

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, July 6, 2015 at the Anchor. Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Skip Davis gave the invocation. The Mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Gail Bailey
Council members Skip Davis, Donna Hanby, Shani Ort, Tim Peek and Connie Vice
Absent: None

Town Attorney Alex Smith was also present.

Mayor Bailey introduced the new Executive Director of the Blount County Economic Development Council, Mr. Don Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell addressed the council and advised of the projects that the BCEDC is currently working on, such as the website, on which Highland Lake will be included. The BCEDC is working to get the word out to as many folks as possible about Blount County. A representative of the BCEDC is also receiving grant training. Mr. Mitchell asked the council to contact BCEDC first, if the town needs anything, because they have a lot of contacts.

June 8, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes and June 17, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes– Ort made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Council member Vice gave the monthly financial report. Peek made a motion to approve the financial report. Davis seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lake – Chairman Skip Davis reported the committee did not meet during the month of June. Installation of the pilings has begun with the “no wake” signs. The committee will meet Monday, July 13. Discussion took place regarding the two pilings that were installed at the boat launch area and how low they were sitting with the water level. It was suggested, and agreed by all, that we add PVC pipe to the two pilings to extend the length of them. The buoy stickers can also be applied to the pipe.

Ordinances – Chairman Shani Ort reported the committee met June 25 and continued discussions on the zoning ordinance. Ort stated we need to appoint a Zoning Board of Adjustments. There are 5 members on this board with two alternates. You must be a full time resident to participate on the board. The goal is to have the Zoning Board in place first of 2016.

The Mayor requested a status from Attorney Alex Smith regarding the issue discussed last month on raising revenue for the town. Attorney Smith advised he is still working on this issue. He has called the League of Municipalities to discuss and should have a response by our next meeting.

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

Buildings & Grounds – Chairman Donna Hanby reported the committee met June 11 and discussed the Alabama Power grant for an entrance sign. Hanby did apply for the grant. If accepted, the town could receive approximately \$740.00 towards the materials and some labor for the entrance sign at River Road/Lakeshore Drive. We should find out this month if we received the grant.

Roads – Chairman Tim Peek provided a proposal from Snead Ag Supply for a John Deere tractor and Tiger boom mower. The tractor and boom mower are on Alabama State Contract. John Deere has a municipal lease program available with terms up to 60 months. The tractor and boom mower would allow the town to cut all sides of the roads throughout the community as much as needed. The John Deere 5100M Utility Tractor selling price is \$51,817.68. The Tiger Boom Mower is \$39,765.75 for a total of \$91,583.43. On a lease program, it would cost approximately \$1700.00 a month. The council will review and discuss in more detail during the August budget work session.

Discussion took place regarding the need for stump killer by the creek.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dredging – the Town Clerk read a status report from Tetra Tech regarding the dredging feasibility assessment. Tetra Tech is making progress and have some good initial ideas, but are waiting on final sediment analysis results from the lab to make some of the big decisions about dredging methodology and disposal. One part of the sediment analysis result was received last week and they are expecting the other part of the results this week. Once those results come in, Tetra Tech will be able to develop some rough concepts to talk through with the council. Once a preferred option is decided, a preliminary dredge/disposal plan will be developed. Tetra Tech should have a draft report by August 7.

OFFICER REPORT

The Mayor thanked Chief Kon and the police officers for working the July 4th weekend. The Mayor expressed her appreciation for all of the long hours that were put in to patrol the lake and community. They did an outstanding job and are very much appreciated.

Police Chief Kon reported there were no accidents over the holiday weekend until today. A young man was involved in an accident, but fortunately was not badly injured. Kon suggested that in the next community newsletter we remind residents that this is a dry county and that no alcohol is allowed on the lake. Kon expressed thanks to Bill Rush for his assistance with a buoy that broke loose by the dam. The rope was found and the buoy put back in place.

The bilge pump on the police boat broke. A new one has been ordered; cost is under \$13.00.

Kon also made everyone aware that outside the community there have been a few incidents where a stranger walked up to a residence and knocked on the door. When the resident answered the door, they were asked if a specific person “a made up name” lived at the residence.

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Stranger was told the person they asked for did not live at the residence and the stranger left the property. No one in any way attempted to force entry into the residence when someone answered; however this being a strange event has sparked the interest of Law Enforcement in the County.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

HVAC at the Anchor – Two estimates were obtained and reviewed. Discussion took place. It was agreed by all to obtain an additional estimate and then meet again on Monday, July 13 @ 6:30 PM. The Town Clerk will notify the individuals who have the Anchor rented later in July to advise them of the potential issue with the air conditioner.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Garner – Storm Damage Repair to Boathouse – Peek made a motion to approve plans. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Connie Vice – 30 x 30 Boathouse – Peek made a motion to approve plans. Hanby seconded. Roll call. Davis, Hanby, Ort, Peek and Bailey voted yes. Vice abstained. Motion carried.

Connie Vice – 12 x 40 & 4 x 30 Decks on Lot 1 – Hanby made a motion to approve. Peek seconded. Roll call. Davis, Hanby, Ort, Peek and Bailey voted yes. Vice abstained. Motion carried.

Connie Vice – Seawall – Hanby made a motion to approve. Peek seconded. Roll call. Davis, Hanby, Ort, Peek and Bailey voted yes. Vice abstained. Motion carried.

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public.

Bill Rush commended Chief Kon and the police for the good job over the July 4th weekend with the moving of the buoy and handling of the large number of folks in a boat and the alcohol issue.

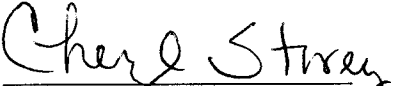
A comment was made that 90% of boaters do not observe the idle speed buoy by the dam.

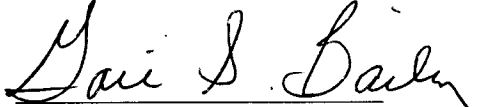
Extra buoys will be available once all the pilings/no wake signs have been installed.

It was suggested that an email be sent to the community regarding the few incidents outside the community where strangers are knocking on doors.

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

Respectfully submitted:


Cheryl Storey, Town Clerk


Gail S. Bailey, Mayor