



TOWN OF HIGHLAND LAKE

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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 4, 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, Sid Nelson

ABSENT: None

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 January 7, 2025 Work Session Minutes:**
Ramzi Malek made the motion to accept the minutes, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. Sid Nelson abstained and all others voted yes.
The motion passed.
- **Approval of January 7, 2025 Regular Session Minutes**
Carl Randall made the motion to accept the minutes, and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. Sid Nelson abstained and all others voted yes.
The motion passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds - Carl Randall

Limb debris has been cleaned up from ditches around town, the entrances have been trimmed, and pine straw has been put down around the park area.

We are still looking at ADA playground equipment for the park that has to be purchased by June to comply with the grant.

Lake Preservation Committee – Bill Rush

The Town received a good report from Birmingham Water Works on the quarterly water testing.

The committee will be discussing more about a fishing tournament at the next meeting.

Ordinance Committee – Sid Nelson

The committee has been working on ordinances, and four will be introduced tonight. Another meeting needs to be scheduled.

Public Safety Committee – Sam Pearson

The committee still recommends not to sign the 911 Contract, but they do recommend to go ahead and pay the invoice.

Attorney Alex Smith suggested if there are still specific issues with the contract to send them to the 911 board. He encouraged the Town to pay the invoice, since it was much lower than originally.

John Cotton will not be able to continue his seat, so the Committee recommends to appoint Mayor Bailey in his place.

Sam Pearson made the motion to remove John Cotton and appoint Mayor Gail Bailey to the Public Safety Committee. Sid Nelson seconded. Mayor Bailey abstained, and all others voted in favor. The motion passed.

Roads Committee – Josh Beck & Sam Pearson

Councilman Pearson reported that Commissioner Chase Moore attended their last meeting and gave some good input. They will have more information at the next meeting.

The Committee has developed the Five-Year Plan for roads.

Blountsville Landscaping has stated that for \$500, they can have a truck go around and pickup limb debris along the roads. This is being looked into further.

Finance Committee – Bobby Rhodes

Councilman Rhodes presented and explained the financial report.

Letters for Waterfront Lake Fees that have not been paid for 2023 and 2024 have been sent out.

The web site is still being updated.

The Committee's next meeting will be March 3, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

OFFICER REPORT – Chief of Police - Scott Kon

Chief Kon reported that the department responded to twenty-one service calls for the month of January.

The ballistic vests should be shipped soon. The department has the funds to cover the costs, but they will be reimbursed by a federal grant.

The officers are going to be focusing on speeding.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discuss Blount County 911 Invoice

Sam Pearson made the motion to pay the 911 Invoice, and Sid Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Discuss Blount County 911 Contract

The concerns with the contract will be resent to the board

Sam Pearson made the motion to hold off on signing the 911 Contract, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Update on unpaid Lake Use Fees

Twenty-two letters have been mailed to residents that have a house on the water. The next letters will be sent to people who own lots on the water.

4. Update on Lake Permit Decals

The boat decals are ready, and the invoice is \$957. Dock stickers will no longer be used.

It was brought up that when selling the decals, be sure and make people aware that the lake will be lowered in September.

5. Update on Slalom Course

Attorney Alex Smith stated that if approved, and something happened, the Town could be liable.

Sid Nelson made the motion to prohibit any slalom courses to be setup on the lake, and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. Ramiz Malek abstained. All others voted yes. The motion passed.

6. Flood Plain Development Ordinance – Attorney Alex Smith

The Town is up to date on this.

7. Safety Manual – Attorney Alex Smith

Attorney Smith read through the employee handbook and had a couple of suggestions. Bill Rush is going to work with Attorney Smith on these suggestions.

8. Openings for Public Safety and other committees

There are no openings that need to be filled at this time.

The League encourages Council members to attend committee meeting so that they know what is going on.

It was explained that it is allowed as long as they are not talking about items that are to be voted on at Council meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Cheryl Storey to speak about PALS

April is the month that PALS sets as a state wide litter cleanup. The Lady Lakers participated last year and are planning on participating this year. They will set a date at their next meeting and would like for the community to help.

10. Update on Bridge Inspections

Nothing to add to what was discussed during the Work Session

11. Estimates on gutters for garage

Sam Pearson made the motion to approve \$1,275.00 for gutters on the garage, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Estimates for Office repairs/renovations

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to approve up to \$5,000.00 for office Repairs/renovations, and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Maintenance Update

At this time, there is not any one employed for maintenance. The opening will be posted.

14. Introduce Ordinance HL-O 2025-01 - Lake Use Permit (replace HL-O 2020-04)

15. Introduce Ordinance HL-O 2025-02 - Ordinance Providing For Expenditures, Check Signatures, Council Approvals And Municipal Contract Guidelines (replaces HL-O 2023-01)

16. Introduce Ordinance HL-O 2025-03- Ordinance Regulating Signs Within The Town of Highland Lake, Alabama (replaces HL-O 1998-01)

17. Introduce Ordinance HL-O 2025-04 – Ordinance to Establish Fishing Regulations on Highland Lake and to Provide For Penalties For Violations Thereof (replaces HL-O 2011-03)

All four ordinances were introduced tonight and will be voted on at the March Council Meeting.

18. Lady Lakers request to change date of 5K/Barks in the Park to May 3, 2025 Irene Latham request to use Library for a Poetry Workshop April 30, 2025

Sid Nelson made the motion to approve the date change, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

19. Irene Latham request to Use The Library for a Poetry Workshop April 30, 2025

Ramzi Malek made the motion to approve and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

20. Other business items as determined by the Council

There will be a work day on February 15th to clean the martin houses.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Ann Allen – Town Clerk

Gail Bailey - Mayor