

# **TOWN OF HIGHLAND LAKE, ALABAMA**

## **MINUTES of the MEETING Town of Highland Lake Town Council August 04, 2020**

Meeting Location:  
The Anchor - 612 Lakeshore Dr. Highland Lake, AL 35121

### **Regular Session**

The Highland Lake Town Council held its Regular Session on Tuesday, August 04, 2020. Mayor Donna Hanby called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Ramzi Malek gave the invocation. The Council led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call**

Council Members Attending: Mayor Donna Hanby, Carl Randall, Chase Moore, Ramzi Malek

Council Members Absent: Sid Nelson

Others Present: Police Chief Scott Kon, Building Inspector Tim Moore and Town Clerk Joan Shirley

Carl Randall made the motion to approve the July 07, 2020 Work Session minutes as written, Chase Moore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chase Moore made the motion to approve the July 07, 2020 Regular Session minutes as written, Carl Randall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hanby read the Financial Report. Carl Randall made the motion to approve the July 07, 2020 Financial Report and Ramzi Malek seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

**Dredging:** Ramzi Malek - No report

**Building & Grounds:** Carl Randall – Discussed the need for one light pole to be replaced. Tim Moore reported that the estimated amount from FEMA for damage done by flooding could be \$141,000 and emphasized that the money must be spent on the park and grounds area which sustained the damage.

**Roads:** Chase Moore, Gail Bailey - No report, but will meet in October.

**Public Safety:** Chase Moore – No report

**Lake:** Sid Nelson – No report.

### **Officer Report:**

Chief Kon reported that the boat motor has now been installed and is ready for the water. He thanked Officer Buck Buchanan for the many hours he put into the project and for the excellent job he did on re-wiring. He also thanked Rodney's Marine for their generous discount on the boat motor and a number of residents who have already contributed to the cost, plus several more who have committed to contribute. He is working with the Straight Mountain Fire Department to secure winter shelter for the boat. He also mentioned that the Town may now sell or dispose of the old LESO boat.

He reported 36 calls were taken during July and emphasized Covid-19 precautions were still underway, limiting their contact.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Park signage was reviewed and approved for three (3) entrances. The total cost will be \$591.56 and volunteers will try to get them installed during an August workday in the park.

The message board is still awaiting concrete to be poured before the installation can be started.

Ordinances awaiting review regarding fines for trash, dogs and lake fees were delayed due to Town Attorney Alex Smith having not had the chance to review them. These Ordinances will allow the fines to be collected by the Town and give the person the option of not appearing in Court.

Chase Moore reported that Ad Valorem tax discussions were on hold as Covid-19 has limited meeting with committee.

The gutters on the office and the Anchor will be installed in mid-August by Absolute Gutters at the cost of approximately \$4,000.00.

The damaged light post in park was discussed and the price of replacing it will be approximately \$160.00. Carl Randall made the motion to order two (2) in order to have an extra on hand that would match. Ramzi Malek seconded and motion was approved unanimously. The lights will be ordered.

It was agreed to schedule a work day in August to clean up trash, install poles in Park and install Town sign.

Roger Hunter asked to donate a trailer to the Town, Chase Moore made the motion to accept the donation and Ramzi Malek seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

### **New Business:**

Chase Moore made the motion to suspend the rules in order to take a vote on vacated Council Seat #2. Carl Randall seconded, and motion passed unanimously. Chase Moore made the motion to appoint Greg Posey to that position to serve the remaining term of Sharon Duke, who resigned in June. Ramzi seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Greg Posey ran unopposed for the Council Seat position and will be sworn in at the September meeting.

The installation of a new boat lift and cover for Ramzi Malek's previously approved and present boat house structure is currently underway.

The large tree lodged on Karen Nicholes property located at 242 Lakeshore Dr. from a previous storm needs to be removed and will require cutting the tree in pieces. Sid will schedule as soon as the proper equipment can be obtained.

The Mayor requested that the \$4,000.00 previously budgeted for election cost that wasn't needed, be moved to the Police budget. She also noted the need for another part-time officer in the future and Officer Kon interjected reasons a third officer was needed to help enforce the Town's ordinances and combat crime and drug usage. Also, a third officer would allow the Town to again participate in the LESO program. Chase Moore made the motion to move the money and Carl Randall seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor requested that the \$350.00 donated in memory of Geneva Ferguson be applied to a picnic table comprised of a composite top and steel body. The Lady Lakers will be asked to participate since the cost is approximately \$700. Carl Randall made the motion to accept and Chase Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

An annual fee for bank fishing was suggested. The suggested cost was \$100.00 per year for up to two (2) people. Carl Randall made the motion to accept and Ramzi Malek seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hanby shared the findings of the recent audit with the Council. No deficiencies were noted. However, the subject of needed additional revenue was brought up by the Accountant when he learned that the Town was now responsible for the maintenance of the Town's roads. His recommendation was a Sales Tax. This subject will be addressed at a later time.

A photo of the vandalized concrete park bench was shared and discussed. Prices will be researched to replace.

Possible speed breakers for Lakeshore Dr., Vista and West Lakeshore was discussed briefly. Chief Scott Kon will check out prices and report at next meeting.

Following Joe Hayden's presentation at the Work Session regarding vegetation overgrowth at the dam, Carl Randall made the motion to allow the requested \$300.00 to 400.00 for Don Martin to cut the grass. Chase Moore seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Also discussed, was the price of approximately \$1,000.00 to kill the weeds and vegetation at the dam at a later time.

The Mayor addressed the lily pad problem that has developed over the summer. The Lake Committee will look into what aquatic treatment is best for its removal and try to treat itself, rather than hiring an outside company.

Tim Moore, the Town's Building Inspector shared with the Council that the Town enjoys a Class 5 insurance rating which is the lowest overall rating. This allows Highland Lake residents to enjoy lower insurance rates.

Carl Randall made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Ramzi Malek seconded. The Motion was approved unanimously and Mayor Hanby adjourned meeting at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Joan Shirley, Town Clerk

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Donna Hanby, Mayor