

# Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at the Anchor. Mayor Vice called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Carl Randall 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.

**October 2, 2018 Work Session Minutes** – Moore made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Malek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**October 2, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes** – Hanby made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Moore seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**October 25, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes** – Hanby made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Moore seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

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

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Ordinances** – Chairman Hanby reported the committee met to discuss a pay scale resolution for town employees that will be presented later in the meeting.

**Buildings & Grounds** – Chairman Adams reported the committee met November 8 to finalize the message board/sign recommendation for the town boat launch area.

**Lake** – Chairman Nelson reported the committee did not meet due to deaths in his family.

**Dredging** – Chairman Malek reported a commitment is needed from a contractor on when work can be done so a decision can be made on time to lower lake next.

**Roads** – Chairman Moore reported the road project for 2019, Lakeshore Drive from Brasher Creek Bridge to Sunset hill area, has been postponed due to county budget issues. Mayor Vice added Lakeshore Loop work should be completed in the spring. The surface needs to be packed down before paving can be done. The county did add riprap on Lakeshore Loop to fix a drainage problem.

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## OFFICER REPORT

Mayor Vice reported the annual emergency dispatch service contract with 911 was renewed. She receives monthly reports that provide dispatch information. For the month of October at Highland Lake:

39 dispatches  
- 21 traffic stops

5 dispatch from Sherriff department to Highland Lake

Highland Lake police worked 168 hours for October, which averages 42 hours per week.

The recall on the Chevrolet Tahoe was completed by Terry Sligh at no cost to the town. The accompanying paperwork was left on the City Clerks desk for record keeping.

There were two burglaries in the town. Both burglaries were on West Sunset. An arrest made and property from both burglaries was recovered.

There was a report of a B/E of an occupied resident on Sunset. The victim reported he discharged a firearm. There were no signs or shooting victims located.

The City of Oneonta requested assistance in October with the Veterans Day Parade from the Highland Lake Police Department, this was not approved. Mayor Vice stated this was not approved due to the town only having one officer available with Captain Buchanan being out.

Please remember the holidays are upon are. Don't leave presents and other items of value in the open view of your residents or vehicles.

Please report any suspicious activity to the 911 center.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Vice read an email from Fran Campbell expressing how pleased they were with how the gully was fixed by the county on West Lakeshore Drive near the Nolen's. Mrs. Campbell also appreciated the excavating/clean up that was done along the creek.

Mayor Vice announced the Blount County Education Foundation raised \$505,611 during the September 27 radio-thon. The Town of Highland Lake donated a \$750 grant for a teacher's classroom at Appalachian High School. On Tuesday, November 20, at 9:15 AM, Appalachian High School will announce the winner of their grants.

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## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Work Session/Council Meeting Procedures** – Adams made a motion for the 6:00 PM council work sessions to end at 6:45 PM to give residents/public opportunity to ask questions prior to the 7:00 PM regular meeting. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Mark Moon, Blount County Sheriff Elect**, introduced himself and stated he will take office on January 14, 2019. Sheriff Elect Moon stated he was thankful to the Highland Lake Police Department for their assistance. Moon also stated the Highland Lake Police recently helped out tremendously on recovering a stolen vehicle from Highland Lake.

**Resolution HL-18-06 – Establish Pay Scales for Town Employees** – Adams made a motion to approve. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Chief Kon recommended the pay rate of \$15.00 an hour for Captain Buchanan. Nelson made a motion to accept Chief Kon's recommendation. Adams seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**Message Sign Board for Boat Launch Area** – Moore made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Buildings & Grounds Committee to purchase a new message board/sign for the boat launch area for \$2,345.56. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Councilmember Moore questioned what happened to Chief Kon giving the monthly police report at the council meeting. Mayor Vice replied it was her decision to make the change based on information she is receiving from other sources. Councilmember Malek asked if the council can ask the police questions. The Mayor replied, yes. Councilmember Hanby stated Chief Kon has always given the report and she would like for him to continue. Mayor Vice replied she is not opposed to format, but wants report to be more formal with detailed information. Mayor Vice stated comments from council members are noted.

### **The Mayor opened the meeting to the public.**

Gail Bailey read a letter in support of Chief Kon and asked that the letter be placed in his personnel file. The Mayor agreed to place the letter in Kon's personnel file. Tim Peek and Carl Randall also provided supporting comments regarding Chief Kon.

Police department issues discussed include the monthly police report at council meetings, take home car policy, and November 4 stolen vehicle/arrest.

LouAnn Kon asked the record reflect Mayor Vice responded she did not ask Chief Kon his whereabouts on his day off. Later in the meeting, Mayor Vice did state she asked Chief Kon if he drove the Highland Lake Tahoe on November 10.

District Attorney Pamela Casey stated Chief Kon should be commended for his involvement in the November 4, 2018 stolen vehicle/arrest.

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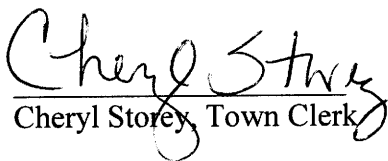
Mayor Vice stated we are blessed to have Chief Kon and Captain Buchanan, and commented on their ability, performance and support. Mayor Vice added there are administrative questions that need to be answered though, and it's not appropriate to discuss personnel issues in an open forum. Vice added there has never been discussion about losing our police department.

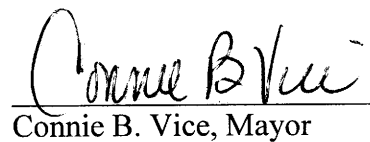
Mayor Vice stated comments made from the open forum were under advisement.

Carl Randall questioned when OTELCO is going to install fiber optic facilities in the town.

Hanby made a motion to adjourn. Malek seconded. All said I. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Cheryl Storey, Town Clerk

  
Connie B. Vice, Mayor