

Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, September 12, 2016 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: None

Town Attorney Alex Smith arrived late due to a conflict with another scheduled meeting.

August 1, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes – Hanby made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Ort seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

August 8, 2016 Budget Work Session Minutes – the Town Clerk read the minutes. Ort made a motion to approve the minutes, as read. Vice seconded. Roll call. Peek, Vice, Ort, Hanby and Bailey voted yes. Davis abstained since he was absent from the meeting. Motion carried.

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lake – Chairman Skip Davis reported the town began lowering the lake on Sunday, September 11 between 3:00 – 4:00 PM. Once the lake is low enough, the area at the dam will be investigated and a recommendation made as to what maintenance work is needed.

Buildings & Grounds – Chairman Donna Hanby reported we are waiting to hear from Lakeside Boathouse on when they can drive the posts for the entrance sign at Lakeshore Drive/River Road. The Town Clerk will follow up with Lakeside Boathouse for a status.

Roads – Chairman Tim Peek – no report.

Mayor Bailey reported the county will begin working on Lakeshore Drive from County Road 29 to Carl Randall's house (where they stopped last time). The county will tear out the road completely and resurface. Also, another layer will be placed from Carl Randall's house to the Anchor. The plan is to begin work on September 19 and complete the paving by the end of October.

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Ordinances – Chairman Shani Ort reported three wording changes were made to the proposed zoning ordinance that was introduced at the August 1 council meeting. These will be described later on in the meeting agenda.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dredging – Mayor Bailey reported that we are still in the permitting process. The town paid the \$4,235.00 application processing fee to ADEM. The permitting process could take up to one year to complete. A town meeting will be held once the design specifications are complete by Tetra Tech. Once the permits are in place, the town will be looking at finance options, issue a request for proposal and bid out the work.

During the month of October while the lake is down, the town will clean out the boat launch area where debris from the tomato fields flowed during the June heavy rains. The town will ask ADEM to monitor this work.

OFFICER REPORT

Chief Kon reported the new Tahoe police vehicle is on the road. The town has spent approximately \$400.00 on it. Kon thanked Tim Peek for donating a radar unit, which saved the town \$2,000.00. The Tahoe needs some minor maintenance, which can be accommodated with available funds in the existing budget.

Kon also reported that the recently donated pontoon has been removed from the lake and is on a trailer. The V-hull is also out of the lake and the other pontoon is beached. Kon suggested that next year the council consider what to do with the two pontoon boats, which are both in need of repairs. Discussion took place on covering the V-hull during the winter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Re-Introduce HL-16-01 Zoning Ordinance – Councilmember Ort re-introduced Ordinance HL-16-01-Zoning. Ort reviewed three wording changes that were made to provide clarification. The zoning document will be posted on the town web site and at the four posting locations within the community for review by residents/property owners. A public hearing will be held at 6:00 pm on October 3, prior to the council meeting, to review/discuss the proposed changes.

Terry Thurston – Raise height of pier – Building Inspector Tim Moore reported he talked with Mr. Thurston, who indicated he is not going to do this work, and that he may remove the pier.

Jon Doss – variance request to build a garage on lot 27 on Sunset Circle – Mr. Doss requested that the request be renamed to a garage instead of a barn because it will house boats, cars and other equipment. Councilmember Vice questioned the proposed location of the garage in proximity to his house. Peek made a motion to approve the variance request. Hanby seconded. Roll call. Davis, Ort, Bailey, Hanby and Peek voted yes. Vice voted no. Motion carried.

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Ed Underwood – Martin Drive Pier – Old Styrofoam under the pier at Martin Drive to be replaced with encapsulated Styrofoam – Vice made a motion to accept plans. Davis seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

2016-2017 Budget – Vice reported the budget reflected a forecast of \$171,010.00 in income and expense. This includes \$1.00 an hour salary raise for the Town Clerk, Police Chief and Business License Inspector. Hanby made a motion to approve the budget. Peek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Johnny Coffey – Two level Floating docks with swim deck (Flotation Systems) – total of 44' from shoreline with ramp – Vice made a motion to approve the plans. Peek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Lee Houlditch – new 10 x 38 pier and rip rap – existing pier has been removed. Hanby made a motion to approve the plans. Vice seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Bill Rush – 22 x 14 Floating dock to be placed right of dock toward the dam – Vice made a motion to approve the plans. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Sid Nelson – New 14 x 27 Boat slip (uncovered) – Davis made a motion to approve the plans. Vice seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Roger Hunter – add retaining wall– Peek made a motion to approve the plans. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Todd Barlok – seawall repair – Hanby made a motion to approve the plans. Ort seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Todd Barlok – resurface boat launch – Peek made a motion to approve the plans. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Dan Cox – repair pier that has pulled slightly out of the ground – Vice made a motion to approve plans. Ort seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Sam Pearson – replace existing boards & shore up as needed existing supports – Peek made a motion to approve plans. Davis seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried. Roger Hunter questioned if the Pearson's would be using approved building materials. The Mayor replied that everyone is required to follow the town ordinance and use approved building materials. If not approved materials, it would require an engineering stamp to approve it.

Kenneth Apperson – repair boat launch concrete area – Vice made a motion to approve plans. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Gerald Tucker – reset dock post pushed up by heavy rains – Vice made a motion to approve plans. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

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Harriett Cornelius – replace warped boards on pier and add steps from pier into the water – Ort made a motion to approve. Vice seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Lee Marks – repair seawall with concrete in holes and refaced with brick – Hanby made a motion to approve plans. Peek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Anita Russell – replace boards on dock – Hanby made a motion to approve plans. Vice seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Ramzi Malek – remove excess silt from boat slip – Peek made a motion to approve plans. Vice seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried. All debris dug out has to be removed and disposed of at homeowner's expense and cannot be placed in lake or disposed of where it would filter back into the lake.

Bill Yazel – repair dock and boat slip – Hanby made a motion to approve plans contingent upon approval by property owner. Peek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Smiley Veal – wall repair/re-cementing small rocks that have come loose – Vice made a motion to approve plans. Peek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Donna Hanby – repair dock and seawall if needed while the water is down – Peek made a motion to approve plans. Vice seconded. Roll call. Davis, Ort, Peek, Vice and Bailey voted yes. Hanby abstained. Motion carried.

Scott Matthews – repair existing wall and remove excess silt from slough area in front of house – Peek made a motion to approve plans. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried. All debris dug out has to be removed and disposed of at homeowner's expense and cannot be placed in lake or disposed of where it would filter back into the lake.

Straight Mountain Fire Department Chili Supper at the Anchor on Saturday, October 29 – Davis made a motion to approve use of the Anchor. Ort seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Vice made a motion to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to review the Rick Coggins request that was received after the agenda was posted. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Rick Coggins – remove excess silt between his pier and Mrs. Stone's property line – Peek made a motion to approve plans. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried. All debris dug out has to be removed and disposed of at homeowner's expense and cannot be placed in lake or disposed of where it would filter back into the lake.

Proposed 1 cent sales tax increase – Mayor Bailey reported that a community meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 4th at 7:00 PM to discuss the proposed 1% sales tax increase that will be on the November ballot. The Probate Judge and Commissioner will be at the meeting to address questions from the public. The 1% sales tax increase will benefit roads, schools, fire departments, and a portion will be divided among the municipalities. The Town of Highland Lake would receive approximately \$13,000.00 which would have to be spent on roads or education. The current tax is 4% state, 2% county. Each city may also have an additional tax. The Mayor added that it's very important that everyone attend this meeting to learn first-hand about the proposed sales tax increase.

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Ort made a motion to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to review a request from Bill Peek. Vice seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Bill Peek – clean out and dispose of material by his boat slip – Davis made a motion to approve plans. Vice seconded. Roll call. Davis, Ort, Vice, Hanby and Bailey voted yes. Peek abstained. Motion carried. All debris dug out has to be removed and disposed of at homeowner's expense and cannot be placed in lake or disposed of where it would filter back into the lake.

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public.

Roger Hunter questioned the Pearson boathouse and if our Building Inspector had the authority to tell the owner the boathouse needed to be totally replaced because the wood has rotted. The Mayor responded that the Building Inspector does have this authority.

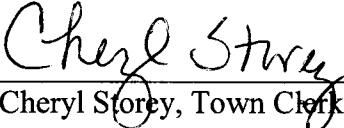
Ramzi Malek questioned fire dues. The fire dues are deducted monthly from the water bill.

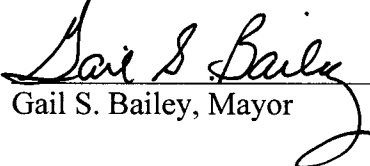
Greg Posey questioned the status of dredging. The Mayor responded that the town is in the permitting process, which can take up to one year. Tetra Tech is working on the specifications. As soon as the specifications are complete, a town meeting will be held to review/discuss. The town will then do a Request for Proposal, take bids and look at finance options.

Roger Hunter questioned if Tetra Tech would do site visits. The response was yes.

With no other business to come before the council, Vice made a motion to adjourn. Hanby seconded. All said I. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted:


Cheryl Storey, Town Clerk


Gail S. Bailey, Mayor