

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

March 13, 2025
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDING: Mayor David S. Bennett

PRESENT: Council Members Arch Willingham, Taylor Watson, Tony Towns, and Kevin Leckenby; City Attorney Bill Pickering; City Manager Kenny Lee; and Chief of Police and Fire Jason Lewis.

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 13, 2025, at City Hall, 1214 Lula Lake Road, Lookout Mountain, Georgia 30750. Council Member Tony Towns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATH OF OFFICE – CHIEF OF POLICE AND FIRE JASON LEWIS: Municipal Judge Buddy Presley administered the Oath of Office to incoming Chief of Fire and Police Robert Jason Lewis. Chaplin Ed Salter led the audience in prayer. Chief Lewis delivered remarks thanking the Council for their confidence in him and stating that he was looking forward to getting to work and getting to know the City's police officers and firefighters.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – MARC ERICKSON: The Municipal Planning Commission has recommended that Marc Erickson be appointed to fill the current vacancy on the commission. Council Members agreed that Mr. Erickson was an excellent choice. Council Member Arch Willingham made a motion to appoint Marc Erickson to the Municipal Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kevin Leckenby and passed unanimously.

BUDGET APPROVAL TIMELINE: City Manager Kenny Lee presented a timeline for the 2025-26 Budget Approval process. The timeline includes a budget workshop to be held on April 10, the required Public Hearing on May 8, and the first and second readings of the budget ordinances in June.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE – ARCH WILLINGHAM: Council Member Arch Willingham reported that the Municipal Planning Commission had turned down a building permit request for the Joseph Persinger house on Bagby Lane. Mr. Persinger will appeal this matter to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Work on the new zoning ordinance is proceeding. The Planning Commission hopes to have the new ordinance finalized and ready to submit to the City Council in 4-6 weeks.

FIRE AND POLICE UPDATE – TAYLOR WATSON: Council Member Taylor Watson introduced new Assistant Fire Chief Brian Dedmon. Ms. Watson also reported that the City's ISO evaluation would be in April.

STORMWATER COMMITTEE – TONY TOWNS: Council Member Tony Towns advised that the Stormwater Committee had not met during the last month.

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT AND TRAILS UPDATE – KENNY LEE: City Manager Kenny Lee reported that the ESPLOST election will be on Tuesday, March 18. Community meetings to discuss the Trails project and to review plans from the Ragan Smith consulting firm will be on March 24. There will be two meetings to obtain input from the community.

SEWER ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE – PUMP STATION REPAIRS – WES HASDEN: Mr. Hasden reported that the pump station rehabilitation project was on schedule. Preliminary plans will be presented next week. The City intends to request bids for construction in May with the project scheduled for completion 12-15 months later.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Roberts
City Clerk