

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

July 13, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

**PRESIDING:** Mayor David S. Bennett

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

**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, July 13, 2023, at City Hall, 1214 Lula Lake Road, Lookout Mountain, Georgia 30750. Wes Hasden led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**LAVENS BROOKS – 105 PRINCESS TRAIL – SPEED BUMP REQUEST.** Ms. Lavens Brooks of 105 Princess Trail appeared before the Council to express concerns about increased speeding on Princess Trail and to ask that the City consider the installation of speed bumps. Ms. Brooks has submitted a petition to City Hall with signatures of 10-12 residents supporting her request. The Council was sympathetic to Ms. Books' concerns. Mayor Bennett suggested monitoring traffic on Princess Trail electronically to gain a better understanding of the problem and to discuss this matter further at next month's Council meeting.

**PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE – ARCH WILLINGHAM:** Council Member Arch Willingham reported that at its most recent meeting, the Municipal Planning Commission had discussed garage apartments, "mother-in-law" suites, and similar secondary uses. The Planning Commission also met with Ethan Calhoun of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission to discuss a new zoning ordinance. Mr. Willingham also indicated that the Planning Commission was interested in allowing the City Building Official to approve new fences without the matter having to come before the entire Planning Commission. City Attorney Bill Pickering provided background regarding the current requirement of Planning Commission approval for fences. Mr. Willingham will advise the Planning Commission that the current requirements should remain in place.

**FIRE AND POLICE UPDATE – TAYLOR WATSON:** Council Member Taylor Watson provided the monthly police report. Council Member Kevin Leckenby advised the Council that there was a problem with motorists speeding on Ochs Highway at the curve below the Fairyland Club. The City will contact GDOT to inquire about appropriate signage to warn approaching vehicles of the curve.

**PUBLIC WORKS – KEVIN LECKENBY:** Council Member Kevin Leckenby provided the monthly Public Works report. Mr. Leckenby's written report is filed with these minutes.

**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 advised that work on this matter was continuing and there would be a more complete report at an upcoming Council meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Bennett stated that funding had been approved by GDOT for street striping. Mayor Bennett also reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade was a success and had been enjoyed by everyone participating and attending. Mayor Bennett further advised that the recently passed budget for 2023-2024 does not contemplate an increase in property taxes.

**POTENTIAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION/EXECUTIVE SESSION:** City Council Member Arch Willingham made a motion that the Council go into Executive Session to discuss the potential acquisition of property by the City. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kevin Leckenby and passed unanimously.

The Council then met in Executive Session for the purpose stated. Following the Executive Session, the Regular Meeting of the City Council was reopened.

**FURTHER PROCEEDINGS AFTER MEETING REOPENED:** The City has an opportunity to purchase an undeveloped corner lot located at 1214 Cinderella Road (corner of Cinderella Road and Red Riding Hood Trail). The lot could be landscaped and used as green space for the City and its residents. Council Member Arch Willingham made a motion to authorize Mayor Bennett to negotiate with the owner for the purchase of the lot within limits discussed during the Executive Session, with the owner/seller to pay closing costs, and to enter into a contract of purchase and sale. Mr. Willingham's motion was seconded by Council Member Kevin Leckenby and passed unanimously. City Attorney Bill Pickering advised that an appraisal of the property may be needed. Mr. Pickering will check on this and advise Mayor Bennett whether one or more appraisals will be necessary before the purchase can be concluded. The acquisition of the property, when finalized, will be confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the Council.

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting of the Council was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Roberts  
City Clerk