

**Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council
City of Chattahoochee Hills, Georgia
February 2, 2016 / 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, Richard Schmidt, Claire Williams, Faye Godwin, and Don Hayes. All members were present. 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 the agenda be amended to add a City Attorney's report under Staff Reports. Councilmember Godwin made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Schmidt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of December 31, 2015
2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2016

Councilmember Schmidt made a motion to approve minutes of the Special Called Meeting of December 31, 2015 and the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2016. Councilmember Stephens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Investigation Report: City Attorney Rick Lindsey

Mr. Lindsey gave a summary of the written investigation report regarding the incident involving former City Manager Jay DiPasquale that occurred at Chattahoochee Hills Charter School on December 4, 2015. The investigation was done by Attorney Theodore Meeker, III, of Sumner Meeker. The findings were that Mr. DiPasquale did not violate anyone's first amendment rights.

IT Update: Susan Warner

Ms. Warner said that there were five IT support tickets opened and completed in January. The average time to resolve the cases was an hour and 45 minutes.

Financial Update: Kyle Jones

Mr. Jones gave a summary of the financials. For the General Fund, 81.53% of budgeted revenue has been collected and 52.6% of budgeted expenditures has been spent. The E-911 Fund will be supplemented with General Fund revenue because not enough is

collected from E-911 fess. Business license renewals were mailed the first week of January and are due by March 31st. The FY2017 budget process has started.

Fire Department Report: Greg Brett

Chief Brett reported that there were 21 calls in January. The ISO evaluation process begins this month. The hope is that the result will be a new protective class rating which will result in insurance cost savings for residents.

Public Works Report: Greg Brett (serving as Interim Public Works/Parks Director)

Chief Brett reported that they are constantly assessing where road repair is needed. Pothole repair work is being done as weather allows. Gravel road repair work has been focused on Jones Ferry, Barnes, Vernon Grove, Old Rico, Rico-Tatum, Phillips, and Hamilton roads. Salt and sand spreading was done during the two recent weather events. Chief Brett has been exploring various program that offer possible opportunities for incremental repairs on both paved and gravel roads. HVAC systems will be installed in the administrative and police department offices. Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) hosted its first volunteer trail workday in Cochran Mill Park on January 9th. The Cochran Mill Park payment kiosk project has been expanded to include additional infrastructure for future opportunities. Chief Brett is currently working on securing quotes for needed capital purchases.

Police Department Report: Donnie Keeter

Interim Chief Keeter reported that the department added an additional officer to the roster. One patrol vehicle is currently out of service due to an insurance claim. All shifts continue to be covered.

Community Development: Mike Morton

Mr. Morton announced that the Arbor Day celebration will be February 19th at 2:15 p.m. at the Chattahoochee Hills Charter School. The stakeholder interviews for the Comp Plan update process will be starting soon and the first stakeholder meeting will be in a few weeks. The Rico Community process will began in about a month. Publicity for Comp Plan meetings will be posted at city hall, at churches, and in the various community newsletters. Mr. Morton also reported that he has recently been hearing about more interest in land in the city and has been receiving inquiries about what can be done on various properties.

Presentations/Proclamations

1. Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Reed read the proclamation declaring February 19, 2016 as Arbor Day in Chattahoochee Hills. The celebration will take place at the Chattahoochee Hills Charter School on February 19th at 2:15 p.m.

Public Comment

Tully Dempsey, 7515 Campbellton-Redwine Road – thanked the police department and fire department. He said that he has lived here for 50 years, and the police department is running as smoothly now as it ever has.

Marcia Lee, 6530 Rico Road – told the elected officials if City Manager Michael Jackson does not bring Matt Rook back, they will be held responsible. Any outcome other than bringing him back breaks any trust they have left in the city officials. She said Matt Rook was a textbook example of community policing and he understood the difference in the letter of the law versus the spirit of the law. Ms. Lee submitted a copy of her comments for the record.

Nesha Bryant, 13150 Hutcheson Ferry Road – said that the pro and cons of reinstating Matt Rook are running 50/50 per the city manager; however, everyone who has spoken about this issue, with one exception, has been in favoring of reinstating Matt Rook. She asked how the Council could allow Matt to be railroaded into his resignation with complete disregard for what the majority of the citizens want. She said the only right thing is to ask Matt to come back. Ms. Bryant submitted a copy of her comments for the record.

Susan Tillander, 9900 Woodruff Road – asked the Council to consider rejecting Agenda Item No. 16-789 because it will take away the power of the City Council. She said that she was at the Planning Commission where it was discussed and the context in which it was brought up made it clear that it was about politics. She said that citizens are very upset about some of the ordinances that have been passed over the last year, especially the ordinance that restricts fencing and the vehicle ordinances. Citizens are not being notified and their voices are not being heard. The city needs to find the obstacles to communication and she suggests forming a committee to help improve the democratic process. She said Matt Rook was treated unfairly and that is why he had to resign, and that each of the Council needed to state where they stand.

Blake Walker, 10205 Henry Mill Road – said that she is concerned for the safety of the city. She has collected data from the Chattahoochee Hills Police Department and city-data.com. According to her data, Chattahoochee Hills' crime rate has decreased 67% and the crime rate index is 29.8. Arrest numbers between 2014 and 2015 increased 43% and citations issued decreased 4.49%. She also reported that citation and arrests numbers for December and January were down from the monthly average, and she said this proves that Matt Rook managed his department well. Ms. Walker submitted a copy of her comments for the record.

Clay Johnson, Chattahoochee Hills Charter School, 9670 Rivertown Road – gave an overview on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills test results for the charter school. He said the national average score is 50. The average third grade reading score in North Fulton County is 71, 41 in South Fulton County, and the average score at Chattahoochee Hills Charter School was 68. The average fifth grade social studies score in North Fulton County is 76, 39 in South Fulton, and the average score at Chattahoochee Hills Charter School was 72. He said that the charter school is providing an amazing educational opportunity. The charter school has just finished open enrollment, and they have received 650 applications, which is one-third of the total applications submitted to the eight charter schools in Fulton County.

Renee Prince, 13015 Hamilton Road – said that she was speaking on behalf of her seven-year-old daughter because whatever decision is made affects her also. Her daughter first met Matt Rook and the other officers when she was two years old. Since then, she always wants to stop and talk to them. Ms. Prince said that her husband used to be an officer in Douglas County and that officers do not make much money. She said the officers need raises, and she and her daughter are collecting data on how they can get raises. She said that she had sent several emails to the Mayor and Council members in January, and that she heard back from everyone but two Council members. It is important that the City Council responds back to citizens. They have a right to be heard.

Kenneth Bryant, 7645 Campbellton-Redwine Road – thanked Chief Keeter and the other officers for the job they are doing under the circumstances.

Alan Merrill, 560 Tabb Way – thanked the Council for their public service. He also thanked the volunteers that have been helping with the construction of the Rico Park Concession stand, especially Mac McKinney who has volunteered one of his framing crews and Don Lee who has helped out on many occasions.

J.K. Langley, 6420 Campbellton-Redwine Road – said that he has nothing against Matt Rook, but he does not want Matt reinstated as police chief. He said that does not mean he is anti-Matt. It means he is pro-city. He said the Reinstatement Matt Rook “mob” does not have credibility and suggested people visit the “Reinstatement Chief Matt Rook” Facebook page. If the group wants serious change in city procedures or policy, they need to grow up and grow some credibility.

Ben Hoffman, 10795 Hutcheson Ferry Road – said that he is new to the area but is still excited to live here. He requested that there be some sort of investigation about what happened to Matt Rook so everything is more transparent.

Gordon Rolle, 7451 Spring Box Drive, Fairburn, GA – said that he is a District 65 State Representative Candidate. He asked for support in the upcoming election.

Public Hearing (None)

Discussions (None)

Unfinished Business (None)

New Business

- 1. Item 16-787:** Ordinance to Amend and Revise Chapter 22, Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Section 9.2.B. *(First Reading)*

City Planner Mike Morton presented the item. The ordinance corrects a drafting error. The section currently reads "No more than 95% of the Preservation Area shall be fewer than 50 feet in with." The original intent was to limit the percentage to 5%. This is a first reading. Public Hearings are scheduled for the Planning Commission meeting on February 11th at 6:00 p.m. and the City Council Meeting on March 1st at 6:30 p.m. No action was taken.

- 2. Item 16-788:** Special Use Permit (Petition No. 15U-001) request from Emily Ewing for Pet Care Services in an HM-MU District located at 9057 Selborne Lane. *(First Reading)*

City Planner Mike Morton presented the item. The special use permit application is for a doggy daycare and grooming facility at 9057 Selborne Lane. This is a first reading. Public Hearings are scheduled for the Planning Commission meeting on February 11th at 6:00 p.m. and the City Council Meeting on March 1st at 6:30 p.m. No action was taken.

- 3. Item 16-789:** Ordinance Revising Chapter 2, Article 4, Section 2(a)

City Planner Mike Morton presented the item. The proposed revision would change the terms of the Planning Commission members from one-year terms to overlapping two-year terms.

The item died for lack of a motion.

- 4. Item 16-790:** Resolution Declaring Excess Property

Chief Greg Brett presented the item. Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the surplus sale/exchange of the Motorola "Moto-Turbo" radios and components that are no longer required for Fire or Police department service communications. Councilmember Godwin made a motion to approve Item No. 16-790. Councilmember Hayes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Item 16-791: Resolution Amending the 2016 City Council Meeting Schedule

Mayor Reed presented the item. The resolution amends the date and time of City Council Work Sessions. Councilmember Schmidt made a motion to approve Item No. 16-791. Councilmember Stephens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Item 16-792: Approval of Cedar Grove Community Building IGA

Mayor Reed presented the item. The agreement will authorize Fulton County to maintain control of and provide services at the Cedar Grove Community Building. Councilmember Hayes made a motion to approve Item No. 16-792. Councilmember Godwin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Item 16-793: Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Property Known as the Beaver House

Mayor Reed presented the item. The resolution declares the intent of the city to purchase the Beaver House property from Fulton County under the same pricing as the purchase of the other city parks. This item will be on the Fulton County Commission's February 17th meeting agenda. Councilmember Schmidt made a motion to approve Item No. 16-793. Councilmember Stephens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilmember Schmidt said that he appreciated the good attendance at the meetings. He said the citizens' concerns were appreciated and the Council will be working harder. He also said that it was easier to reach him by phone or his personal email.

Councilmember Godwin encouraged the citizens to participate in the Comp Plan process. She said it is the vision that will guide the city for the next five years.

Councilmember Williams said in regard to the concerns about fences, they worked on the zoning for four years. She said the citizens need to attend meetings to be informed.

Councilmember Hayes thanked everyone for coming out. He said that there had been three public hearings regarding the zoning so the fence and other regulations should not be a surprise.

Councilmember Stephens thanked everyone for coming and encouraged them to continue to come to meetings. He also thanked the Fire Chief and Police Chief for their work.

These minutes are provided as a convenience and service to the public, media, and staff. It is not the intent to transcribe proceedings verbatim. Any reproduction of this summary must include this notice. Public comments are noted and heard by Council, but not quoted. This is an official record of the City of Chattahoochee Hills City Council Meeting proceedings.

Mayor Reed encouraged involvement in the Comp Plan process. He thanked everyone who volunteers their time, especially Laurie Searle for reactivating the community newsletter, Don Lee and Mac McKinney for their help on the Rico Park concession stand, and the SORBA group for working on the trails.

Adjourn Meeting

Councilmember Godwin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved this 1st day of March, 2016.

Dana Wicher, City Clerk

Tom Reed, Mayor