

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at the Anchor. Mayor Vice called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ramzi Malek gave the invocation. The Mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Connie Vice
Council members Donna Hanby, Greg Posey, Sid Nelson and Ramzi Malek
Absent: Council member Chase Moore

Town Attorney Alex Smith was also in attendance.

June 6, 2017 Work Session Minutes – Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Malek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

June 6, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes – Hanby made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Posey seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Council member Donna Hanby gave the monthly financial report. Malek made a motion to accept the report, as presented. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds – Chairman Posey reported quotes are being obtained for replacing the Anchor deck. Next committee meeting is July 20.

Lake – Chairman Nelson reported that Mason Grimes attended the last Lake Committee meeting. Mason works with pond and fish management. Mason did a review of the lake and will provide a proposal regarding the fish population and health of the lake, which will be presented to the council for review.

Dredging – Chairman Malek reported the committee did not meet last month. They are waiting on contacts to be made before the committee can meet again.

Ordinances – Chairman Hanby reported that at this time there are no ordinances to be updated/developed.

OFFICER REPORT

Chief Kon reported there were no injuries or accidents during the July 4 holiday. Kon reminded everyone that this is a dry lake, no alcohol is allowed on the lake.

Equipment has been ordered for the CAWACO grant. Kon is waiting for approval to obtain extra money that was not on the initial request.

Kon also reported that the town received money from a law enforcement seizure. The money was turned in to the Town Clerk, and will be deposited into a law enforcement category of the General Fund.

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The Mayor reported that the boat traffic rules diagram was communicated via email and Facebook to remind boaters of the suggested route on the lake.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Road Form – Jacob Hembree-Vista Drive Pooling Situation – the town needs to have the corners set across the road so the County Engineer can recommend the best location for a culvert. An estimate of \$300-\$400 was obtained from a surveyor to mark three corners. Posey made a motion to approve this expenditure. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Motor Vehicle Operations Policy – The Loss Control Division of the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation has recommended that the town policy be documented in writing to fully explain what is considered an “Acceptable Driving Record” for town employees. The town does obtain Motor Vehicle Records for town employees. Hanby made a motion to approve this policy. Posey seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Safety Barrier at Dam – The purpose of the barrier is to provide warning to boaters of the spillway. Nelson made a motion to table for the council to continue discussions. Posey seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Council member Posey mentioned a safety issue that occurred recently on the lake. He and his wife heard a young girl screaming in the middle of the lake. The girl had dropped while skiing and the boat driver and spotter didn't know it. It was a Mastercraft boat. The Posey's picked the girl up until the boat returned. This young girl was in the middle of the large part of the lake with all the other boat traffic.

NEW BUSINESS

Electric Shock Alarms - Mr. Jimmy Johnson and his wife Casey shared their story with the council of losing their 15 year old daughter to Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) on April 16, 2016. The Johnsons are sharing their story with others to educate and bring awareness about ESD. Mr. Johnson encouraged everyone to have their dock wiring and ground fault breakers inspected on a regular basis. The Johnsons have installed the Dock Lifeguard device that monitors electric current in the water and on metal. Dock Lifeguard is a visual and audible warning detection system for electrical hazards on your boat dock or in the water surrounding your dock. The unit costs \$950 + tax. The council thanked the Johnsons for sharing their story.

Carl Randall expressed concern regarding the Dock Lifeguard device being insured. Mr. Johnson stated he will provide the proof of insurance.

Ordinance HL-17-02 – Flood Damage Prevention – ordinance was introduced. Ordinance HL-17-02 will replace Ordinance HL-10-01. This update is in preparation for the upcoming flood map revisions that will become effective early 2019. FEMA has requested several changes to the model ordinance. Communities need to update their ordinances to be in compliance with FEMA regulations.

Dalton NeSmith – amended boathouse plans – add an open covered deck on the existing sundeck. Nelson made a motion to approve plans. Posey seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

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Carl Randall – install electric shock alarm (Dock Lifeguard device) at boathouse. Hanby made a motion to approve plans. Malek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Sugarland Lakes Association – Use of Anchor – John Hand, Jr. addressed the council and requested use of the Anchor for the Sugarland Lakes Association to meet until they find another space. The association recently sold the building used to conduct their meetings in order to pay for repair of the dam. Mr. Hand stated their bank balance is very low and renting at published prices is beyond their budget right now. Posey made a motion to deny this request. Nelson seconded. Roll call. Hanby, Posey, Nelson and Vice voted to deny the request. Malek voted to accept the request. Motion denied. The Mayor added that it is the town's policy to not waive the rental fee. Waiving the rental fee would set a precedent. A suggestion was made for Mr. Hand to check with the Little Brick Church in Oneonta.

Laura Parenteau – Safe Swimming Access – Ms. Parenteau addressed the council regarding building a dock at the end of the Brasher Creek berm for lake access.

Town Attorney responded the town is in compliance with all known regulations with providing the public access to the lake for all citizens.

Discussion continued between Ms. Parenteau, Town Attorney and Mayor Vice. Mayor Vice stated the council will take this request under advisement. This request will be on the August 1 meeting agenda.

October 7, 2017 Highland Lake 5K Run – Hanby made a motion to approve. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.


The Mayor opened the meeting to the public.


Paige Cutcliffe mentioned three items: (1) the term “lake use permit” does confuse people. Changing the name would probably help with more residents paying the annual fee (2) debris coming down into Brasher Creek from timber cutting operation on Lake Road– Cutcliffe thanked Mayor Vice for addressing this issue so quickly and looking for a long term solution and (3) develop a multi-year plan to pave Highland Lake roads with asphalt.

Carl Randall mentioned he noticed logs in the lake during the July 4 holiday. Council member Nelson stated we need another lake clean-up day.

With no other business to come before the council, Posey made a motion to adjourn. Hanby seconded. All said I. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:


Cheryl Storey, Town Clerk


Connie B. Vice, Mayor