

Work Session of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held a work session on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at the Anchor. Mayor Vice called the work session to order at 6:10 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Connie Vice
Council members Chase Moore, Donna Hanby, Sid Nelson and Ramzi Malek

ABSENT: Council member Greg Posey

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

Review and discussion of the December 5 regular meeting agenda items took place.

Zoning Board of Adjustments Member Appointments – Mayor Vice explained the following scenarios: (1) Need to fill Gail Bailey’s position due to her resignation, (2) Fill a second full board member’s position due to Olivia Brodock’s term expiring and (3) if the council decides to move a current alternate to the regular board, then an alternate position would need to be filled.

Mayor Vice stated we have several potential candidates and reviewed the voting process. The candidates will be called for voting in the order they were recommended and talked with. Vice advised the council to hold their vote for the candidate they wish to vote for since we have more candidates than positions.

Dredging Update – Mayor Vice spoke with Julie Kaplan of Tetra Tech and our contract with them has been extended to December, 2018. The town council needs to make dredging decisions by March 2018 before lake use permits are obtained.

Policy Statement to waive building permits due to storm/tornado damage – a draft policy was presented. Attorney Alex Smith will provide feedback for council review.

Request to Vacate Sunset Circle – Property owner Jon Doss has requested that Town Road Sunset Circle be vacated so his approved garage can be built. Mr. Doss owns all the lots adjoining Sunset Circle. Attorney Alex Smith expressed concern since the individual lots around Sunset Circle are all platted as separate lots, this could create potential land lock. The council could not grant this request due to potential land lock. An option would be to re-survey all the lots around Sunset Circle to make them one lot. This would remove the land locked areas. If a petition is submitted by the property owner a public hearing will be scheduled. The cost for certified mailings to abutting land owners and utility companies, along with administrative costs, would be the responsibility of the property owner.

Other items discussed:

Compass Certificate of Deposit – Attorney Alex Smith is waiting on Compass Bank to respond regarding withdrawal of funds without a penalty and expects a favorable response.

Spillway Barrier – Mayor Vice provided a summary of this issue. Vice contacted Mr. Eddie Sosebee, who while working with Alabama EMA, made the recommendation for safely marking our spillway after the 2014 tornadoes/storms. Vice contacted Mr. Sosebee to clarify his email and discuss the steps the town has taken since 2014. There are no legal regulations in the State of Alabama, but based on Mr. Sosebee’s recommendation, she contacted numerous government entities searching for best practices, standards and or polices related to spillway safety marking.

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Vice also talked with Captain Brooks of the Marine Police. Captain Brooks is familiar with Highland Lake and recommended two or three floating buoys in front of the spillway. Vice also talked with Alabama EMA and learned that Commissioner Dean Calvert is over Public Safety for our area. Commissioner Calvert recommended adequate signage and amending our lake use permit hold harmless agreement to note safety near our dam.

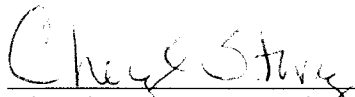
None of the parties that Vice talked with recommended a cable barrier for safety reasons.

Vice stated a formal recommendation regarding the spillway barrier was not made by the Lake Committee. A committee recommendation and council vote is needed on this issue.

Donations to the Town – all donations to the Town need to be accepted by the Town Council and surplused by resolution if/when they are disposed of.

Work session adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted:


Cheryl Storey, Town Clerk


Connie B. Vice, Mayor