

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, September 14, 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:

August 3, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes – Hanby made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Vice seconded. Roll call. Hanby, Ort, Peek, Vice and Bailey voted yes. Davis abstained. Motion carried.

August 10, 2015 Budget Work Session Minutes – the Town Clerk read the minutes. Ort made a motion to approve as read. Peek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

August 17, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes – the Town Clerk read the minutes. Vice made a motion to approve as read with one correction, change the word tool to took. Hanby seconded. Roll call. Hanby, Ort, Peek, Vice and Bailey voted yes. Davis abstained. Motion carried.

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

The Mayor mentioned that when the Hometown Bank CD matures in November 2015, we should compare rates with Compass Bank, who is currently running a special interest rate above 1%.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lake – Chairman Skip Davis reported the Lake Committee will meet at 6:30 PM on Monday, September 21st. Davis added that the buoy labels arrived and Chief Kon and Tim Moore are working on them.

Ordinances – Chairman Shani Ort reported we have six volunteers for the Zoning Board of Adjustments. This Board will review variances, special exceptions and provide zoning interpretations. The plan is to have the Zoning Board of Adjustments up and going first of 2016. Ort added that the Ordinance Committee is currently discussing the Anchor rental ordinance.

Buildings & Grounds – Chairman Donna Hanby reported the committee met September 10th. The committee meeting time will change from 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM going forward, on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Items discussed include: obtaining prices for lights in the gazebo, need volunteers to install the posts for the River Road/Lakeshore Drive entrance sign, purchasing a heater for the town office, installing an awning for the Library door and painting the back of the Anchor. Mayor Bailey and Hanby will paint the back of the Anchor in the next few weeks.

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

Roads – Chairman Tim Peek stated he had no report.

The Mayor reported the county had cut the sides of the roads. The county also patched, then tarred and graveled the roads that were in the worst condition. The town had budgeted \$15,000.00 for this road work and the county matched it. Roads that were recently tarred and graveled included Lakeshore Lane, Lakeshore Circle, and portions of Lakeshore Drive and West Lakeshore Drive. Other ditch cleaning and road work on Shuff Lane was also done.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dredging – Bill Rush reported that the committee will meet Monday, September 21st @ 7:00 PM to discuss the Dredging Feasibility Study from Tetra Tech. The summary of dredging and disposal options was provided to the council. Bill stated these are preliminary numbers. The committee needs to review and discuss all of the details of the report. The Mayor added a town meeting will be held in October or November to discuss dredging with the residents and to provide an opportunity for questions.

OFFICER REPORT

Chief Kon reported that it was a good month, with no major problems on the lake. All posts have been driven for the buoy replacements. The two posts in front of the town boat launch are complete and reflective tape will be added to them soon. PVC pipe will be obtained (possibly donated), for the remaining posts.

Kon also reported there was a burglary last month. The burglar was apprehended within the hour and placed in jail. Council member Skip Davis mentioned gasoline was missing from his storage building and vehicle.

As discussed in the August work session, Kon stated that new DVR equipment is needed for the police truck. The cost will be approximately \$4100.00. Kon stated the budget for this purchase is available in Police Salaries and recommended that these funds be transferred to Police Related Expenses. The PC needed in conjunction with this equipment can be purchased in next year's fiscal budget. Davis made a motion to transfer under \$3000.00 from Police Salaries to Police Related Expenses to increase the capital budget and allow up to date DVR equipment to be obtained and funded with Police Salary underrun. Peek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried. Note: The exact amount to be transferred will be determined the last week of September, 2015 based on actuals at that time for Police Salaries and Police Related Expenses.

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Shuff Lane – The Mayor reported the county did remove the tree and graded Shuff Lane. The tree was placed on the road by a property owner to prevent dumping of trash that had been occurring. Recently, the area under the Anchor was cleaned out and an old gate was found. The Mayor asked if there were any objections to placing this gate on Shuff Lane to prevent folks from dumping trash. No objections were made.

Sunset Point – At the August council meeting, Mark Sims, property owner of 59 Sunset Point, addressed the council regarding 200 feet of Sunset Point that is unpaved/undeveloped. Mr. Sims had asked the council to consider paving the 200 feet of road, or approve a petition to close the road where the paving ends as long as Mr. Sims obtains permission from the affected property owners. The Mayor reported she discussed this request with Commissioner Calvert. The cost to pave one mile is \$30,000.00. Scott Moye, General Contractor for Mr. Sims, questioned if the town would let Mr. Sims have the 200 feet of road if he incurs the cost to pave it. Mr. Sims would then maintain the 200 feet of road and install a gate. Discussion took place. Town Attorney Alex Smith stated the county took over maintenance of existing roads as they are. There are two ways to close a road: (1) consent of every adjoining property owner or (2) town can initiate a closing and provide notice to property owners to see if there are any objections. Discussion continued.

Davis made a motion to deny the request to give Mr. Sims the 200 feet of Sunset Point if he incurs the cost of paving it. Peek seconded. Roll call. Davis, Peek and Vice voted yes to deny the request. Hanby, Ort and Bailey voted no to not deny the request. The vote was 3 to 3. Motion failed.

Further discussion took place. Attorney Alex Smith stated Mr. Sims has the right to petition the town to improve the road.

Property owners Kleinklaus and Hand should be included in the petition to close the road with agreement for Mr. Sims to purchase the 200 feet of road.

Kleinklaus and Hand could sign a vacation of land from Sims and then ask for council approval.

Discussion also took place regarding electricity. Scott Moye stated the underground power begins on Mr. Sims property. Alex Smith stated Alabama Power sets poles two feet inside dedicated right-of-way. An easement is needed if set up on private property.

NEW BUSINESS

October 2015-September 2016 Budget – Vice made a motion to approve the budget for the next fiscal year. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried. Davis stated there may be possible work at the dam, approximately \$30,000.00 for concrete that would be a special project.

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

Lower lake in 2016 – Davis made a motion for the lake to be lowered after Labor Day in 2016 to allow property owners to repair docks, seawalls, etc. Peek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

Update Daily Bank Fishing Permit Form – Hanby made a motion to combine the Hold Harmless and Daily Bank Fishing Permit Form into one form, instead of two separate forms. Vice seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public.

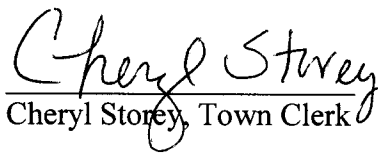
Wayne Bailey questioned solar powered lighting on the posts instead of reflective tape. The Lake Committee will address.

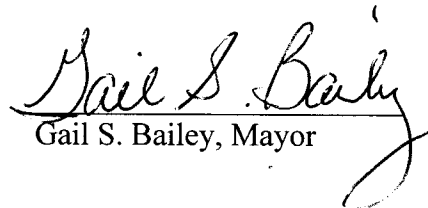
Bill Rush volunteered to help with installing the posts for the Lakeshore Drive/River Road entrance sign. The dimensions for the posts will be provided.

Bill Rush questioned the possible \$30,000.00 project for the dam when the lake is lowered in 2016. Council member Davis stated this would be for concrete.

With no other business to come before the council, Vice made a motion to adjourn. Davis seconded. All said I. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted:


Cheryl Storey, Town Clerk


Gail S. Bailey, Mayor