

Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING
of the
CITY COUNCIL
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA

April 14, 2022
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDING: Vice Mayor Arch Willingham

PRESENT: Council Members Taylor Watson, Tony Towns, Kevin Leckenby, and Caroline Williams; City Attorney Bill Pickering; and City Manager Kenny Lee.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE: Vice Mayor Arch Willingham called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at the City Hall, 1214 Lula Lake Road, Lookout Mountain, Georgia 30750. Council Member Kevin Leckenby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Council Member Taylor Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council's Regular Meeting of February 10, 2022, and Special Meeting of February 28, 2022. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caroline Williams and passed unanimously.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY – SIMS PROPERTY – BOBBY DANN: Attorney Bobby Dann addressed the Council on behalf of the Lookout Mountain Conservancy. Mr. Dann advised the Council that the title work and survey for the Sims property had been completed and that the Conservancy was now ready to complete its acquisition of the property. Mr. Dann stated that there would be open public discussions, led by landscape architect Matt Whitaker, regarding the creation and maintenance of a public park on the property. City Attorney Bill Pickering reminded the Council that the City had previously agreed to waive back taxes and its lien on the property, conditioned on the Conservancy's (a) establishment of an appropriate conservation easement, (b) providing ample opportunity for resident input regarding the refurbishment of the property, (c) providing a walkway from the property to the new City Hall, and (d) acknowledging that the City is to have no obligation for any ongoing maintenance of the property. The Sims family has requested that, in addition to the City's waiver of its lien and back taxes on the property, the City also agree not to pursue the Sims family individually. The consensus of the Council was that the proposed park would be a great asset for the City and its residents, and the Council had no problem with the additional waiver being requested. Subject to the four conditions set forth above, Council Member Tony Towns moved that the Council (a) ratify the City's waiver of property taxes currently owed on the property and the release of the City's lien on the property, and (b) agree not to pursue the Sims family individually for the amounts owed. The motion was seconded Council Member Taylor Watson and passed unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION OFFICERS AND UPDATE: Council Member Arch Willingham reported that the Municipal Planning Commission had elected the following officers from its membership: Keith Sanford, Chair; David DeVaney, Vice Chair; and Jan Weaver, Secretary. Mr. Willingham further reported that at its meeting on April 12, the Planning Commission had approved the moving of a property line on the Brock's Scenic Highway property.

FIRE AND POLICE UPDATE - TAYLOR WATSON: Council Member Taylor Watson had no fire and police report but did point out that Georgia residents will be driving on the Tennessee side's streets during the

shutdown of the Ochs Highway Fairyland Extension. Ms. Watson asked that residents be respectful of the Tennessee side's speed limits and ordinances. Ms. Watson also reminded residents to lock their doors.

FAIRYLAND SCHOOL UPDATE – CAROLINE WILLIAMS: Council Member Caroline Williams reported that the Fairyland Festival will be on May 3. There will be a Farmers Market starting in early May which will allow the students to sell what they grow in the aquaponics lab. Milestones testing is coming up, and the school year is almost over. Ms. Williams shared that the community is thankful that the school was able to stay open this year because of the impact the COVID lock down had on younger children. The end of the giving year for Fairyland is June 30, and Ms. Williams asked for any donations anyone would like to make.

STORMWATER COMMITTEE – TONY TOWNS: Council Member Tony Towns reported that the Stormwater Committee is addressing several issues. Some of these matters are county issues, but most are homeowner issues. The committee is working on a proposal for some permitting requirements that could prevent many of these problems. Addressing some general maintenance problems will also help. Mr. Towns stated that some of the issues are due to residents not understanding City's the rights of way and damaging infrastructure that can impact other residents.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE – KEVIN LECKENBY: Council Member Kevin Leckenby reported that the construction of the Oberon Trail parking lot is underway. The City is hopeful the work will be completed by the end of May. The fencing around the City Hall and Fire Hall is complete. The gas company is trying to connect homes to the main line with the hope of finishing by mid June unless they hit rock. Mr. Leckenby shared that GDOT has the landslide repair scheduled. Brush pick up will be before Memorial Day, and information regarding brush pick up is on the City website. Dumpster Day will be May 7. The sidewalk repair will begin when time and manpower will allow. There will be spot road repairs beginning soon, and residents are asked to report any spots they see that are in need of repair.

CITY MANAGER – KENNY LEE: Mr. Lee informed the Council that GDOT will be closing the Ochs Highway Fairyland Extension from the intersection of Fleetwood and Mockingbird down to the “cut” on Sunday, April 24, at 6:00 p.m., for a period of four to six weeks. This is required to remediate the landslide site and will include constructing a retaining wall on the brow side, installing storm water culverts, and repaving the section impacted by the project. Updates will be emailed to residents and will also be posted on the City website. GDOT hopes to have the road open before Memorial Day. Signs will be placed along Ochs Highway pertaining to these changes with the help of Rock City. The City is thankful to the City of Chattanooga for agreeing to pave the “cut” prior to the beginning of this project.

GARDEN UPDATE – JIMMY CAMPBELL: Jimmy Campbell presented the Council with photos and a design drawing for the upgrades of Joe Wilson Park. Mr. Campbell reported that some funds were approved last year by the Council for the removal of trees. Kenny Lee shared that a couple of oak trees need to come down, and what is left of the funds can be spent on the park. Mr. Campbell stated that the goal for the project is \$100,000, and he is hopeful that one-third of the money could come from ARP or SPLOST funds, one-third from a fundraiser, and one-third from a foundation. There is \$12,000-\$14,000 left in the garden fund. Council Member Kevin Leckenby stated that he would like for the oak trees being removed to be replaced with other hardwood trees.

SEWER ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE – PUMP STATION REPAIRS – WES HASDEN: Wes Hasden reported that the 22 year old generator failed at the pump station, and parts are either nonexistent or have to be manufactured. Another generator is being rented for several hundred dollars a day on a temporary basis. Mr. Hasden reported that a new generator would cost \$178,000, but with installation the total expense would be close to \$200,000. The City's consulting engineer, Tommy Newsome, is working with an electrical engineer to

determine if the replacement generator which is available will work with the new pump station. An automatic switch that converts power for the failed generator is being replaced, but the question is whether this will take care of the problem. A report and recommendation is expected by Tuesday.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Roberts
City Clerk