

# **TOWN OF HIGHLAND LAKE, ALABAMA**

## **Regular Session**

### **MINUTES of the MEETING**

#### **Town of Highland Lake Town Council**

**June 07, 2021**

**6:30 pm**

Meeting Location:

The Anchor - 612 Lakeshore Dr. Highland Lake, AL 35121

The Highland Lake Town Council held its Regular Session. Mayor Donna Hanby called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and gave the invocation. The Council led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Roll Call**

Council Members Attending: Mayor Donna Hanby, (1) Chase Moore, (2) Greg Posey (3) Carl Randall (4) Sid Nelson (5) Ramzi Malek

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: Alex Smith, Attorney, Scott Kon, Police Chief, and Joan Shirley, Town Clerk

Carl Randall made the motion to accept the May 03, Work Session Minutes, Greg Posey seconded, Sid Nelson, Ramzi Malek, Chase Moore, abstained due to absence. Motion passed.

Carl Randall made the motion to accept the May 03, Regular Session Minutes, Greg Posey seconded, Ramzi Malek, Chase Moore, abstained due to absence. Motion passed.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Building & Grounds:** Carl Randall – Carl reported that after completing considerable work this Spring in the park, a selection of trees will be planted in the Fall. He noted signs and cameras need to be installed at each berm. This is to discourage people from driving onto the berms, causing damage. He also noted the large rocks which prevent erosion, are being thrown into the lake. Also, someone in a four-wheeler ran over a light in the park and the light will need to be replaced.

**Lake Preservation:** Bill Rush is still pursuing a demonstration from the Birmingham Water Works dredging equipment, previously discussed. Although, not available for a hands-on demonstration due to insurance limitations, the equipment will be on display at the Hwy 280 location. An appointment will be scheduled when all parties are available.

Lakeside has not yet begun work on walkway to berm and Bill will follow up with Keith. Bill will also meet with his committee and follow up with ADEM to see what specific certification is involved with treating and controlling the lily pads.

Sid Nelson made the motion to approve \$1,000 to have the town pontoon boat checked out and serviced with the possibility of using the pontoon to spray and control the lily pads. Chase Moore seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Lake:** Sid Nelson – No additional report

**Dredging:** Ramzi Malek – No additional report

**Ordinance:** Sid Nelson – Noted he will be meeting with committee to discuss a noise ordinance.

**Public Safety** – Greg Posey discussed need for electrical switch installation for generator at townhall and has contacted an electrician.

**Roads Committee:** Gail Bailey/Chase Moore Gail reported that all of the projects on the 5 year plan have been completed, except for the reclamation of Lakeshore Drive. Since this project will be finished under the supervision of a new commissioner, she proposed putting it off for a year to give him a chance to get settled. The two candidates were present, and seemed to agree this would be better. She said this is going to be a costly project, and we cannot afford to take a chance on additional costs or delays. Ramzi Malek said he thought we should wait, that the road is not that bad.

**Officer Report:** Chief Scott Kon reported he is working with Gene Gonsoulin to pursue any and all available grants for the police department and town. He noted that Memorial Day on the lake was safe and uneventful. He did request further safety measures to be emphasized especially regarding boating directional procedures. Chief Kon requested that an email be sent to all residents reminding them of safety issues. He also noted that some of the boats are now equipped with larger sound systems that may become a noise issue. Finally, he presented statistics from the 911 call center showing that 70% of dispatched calls answered by the Highland Lake police were outside Highland Lake in the surrounding jurisdiction.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Boat launch is still not yet complete. Sid Nelson commented he thought, within the next two weeks he could contract with C & C to finish digging out bank and installing cleats to step down safely from boats at the pier.
2. Lily pad control was not voted on as planned. Bill Rush is pursuing an alternative to hiring an outside company. He will be checking with ADEM on certification requirements.
3. Mayor Hanby appointed Chase Moore to chair an exploratory committee to pursue additional income ideas for the town. Sid Nelson and Greg Posey agreed to assist on his committee.

## **New Business:**

1. As mentioned earlier, it was decided to install signs and cameras at the berms.
2. A motion was made by Carl Randall to approve all building permits discussed in work session, upon final approval by Tim Moore, building inspector. Greg Posey seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Those permits were for repairs to:
  - Robert Gehri's boathouse
  - Sandy Johnson's garage.
  - Adam Jensen's handrails on stairs leading to water.

3. After much discussion among members of council and attorney Alex Smith, it was decided to proceed to un-table the following Ordinances which were tabled in February 2022.

Carl Randall made the motion to un-table Ordinance HL 22-04 to establish a gasoline tax within the Police Jurisdiction. Chase Moore seconded. All voted yes except the mayor, who voted no to un-table the ordinance. A vote to approve Ordinance HL 22-04 was taken with the following results:

Carl Randall – Yes  
Chase Moore – No  
Sid Nelson – No  
Greg Posey – No  
Ramzi Malek – Abstained  
Mayor Donna Hanby – Yes

Ordinance HL 2204 was defeated.

4. Carl Randall made the motion to un-table Ordinance HL 22-03 to establish a tax on rooms, lodging or accommodations to transients within the Police Jurisdiction. Chase Moore seconded. All voted yes except the mayor, who voted no. A vote to approve the Ordinance was taken with the following results:

Carl Randall – Yes  
Chase Moore – Yes  
Sid Nelson – No  
Greg Posey – No  
Ramzi Malek – Abstained  
Mayor Donna Hanby – Yes

Ordinance HL 2203 was defeated.

5. Greg Posey made the motion to un-table Ordinance HL 22-02 to establish a Sales and Use tax within the Police Jurisdiction. Sid Nelson seconded. The votes were as follows:

Greg Posey – Yes  
Sid Nelson – Yes  
Chase Moore – Yes

Carl Randall – No  
Ramzi Malek – Abstain  
Mayor Hanby – No

The vote to un-table was defeated. The Sales and Use Tax Ordinance HL 22-02 remains tabled and will not be voted on at this time.

The Sales and Use tax currently being collected at the store and surrounding area, will continue to go to the City of Oneonta. The residents of the surrounding jurisdiction were adamantly opposed to the tax going to pay for police protection from Highland Lake, although 70% of the calls through 911 dispatch are to that area. Their sentiments were simply, they do not want the Town's presence in their jurisdiction.

Resident Gail Bailey asked, and was given permission to address the council. Gail stated that asking to put this vote off for an additional year would not change anything, as the current council would never make this commitment. She also stated the residents that were attending would never change their minds, and that it would just continue to cause problems in the neighborhood. Gail said that our police department is important to Highland Lake, and that we would find alternate sources of revenue to protect it and Highland Lake.

Greg Posey made the motion to adjourn and Sid Nelson seconded. Motion carried unanimously and Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted:

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Joan Shirley, Town Clerk

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Donna Hanby, Mayor