

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at the Anchor. Mayor Donna Hanby called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Tim Moore gave the invocation. Mayor Hanby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Donna Hanby
Council members Carl Randall, Sid Nelson, Ramzi Malek, Chase Moore

Absent: Councilwoman Sharon Duke

Also present was Town Attorney Alex Smith.

December 3, 2019 Work and Regular Meeting Minutes – Councilman Moore made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Councilman Malek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Mayor Hanby gave the December monthly financial report. Councilman Moore made a motion to accept the report as presented. Councilman Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Hanby introduced Joan Shirley as the new Town Clerk.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dredging: Councilman Malek discussed the dredging project and noted that no major issues have been noted. He estimated that approximately 68–72% of the project is complete. There was also a discussion concerning the berm area and whether to raise or extend the berm. This will be decided at a later date. The Sand Creek area will be addressed next.

While dredging Brasher Creek, the barrier poles and reflectors along the road were removed. These will need to be replaced as soon as possible. We have received a sealed bid to purchase the poles removed from the launch area during the dredging procedure. However, these poles may be used on other projects.

Building & Grounds: Councilman Randall reported a new heat pump had been installed in the Town Hall. This one is larger, and is doing a better job of heating the library, as well.

Roads Committee: Gail Bailey reported that the Roads Committee held their meeting on Thursday, January 2, 2020. Commissioner Calvert was also in attendance and answered

questions regarding the budget and the upcoming projects for the town. Discussion was held on replacing the culvert by the Anchor. The county will replace the culvert in the road, but the Town will be responsible for the culvert on the Anchor side of the road, which will take the water to the lake.

Lake Committee: The new buoys are working great. When the lake was lowered, and as the water level came back up, they did not move. We may need to replace all buoys with this type.

Ordinance Committee: No report

Public Safety Committee: There have been no meetings for the past two months, as they are awaiting paperwork.

OFFICER REPORT: Chief Kon reported 49 contacts for the month of December, with 25 traffic stops and 4 arrests. One stolen vehicle was recovered with charges pending. He also reported that key for the valve at the dam has been returned to its proper place. Chief Kon also reminded everyone that quail season is currently open. Chief Kon will continue to pursue the possibility of handling fines and municipal violations in town, thereby avoiding the court system for smaller infractions, and increasing town revenue. Attorney Alex Smith will assist Chief Kon in determining an ordinance for such minor violations as littering, dog leash laws etc.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

November financial statement. Councilman Randall made a motion to accept the report as presented. Councilman Moore seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Donation of Land: The land, which is to be donated to the Town by Byron Woram, is still pending.

Zoning Board: There are several vacancies that need to be filled in the near future.

Repairs to the garage and town hall: No decision as to when these will be made.

NEW BUSINESS:

Landowner, Mike Pekovich addressed the Town concerning his property located on Cherokee Drive, which he has been unsuccessful in selling. He felt this was due to the Town's Building Code which prohibited construction of less than 1800 sq. ft. He stated that his property was considerably less valuable than waterfront or water view property and was hoping that the code could be modified to include lesser square footage for simple wooded lots located in the town limits. Councilman Malek expressed concerns over lowering property values as did Louanne Kon.

After further discussion on the matter, it was agreed that the matter would be referred to the Planning Commission and Zoning Board.

Rebuilding Gazebo on berm and fishing pier: Discussion was held, and there are no plans to rebuild, at this time.

Martin houses: The clean out and painting of the Martin houses is postponed until March in hopes of better weather. Everyone was reminded to wear old clothes and bring paint brushes as the houses will need to be painted after cleaning out.

New Heat Pump: The heat pump in the office stopped working, and a new and larger system was installed by Jackson Heat and Air. The system, which is adequate for the office, as well as the library, cost \$8,000. Councilman Randall made a motion to approve the expenditure and Councilman Nelson seconded. Roll Call. All voted yes, motion passed.

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public.

There being no further business or discussion, Councilman Randall made the motion to adjourn, and Councilman Moore seconded. Roll Call. All voted yes and meeting was adjourned at 7:38.

Respectfully submitted:

Signature on file

Joan Shirley, Town Clerk

Signature on file

Donna Hanby, Mayor