



TOWN OF HIGHLAND LAKE

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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 7, 2025
6:30 PM
The Anchor

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bailey at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL:

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Bailey

Council Members: Ramzi Malek, Bobby Rhodes, Carl Randall,
Sam Pearson

ABSENT: Sid Nelson

OTHER ATTENDEES: Scott Kon – Police Chief
Tim Moore – Building Inspector
Alex Smith - Attorney
Mary Ann Allen-Town Clerk

Invocation was given by Ramzi Malek

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **Approval of December 6, 2024 Regular Session Minutes:**
Bobby Rhodes made the motion to accept the minutes, and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.
- **Approval of December 16, 2024 Special Called Session Minutes**
Bobby Rhodes made the motion to accept the minutes, and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. Ramiz Malek abstained ,and all others present voted yes. The motion passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds - Carl Randall

Carl Randall reported that the Anchor has been painted and the generator has been hooked up by the electrician.

Lake Preservation Committee – Bill Rush

The committee met December 19, 2024. They discussed several items including dredging when the lake is lowered in the fall and looking at the right of way between Connie Vice's boathouse and the spillway to see what needs to be done to help with erosion.

The Public Safety Committee has asked for the committee to help make a list of safety concerns.

Ordinance Committee – Sid Nelson

The committee will meet in January. They will discuss discontinuing the stickers for the docks. Stickers will still be assigned to watercraft and trailers. The Ordinance on Lake Fees will need to be rewritten to reflect this.

Public Safety Committee – Sam Pearson

The committee will meet on January 27, 2025.

Roads Committee – Josh Beck & Sam Pearson

The committee will meet on January 21, 2025. The committee has two positions that need to be filled.

Finance Committee – Bobby Rhodes

Bobby Rhodes went over and explained the monthly financial report and answered all questions. He asked for anyone that hasn't set up their .gov email, to do so as soon as possible. He is working on getting the website updated. Mayor Bailey thanked him for all of his time and work that he has put into the website.

OFFICER REPORT – Chief of Police - Scott Kon

Chief Kon reported that the department responded to nineteen service calls for the month of December.

He said that they are waiting on the rotors for the Explorer to come in for it to be repaired.

He checked on the invoice from Blount 911 for PS Aware. It is a license fee and he said that to go on and send in the payment.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Maintenance Update

Rusty Brown has been hired to fill the maintenance position.

2. Discuss Blount County 911 Contract

Still needs to be discussed with the Attorney Alex Smith.

3. Discuss Blount County 911 Invoice

Hold until contract is approved to sign.

4. Discuss Insurance Renewal (AMIC and MWCF)

Aaron Reeves from AMIC is coming to go over the policy, so there will be more information in February. We did confirm that the playground is covered under liability.

An invoice for \$3,233 from Municipal Worker's Compensation Fund is due at this time.

Sam Pearson made the motion to pay the invoice to MWCF, and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.

5. Discuss/Vote on ordering the Lake decals and removal of the dock Sticker

After reviewing the samples and prices, the Council decided to go with My Sign Source to print the decals.

Sam Pearson made the motion to order the decals from My Sign Source, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.

The Ordinance Committee will discuss removing the dock sticker.

6. Resolution HL R25-01(disposal of two printers)

Attorney Alex Smith stated that if the printers no longer worked and are being disposed, a resolution was not needed.

7. Flood Plain Development Ordinance

Attorney Alex Smith is going to follow up with Bradley Harvey.

8. Update on Town Projects

- When the popcorn ceiling was removed in the Anchor, debris was pulled into the air vents. We also had large amounts of dust in the carpet, light fixtures, cabinets, etc. For safety purposes, the debris was tested for asbestos, and came back negative. Lakeshore Environmental Contractors, LLC was hired to clean the inside of the Anchor as well as the air ducts. The carpet has also been professionally cleaned.
- Any group using the Anchor will be required to sign an agreement making sure that the Anchor is left in the condition that it was found. Any problems or damages should be reported to the Town Clerk.
- The picnic tables have been finished and are back on the deck.
- The generator has been connected, but we are waiting on a specific connector to enable it to start automatically. At this point, it can be started manually.

- CAWACO grant has been signed and the Town has until June 2025 to purchase and install the ADA compliant playground equipment. The grant will reimburse the Town for one hundred percent of the cost when it is completed.
- Gregg Hollon of Hollon Accounting Services, Inc., has been retained to complete the audits for 2024 and 2025. This is the group that performed the past three audits for the Town.
- Reminders for Business License renewals have been sent.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Committee Openings:

Finance Committee – Susan Cassity (replacing Gail Bailey)

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to appoint Susan Cassity to the Finance Committee, and Sam Pearson seconded. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.

Lake Preservation – Wayne Bailey (replacing Sandy Johnson)

Ramzi Malek made the motion to appoint Wayne Bailey to the Lake Preservation Committee, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.

Lake Preservation – Frank Campbell (replacing John Hand)

Sam Pearson made the motion to appoint Frank Campbell to the Lake Preservation Committee, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.

Public Safety – None at this time

Road Committee – Taylor Cheeley

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to appoint Taylor Cheeley to the Road Committee, and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.

Road Committee – Nancy Stephenson

Sam Pearson made the motion to appoint Nancy Stephenson to the Road Committee, and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.

Zoning Board – Paula Blass

Sam Pearson made the motion to appoint Paula Blass to the Zoning Board, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.

Zoning Board – Steve Hammett

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to appoint Steve Hammett to the Zoning Board, and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.

Zoning Board – Bill Rush

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to appoint Bill Rush to the Zoning Board, and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.

10. Michael Hayes request to build boat house

Building Inspector, Tim Moore stated that he saw no issues.

Sam Pearson made the motion to approve Michael Hayes request and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.

11. Lady Lakers request for approval of 2025 events

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to approve the Lady Lakers' events, and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. All present voted yes, and the motion passed.

12. Other business items as determined by the Council

Attorney Alex Smith complimented the Town of their financials. He stated that having no debt was remarkable and not something that you see often with a municipality.

With no other items to discuss, Carl Randall made the motion to adjourn, and, Sam Pearson seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Ann Allen – Town Clerk

Gail Bailey - Mayor