

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

March 9, 2023
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDING: Mayor David S. Bennett

PRESENT: Council Members Arch Willingham, Taylor Watson, and Kevin Leckenby; City Attorney Bill Pickering; and City Manager Kenny Lee.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE: Mayor David Bennett called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at City Hall, 1214 Lula Lake Road, Lookout Mountain, Georgia 30750. City Attorney Bill Pickering led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Council Member Arch Willingham made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council's regular meetings of January 12, 2023 and February 9, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kevin Leckenby and passed unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE – ARCH WILLINGHAM: Council Member Arch Willingham reported that two matters the Municipal Planning Commission could not approve would be reviewed by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

FIRE AND POLICE UPDATE – TAYLOR WATSON: Council Member Taylor Watson provided the monthly police report. Ms. Watson again urged residents to keep their homes and cars locked and to keep personal items out of sight in their vehicles. Ms. Watson also reported that Chief Gann, Phil Shankles and Danny Ellis had participated in the BB shoot in LaFayette to support the 4-H Club and had won first place. A special thank you was given to Assistant Chief Ansel Smith of the City of Trenton's Fire Department who donated needed equipment to Lookout Mountain's Fire Department. Appreciation was also expressed to the Lookout Mountain, Tennessee Fire Department for including Georgia's firefighters in training at a donated house before it was demolished.

PUBLIC WORKS – KEVIN LECKENBY: Council Member Kevin Leckenby stated that brush season had begun and provided instructions for how brush should be left for pickup. An easement issue has put the SEC gas line project on hold, but the issue is expected to be resolved by the end of March. Sidewalk repair is underway with trip hazards being addressed. All but one uneven place on the sidewalks have now been repaired. Residents are asked to let the City know if additional problem areas are found. Building a buffer between the new parking lot for City Hall and Oberon Trail is underway. A privacy fence has been installed, and the positions of plants that will go in front of the fence have been marked. Striping the City's roads should be

done by the end of April, and road signs are currently being repainted. New acoustic tiles for City Hall are being ordered. Mr. Leckenby thanked Daniel Cates for having a plan in place to respond to the recent storm and to keep the Public Works Department's employees safe. The next dumpster day is April 1.

CITY MANAGER – KENNY LEE: City Manager Kenny Lee reported that the City was completing an application with the State to be recognized as a PlanFirst municipality. This is a designation awarded to local governments which demonstrate success in the implementation of their local comprehensive plan. If awarded this designation, the City will be able to receive more attractive interest rates on specific loans.

STORMWATER REPORT – BRAD HAVEN: Mr. Haven submitted a written stormwater report which was in the Council packet.

SEWER ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE –PUMP STATION REPAIRS - WES HASDEN: Mr. Hasden reported that contract negotiations for the upgrade of the pump station were still in process.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Bennett reported that clearing the vines out of trees at the big curve at the bottom of Ochs Highway to increase visibility and safety has been completed. Vegetation is also being cleared from the rock bluffs on Wood Nymph Trail near the #2 green. This is being done on private property in order to make it safer for officers enforcing the no trespassing signs.

Mayor Bennett expressed his thanks to the City Council and to his friends, family and community for their support and friendship over the last six months. Mayor Bennett stated that this has been a very difficult time for him and his family but that he could now report that his blood alcohol test results had finally come back and showed that his blood alcohol level was below the legal limit. The toxicology report was also negative. DUI charges have been dismissed, and the cases are over.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Roberts
City Clerk