrict payment to the attorney until the council consents. The Mayor stated it was her understanding from the Town Attorney, Town Auditor and the League that legal fees were considered normal day to day operations. The existing Highland Lake ordinance authorizes the Mayor to pay normal day to day expenses. Any expenditure that exceeds \$500.00 that does not fall under normal day to day operations requires council approval. The existing ordinance can be updated to change this process.

Malek made a motion to table this issue for further discussion. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried. The Mayor stated if there is going to be a recommended ordinance update it should be provided to the council for consideration.

The above motion made by Council member Hanby regarding the council reviewing legal expenses for the police department is a stay motion due to the vote to table. This motion can be brought off the table in January.

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## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Ordinances** – Chairman Hanby - no report.

**Buildings & Grounds** – Chairman Adams reported the new sign for the boat launch area has been ordered.

**Lake** – Chairman Nelson - no report.

**Dredging** – Chairman Malek - no report.

**Roads** – Chairman Moore reported potholes and rough places on Vista Drive have been fixed. The county will grade Lakeshore Loop tomorrow.

## **OFFICER REPORT**

Mayor Vice reported for the month of November at Highland Lake:

- 20 dispatches
- 5 dispatches from Sherriff department to Highland Lake
- No citations written
- Two burglaries on Sunset

Highland Lake police worked 121 hours for November, which averages 30 ¼ hours per week.

Expenditures: The Radar Units in each police vehicle were certified by Ellis Folsom of Central Communications on November 27, 2018. Cost is approximately \$45.00 per unit. Each unit passed and received certification. Both units were deemed inadmissible for court use during the wait time for certification which was approximately one week.

Participation in the LESO program in 2019 will be added to the January agenda for council discussion.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Vice read a letter from Appalachian School thanking Highland Lake for their annual donation. The scholarship was awarded to senior Jasper Hutchens.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Zoning Board of Adjustments Nominees**

Nelson made a motion to nominate Carl Randall to serve another term (three year term) on the Zoning Board. Adams seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

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Adams made a motion to nominate Steve Poer to serve another term (three year term) on the Zoning Board. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Nelson made a motion to move alternate Steve Smith to the regular board to serve two years. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Opening for an alternate – Mayor Vice stated there was an individual from last year that had expressed interest in serving on the board; however, no response was received from this individual for this year. A resident, Jennifer Alderson, has expressed interest in serving on the board.


Adams made a motion to nominate Jennifer Alderson as an alternate for a three year term to the Zoning Board of Adjustments. Nelson seconded. Roll call. Moore and Hanby voted no. Adams, Nelson and Vice voted yes. Malek abstained. Motion carried – 3 yes, 2 no and 1 abstain.

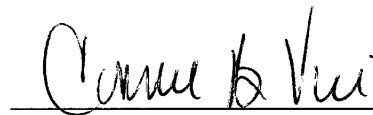
**January Meeting Date Reschedule due to Holiday** – Moore made a motion to reschedule the January meeting to January 8, 2019. Malek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Moore made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss the take home car policy. Hanby seconded. Town Attorney Alex Smith informed the council the vote needed to be unanimous to amend the agenda. Roll call. Moore, Hanby, Adams, Nelson and Malek voted yes. Vice voted no. Motion failed. The take home car policy will be added to the January 8, 2019 meeting agenda.

Malek made a motion to adjourn. Adams seconded. All said I. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Cheryl Storey, Town Clerk

  
Connie B. Vice, Mayor