

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at the Anchor. Mayor Vice called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Tim Moore 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.

September 4, 2018 Work Session Minutes – Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Adams seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

September 4, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes – Moore made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Malek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Council member Donna Hanby gave the monthly and end of fiscal year financial report. Hanby also reported the Compass Bank CD matured and was closed out. A CD was opened at Cadence Bank for 2.30% APY for a term of 14 months. Moore made a motion to accept the report, as presented. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds – Chairman Adams reported the committee met September 25 and members were brought up to date on the following items: meeting with Zavala's Lawn Service about cutting the berm, bids for cleaning/staining the boardwalk, replacing signs in the park and at boat launch. Also discussed was the possibility of a tourism grant.

Lake – Chairman Nelson reported the committee met September 11 and discussed the following items: Sam Pearson to provide shell cracker brim from his own pond in November, obtaining price from Southern Pond Professionals on shiners, installing fish feeder poles by the Anchor point, boat trailers lining the roads a concern, and obtaining price on lights for top of permanent navigation poles. The committee will discuss at the next meeting inspecting the dam. It is the consensus of the committee there is no need for a separate committee for lake safety due to lack of utilization when it was in effect in 2013. This function can be performed within the Lake Committee, and coordinate with Roads. Chief Kon recommended a dock alarm be obtained for the town fishing pier. Mayor Vice mentioned an automated Harvest form is on the Town website for fishermen.

Dredging – Chairman Malek reported the council will vote later in the agenda to either extend the contract with Tetra Tech to December 2019 or close the project out. The town would not have to pay the remaining balance of the contract. If the council decides to extend the contract this would provide time if the town decides we need to consult with them.

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Roads – Chairman Moore reported the county will work on Lakeshore Loop next week. County Commissioner Calvert has requested the 2019 Road Project for Highland Lake be identified for scheduling purposes. Commissioner Calvert recommends triple seal Lakeshore Drive from the Brasher Creek Bridge to the Sunset Blvd hill area.

Moore mentioned limbs are falling from dead trees on to the right-of-ways. Moore suggested bids be obtained from tree services to identify and cut down dead trees on sides of roads within the community to prevent harm and injury. Moore would like to ride the town roads with contractor to identify dead trees that need to be cut.

OFFICER REPORT

Chief Kon reminded everyone to call 911 to report anything suspicious. If you see something wrong, say something. Kon also reported a successful 1033 state audit. Kon added there have not been a lot of traffic issues or burglar issues here at the lake; however, there are burglar issues beyond the lake.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dredging contract with Tetra Tech – Moore made a motion to extend the contract with Tetra Tech until December 2019 at no cost. Nelson seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried. Mayor Vice clarified if the town asks Tetra Tech to perform tasks there would be costs.

NEW BUSINESS

Eddy Dunn – Shoreline request – use broken up concrete to address erosion – Hanby made a motion to approve plans. Adams seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding with Blount County regarding debris removal in preparation for future catastrophic events – Nelson made a motion to renew contract. Moore seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Boardwalk estimates for cleaning & staining –this item was removed from the agenda due to the hiring of Dale Hollaway as the town's new Maintenance/Grounds employee.

2019 Road Project – Moore made a motion for Lakeshore Drive by Brasher Creek Bridge to Sunset hill area be the 2019 Road Project for the county. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried. Council member Moore will obtain best and worst case cost scenarios from Commissioner Calvert for this project.

Fuel for town vehicles – Mayor Vice stated since Denise Adams has joined the town council, she has the only gasoline providing store in the general area. The Town will follow the competitive bid law process per Code of Alabama. Moore made a motion to obtain bids for unleaded fuel to service the police and maintenance departments. Nelson seconded. Roll call. Hanby, Malek, Nelson, Moore and Vice voted yes. Adams abstained. Motion carried.

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November meeting date – due to the November 6 election, Moore made a motion to reschedule the November council meeting to November 13. Malek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public.

Gail Bailey asked the council to consider discussing all items in detail at the 7 PM meeting, that most people do not understand the business being discussed at the work sessions.

Wayne Bailey, Carl Randall and Marlin Vest also commented about the 6 PM council work sessions. It was asked could the work session agenda have provision for the public to have input and ask questions before the council votes at the 7 PM meeting.

Mayor Vice responded council work sessions were recommended and provide the council good working discussion of the items on the 7:00 PM meeting agenda, as well as other issues. Many other towns have work sessions. Work Sessions are open to the public. The work session agendas are published the Wednesday before the council meeting and emailed to those residents who have requested notification. Work session discussion help so sound decisions can be made for the town. Residents should call council members with areas of concern.

Attorney Alex Smith stated work sessions are designed to streamline council meetings to get more dialogue between council members. No action is taken at work sessions. Attorney Smith also stated per the rules persons need to get on the agenda to address an issue. Attorney Smith added he's never seen a problem with the public asking questions at Highland Lake meetings. The Mayor has always been accommodating with the public.

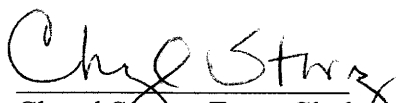
Carl Randall stated Lakeshore Drive near his home is overgrown and asked that the county spray.

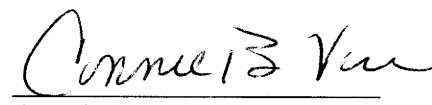
Marlin Vest thanked Council member Moore for his suggestion regarding handling fallen limbs from dead trees.

Mayor Vice called for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss good name and character. The regular meeting is concluded, no additional business will be addressed at the conclusion of the Executive Session. Nelson made a motion to go into Executive Session. Adams seconded. Roll call. Moore and Hanby voted no. Malek abstained. Adams, Nelson and Vice voted yes. Motion carried.

The executive session adjourned at 9:00 PM. Regular meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:


Cheryl Storey, Town Clerk


Connie B. Vice, Mayor