

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council
City of Chattahoochee Hills, Georgia
February 7, 2017 / 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Mayor Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Councilmembers in attendance were James Stephens, Claire Williams, Faye Godwin, and Don Hayes. Councilmember Richard Schmidt was absent. Also present was City Attorney Rick Lindsey. Mayor Reed led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Mayor Reed requested that the following items be added to the Agenda:

- 1. Recognition of Officer Shannon Stroup and Officer Michael Lynch*
- 2. Presentation on Right-of-Way cutting being done by Greystone if the Greystone representative arrives before the end of the meeting*

Councilmember Godwin made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Minutes of the Work Session of December 1, 2016*
- 2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2017*

Councilmember Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes of the Work Session of December 1, 2016 and the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2017. Councilmember Stephens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Financial Update: City Manager Robert Rokovitz

Mr. Rokovitz gave an update on the financials. The city is approximately 58 percent through the fiscal year. Since the budget was amended at the January meeting, revenue collections are now at 77 percent for General Fund Revenue and 78.4 percent including Hotel/Motel Tax collections. Total Expenditures are at 54.8 percent.

Fire Department Report: Greg Brett

Chief Brett reported the final count for calls in 2016 was 491, with an average response time of 9 minutes 46 seconds. The department has three new part-time hires: FF/Paramedic Lisa Cook, FF/Paramedic Jared Joiner, and FF/EMT Kevin Fleming. The discussions with American Medical Response (AMR) for improved response times are continuing and Georgia EMS Region III Council has become involved. There will be a CodeRED community enrollment blitz occurring during the next few months. "Severe Weather Awareness" week is February 6-10.

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Police Department Report: Stoney Mathis

Chief Mathis reported there have been no personnel changes. There were six investigations in January. The annual calls for service in 2016 were 5,009. In 2015 there were 2,985. Other statistics for January were 115 citations, 202 warnings, 4 parking citations, 24 arrests, and 53 reports.

Public Works/Parks Report: Darold Wendlandt

City Manager Robert Rokovitz gave an update on behalf Mr. Wendlandt, who was not present. The department continues to work on the gravel roads and right-of-way cutting. Staff is having to pick up a lot of trash from the right-of-way. The dump truck was delivered in January. The Heavy Equipment Operator position is still open.

Community Development: Mike Morton

Mr. Morton reported there were nine building permits, including five for single family dwellings and townhomes, and six Certificates of Occupancy issued in January. The Tough Mudder event is scheduled for the end of April and a request for approval of activities occurring outside the allowed times may be before the Council at the next meeting. The Arbor Day Celebration will be at city hall on February 17th at 3:00 p.m. The Planning Commission meeting agenda for February 16th will include a public hearing for the proposed Accessory Dwelling changes, a discussion on the proposed changes to the Sign Ordinance, and a discussion on the Home Occupation regulations.

Presentations/Proclamations

1. Recognition of Officer Shannon Stroup and Officer Michael Lynch.

Police Chief Stoney Mathis presented Officer Shannon Stroup a letter of commendation for her actions during an incident that occurred on January 31st. Police Chief Stoney Mathis presented Officer Michael Lynch two letters of commendation for his actions during the incident that occurred January 31st and his actions during an incident where he and Officer Lynch delivered a baby on February 3rd. Officer Lynch thanked everyone for their support and said he was thankful to have a chief like Chief Mathis by his side during both incidents.

2. Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Reed read the proclamation declaring February 17, 2017 as Arbor Day in Chattahoochee Hills. The celebration will take place at City Hall on February 17th at 3:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Howard Watson, 7660 Cochran Mill Road – said that he has been having issues for the last three years and the city is not doing anything. The previous city manager did address the issue of horses on the neighboring property but the city never made the owner clean the property up after the horses were moved. City staff have not been returning his calls. He also said that he will be contacting the Federal Government to make sure the city is not gerrymandering the Council Districts and to look into the city's hiring practices.

Laura Richards, 7005 Rico Road – asked the city to turn off the light at Rico Ball Field. It

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shines directly on the front of her house. This light has not been operational for some time, and the majority of residents want dark skies.

Cindy Hanson, 6995 Rico Road – said city turned the light off at Rico Ball Field several years ago after receiving a request to do so. She said the city’s night sky ordinance protects against light pollution, and she asked the city to remove the light or install a switch so the light can be turned off when not in use. She also commented on the positioning of the light. If it is used for night games, the light will shine directly at home plate and may make it difficult for the batter to see.

Michael Cole, 12070 Hutcheson Ferry Road – commented on accessory dwellings. He had been informed that the city is going to tell him how many buildings he can put on his property. He said he has 16 acres and it does not seem appropriate that the city can limit the number of buildings on his property. He said this is how citizens lose their rights.

Public Hearings

- 1. Item 17-867:** Public Hearing and First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the Charter by Deleting Appendix “B” of the Charter in Its Entirety and Replacing It with a Revised Appendix “B” Adopted by the City Council Under the Home Rule Powers Found in O.C.G.A. Sections 36-35-3(b) and 36-5-401 to Reapportion the City Council Districts 1 through 5 due to Annexation and as Otherwise Required by Law.

City Attorney Rick Lindsey read the rules for the Public Hearing. Mayor Reed opened the Public Hearing.

City Attorney Rick Lindsey presented the item. The reapportionment is required because of the annexations that were done in the last two years. He gave a summary of the history of the laws and the goals of redistricting. He also presented a comparison of the original districts, the 2011 districts, and the proposed districts.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Reed closed the public hearing.

Unfinished Business (None)

New Business

- 1. Item 17-868:** First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend and Revise Chapter 20 City of Chattahoochee Hills Zoning Ordinance and for All Other Purposes Related Thereto – proposed changes to Accessory Dwelling Unit regulations.

City Planner Mike Morton presented the item. The proposed changes loosen the dwelling’s dimensional regulations. The proposed changes limit the heated floor area to no greater than 960 square feet or the floor area of the of the principal structure, do not allow more than one accessory dwelling per lot, and require that a site plan that identifies an off-street parking space be submitted with the building permit

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application. Public hearings will be held at the Planning Commission meeting on February 16th and the City Council meeting on March 7th. This is a first read and no action was taken.

- 2. Item 17-869:** Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to Georgia Municipal Association for a Local Government Risk Management Services Grant.

City Manager Robert Rokovitz presented the item. The grant is for safety equipment that can be purchased for any city department. There is no city match. If approved, the city will seek the grant for next year. Councilmember Williams made a motion to approve Item No. 17-869. Councilmember Stephens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilmember Williams thanked Officer Stroup and Officer Lynch for their service.

Councilmember Godwin said the City Manager has chosen a great team that is able to handle major incidents like those that have occurred over the last 10 days.

Councilmember Hayes complimented the Police and Fire Departments and thanked the crowd for coming out.

Councilmember Stephens said the staff is doing a great job.

Mayor Reed said the recent drug bust was generated by our Police Department working in conjunction with other jurisdictions and departments and congratulated the department on their work. The light at Rico Ball Field was a result of new employees wanting to repair the light and not being aware of past discussions. It has been discussed with staff and will be taken care of. There have also been discussions with Greystone about shrouding for security lights in order for them to be in line with the night sky ordinance. He said redistricting has been discussed over several work sessions as early as a year ago. The city waited until the referendum for the City of South Fulton was passed, since that could have had an effect on the city's boundaries. He also mentioned the amount of work that Chief Brett has been doing on the American Medical Response discussions. Commissioner Emma Darnell and others have also gotten involved. American Medical Response opened a new facility and has added additional ambulances, so, hopefully, response times will improve.

Councilmember Williams also thanked the Fire Department and all of city staff for their hard work.

Executive Session (None)

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Adjourn Meeting Councilmember Godwin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Hayes seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Approved this 7th day of March, 2017.

Dana Wicher, City Clerk

Tom Reed, Mayor

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