

Work Session of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held a planning work session on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at the Anchor. Mayor Vice called the work session to order at 6:10 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Connie Vice
Council members Chase Moore, Donna Hanby, Greg Posey, Sid Nelson and Ramzi Malek

ABSENT: None

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

Ordinances

Vegetation Control (HL-97-02) – add language prohibiting placing vegetation in the lake. Everyone was in agreement to do this. Ordinance update will be introduced at the February 2018 meeting.

Dog Control (HL-11-02) – several dog complaints have been received regarding dogs getting into trash and regarding a dog in the park approaching a person and growling. Also several dogs have been dumped in the community with no owner identification. Ordinance HL-11-02 currently states dog owners must have their dog on a leash on Town property. This includes the park, walking trail, fishing pier, parking lot, and boardwalk. Violation of this requirement can result in a fine.

It was agreed to place a reminder of our policy and suggestions in the spring community newsletter.

The dog in the park complaint was received in November. No formal police report was made. The complainant sent a video to identify the dog. The dog owner was sent an email advising them of the incident. It was agreed to defer to the Town Attorney to see if additional action is needed/required on this issue.

Lake Use Ordinance (HL-14-05) – Everyone was in agreement to change “Lake Use Permit” to “Municipal Property Fee” or “Lake/Property Fee” to better identify how the funds are utilized to benefit the town. The funds obtained from this annual fee not only maintain the dam and lake, but the park and roads as well. Discussion took place on how to better educate property owners of this annual fee and the importance to the town.

Discussion on the \$10.00 late fee took place. It was agreed to not change it.

The timeframe to begin issuing lake use permits to non-residents was also discussed. The possibility of having a maximum number of non-resident permits was also discussed. No changes to the ordinance at this time.

Roads

Councilmember Chase Moore reviewed the open Road Forms.

Ditches and drainage – the county is planning to clean all the ditches in the community.

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Buildings & Grounds

Lights in the Park – discussion took place on the type of lighting recommended for the park and gazebo area. The Buildings & Grounds committee will discuss and make a recommendation.

Swing set area – re-mulch surface area – The swing set area needs to be re-surfaced. Mulch was last added to the swing set area in September 2013 for a cost of approximately \$1500.00. The Lady Lakers will be asked to help with this expense.

Underground power estimate for park – an estimate was obtained from S&S Electrical to provide underground power at Town Hall and Anchor areas. The transformer would have to be moved and Alabama Power's cost to do this is \$11,000.00. The Buildings & Ground committee will discuss.

Update on boat slip removal – a work day will be scheduled for the spring timeframe to remove the boat slips and pilings. The walkway to the boat slips has already been removed.

Update on Anchor deck – Tim Moore plans to start this project Saturday, January 13.

Bid out grass cutting in the park – everyone was in agreement that this needs to be done.

Approved project to enlarge pond area in park – Mayor Vice will follow up with C&C Contracting on timeframe for completing this project.

Lake

Dredging Update – discussions are needed with a dredging contractor before a decision can be made. Everyone agreed the lake will not be lowered in 2018 for dredging.

Fish Study – Councilmember Sid Nelson will contact Southern Pond Professionals to determine best time of year to do the Fish Study.

Spring Lake Clean-up Day – a clean-up day will be scheduled before Easter. Discussion took place on updating the barge to handle large items.

Spillway safety marking & buoys – Lake Committee will discuss and make a recommendation to the council.

Other

Updating to 2015 Residential Building Code – this would require an ordinance update to change. The town would need 2015 books in the office. Everyone was in agreement to update to 2015 RBC.

Drone Donation & Plan for Use – the drone value is \$400.00. Examples of how the drone can be used include inspecting the back of the dam and viewing the dirt when the lake is down/lowered.

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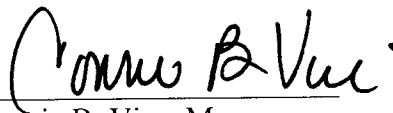
Mrs. Laura Parenteau asked the council if she could address the dog complaint that was received by the town. Mayor Vice showed Ms. Parenteau a photo of the dog received by the complaining party, and Ms. Parenteau confirmed that this was her dog. However, Ms. Parenteau implied that the complaint was not accurate and asked if she could speak with the person making the complaint. Mayor Vice advised the complainant does not wish to file a formal police report.

Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Posey seconded. All were in agreement.

Work session adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:


Cheryl Storey, Town Clerk


Connie B. Vice, Mayor