

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

January 9, 2025
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDING: Mayor David Bennett

PRESENT: Council Members Arch Willingham, Taylor Watson, Caroline Williams, Tony Towns, 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, January 9, 2025, at City Hall, 1214 Lula Lake Road, Lookout Mountain, Georgia 30750. The City firefighters in attendance led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Bennett expressed his deep appreciation to the City's firefighters and all they do for the City. Mayor Bennett also stated that the City's road crews were prepared for snow that's forecasted for tomorrow. The City missed the fall window for road striping, and that will now be done at a future date.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 349 – AMEND AND RESTATE RETIREMENT PLAN: City Attorney Bill Pickering presented proposed Ordinance No. 349, an ordinance and Adoption Agreement to amend and restate the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan for eligible employees of the City of Lookout Mountain, Georgia. At the Council's December 12 meeting, the question was raised as to whether the City could set the eligibility requirement for participation in the Plan at greater than 20 work hours per week. This is covered in Section 10.A. of the Adoption Agreement. Mr. Pickering discussed this matter with the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), and the response was that it's important that the City adopt this prototype plan as is. However, after the plan has been adopted, GMA could assist the City in drafting an amended Adoption Agreement with a higher work hour per week requirement. The higher threshold would only apply to new hires. If there are any part-time employees who currently meet the 20-hour per week minimum, they would be grandfathered in and would continue to accrue benefits. The Council was satisfied with this explanation and will adopt the amended and restated Plan as is. Council Member Arch Willingham made a motion to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 349 and the Adoption Agreement on second reading. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kevin Leckenby and passed unanimously.

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

POTENTIAL APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHIEF OF POLICE AND FIRE/EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council Member Arch Willingham made a motion that the Council go into Executive Session to discuss the potential appointment of a new Chief of Police and Fire and to

interview candidates for the position. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tony Towns and passed unanimously. The Council then met in Executive Session for the purpose stated.

REOPEN REGULAR MEETING: Following the Executive Session, the Council reopened its Regular Meeting. There are two excellent candidates for the position of Chief of Police and Fire, and the Council wanted to discuss and consider the appointment further in a subsequent meeting. The Council decided to defer action on the appointment and will meet again on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Roberts
City Clerk