



TOWN OF HIGHLAND LAKE
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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 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
Mary Ann Allen-Town Clerk

Invocation was given by Councilman Carl Randall

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **Approval of March 4, 2025 Work Session Minutes:**
Bobby Rhodes made the motion to accept the minutes, and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Approval of March 4, 2025 Regular Session Minutes**
Ramzi Malek made the motion to accept the minutes, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds - Carl Randall

A tree had fallen beside the gazebo, and has been removed.
All work in the Town Hall has been completed providing for extra storage that was much needed. The leak was found, and it was coming from the screws in the metal roof. The roofer recommended to replace all the screws to prevent other leaks.

He stated that they should be replaced about every fifteen years. We will obtain an estimate for this work.

The gutters have been installed on the garage.

Lake Preservation – Bill Rush

The committee had their meeting February 24, 2025.

The 2024 Fish Study has been posted on the website.

The committee discussed the following items:

- 1. Fishing Tournament** - The committee decided that they want to go ahead with having a fishing tournament for high school age, limiting it to twenty-five boats.

Wesley Faulkner briefly went over the entry form which includes the following:

- Liability Waiver
- Two People Allowed Per Boat
- Live or Artificial Bait Allowed
- State Laws Followed

Dates to hold the tournament were discussed.

Carl Randall made the motion to host the Fishing Tournament June 7, 2025, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Lowering of the Lake** - The Lake will be lowered in September 2025. Areas that will need work are Brasher Creek, Sand Creek and a section at the dam. We are planning to use auxiliary pumps in order to lower the lake lower than usual, to allow us to get this work finished.

- 3. Inspection of the dam and spillway** – It was recommended to hire John Hand to perform the inspections of the Dam and Spillway.

Ramzi Malek made the motion to offer to John Hand for \$500-1,000 per quarter to inspect the dam and spillway and provide a detailed report. Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. Ramzi Malek abstained, and all others voted yes. The motion passed.

- 4. Sign for Boat Launch** – Sign Source has given a quote of under \$200 to make a sign to replace the one at the boat launch.

Bobby Rhodes made the motion to pay up to \$200 for a new sign at the Boat launch, and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Handouts** – Suggestions were discussed, to present to the Public Safety Committee for handouts to be given when lake use fees are paid.

Ordinance Committee – Sid Nelson

The committee held their meeting on February 17, 2025. The committee has been working on updating ordinances and six will be introduced tonight.

Public Safety Committee – Sam Pearson

The next meeting will be March 24, 2025.

They are still looking over the 911 contract. Chief Kon reported that there are other towns that have concerns with the contract as well.

Roads Committee – Sam Pearson & Josh Beck

Josh Beck has been in contact with District 3 Commissioner, Chase Moore about the fixing the potholes. Sam Pearson and Chief Kon will go around and mark the areas that need repaired.

The county will bush hog the sides of the roads in May. An estimate will be available for the next meeting.

Finance Committee – Bobby Rhodes (Non-Permanent at this time)

The committee met on March 3, 2025.

Bobby Rhodes went over the financial report and answered all questions.

There are still a few people that need to set up their .gov accounts.

The Council requested that Mayor Bailey contact the District Attorney regarding a request to have a state forensic audit.

OFFICER REPORT – Chief of Police Scott Kon

The department answered eight service calls for the month of February.

The ballistic vests have been received and Chief Kon will send the paperwork in to be reimbursed by the grant.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Maintenance Update

Teri Patterson has been hired as to fill the maintenance position.

2. Discuss Blount County 911 Contract

The invoice has been paid, but the contract will not be signed at this time.

3. Update on unpaid Lake Use Fees

Nothing in addition to what was discussed during the Work Session (\$2,720 collected in February)

4. Employee Manual Update

The manual is under review.

5. Discuss and Vote on Ordinance HL-O 2025-01 – Lake Use Permit (replace HL-O 2020-04)

Sam Pearson made the motion to vote on the ordinances just as the Ordinance Committee introduced them, instead of making changes that were received from Attorney Alex Smith this afternoon. Sid Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sid Nelson made the motion to pass Ordinance HL-O 2025-01, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discuss and Vote on Ordinance HL-O 2025-02 - Ordinance Providing For Expenditures, Check Signatures, Council Approvals And Municipal Contract Guidelines (replaces HL-O 2023-01)

Sid Nelson made the motion to approve Ordinance HL-O 2025-02, and Ramzi Malek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discuss and Vote on Ordinance HL-O 2025-03- Ordinance Regulating Signs Within The Town of Highland Lake, Alabama (replaces HL-O 1998-01)

Sam Pearson made the motion to approve Ordinance HL-O 2025-03, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discuss and Vote 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)

Sid Nelson made the motion to approve HL-O 2025-04, and Sam Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

All Ordinances passed will be posted for thirty days before going into effect.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Discuss and Vote on Resolution HL-R 2025-01 – Resolution Establishing Adjusted Fish Harvesting Limits on Highland Lake

After discussion, the following changes were made to the Resolution:

- Change Blue Gill to Bream
- Remove “in 2025”

Sam Pearson made the motion to approve Resolution HL-R 2025-01 with the above changes, and Bobby Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Introduce Ordinance HL-O 2025-05 – An Ordinance To Prevent Certain Vehicles, Weeds, Or Other Rubbish Which Is Unsightly, From Becoming A Public Nuisance, And/Or A Safety, Public Health, Or A Fire Hazard Within The Town Limits Of Highland Lake (Replaces HL-O 20-02)

11. Introduce Ordinance HL-O 2025-06 – Ordinance For The Control, Collection And Disposal Of Solid Waste, And The Preservation of Health, Sanitation And Safety Of The Public (Replaces HL-O 06-01)

- 12. Introduce Ordinance HL-O 2025-07** – An Ordinance Concerning The Reckless Discharge of Firearms **(Replaces HL-O 97-01)**
- 13. Introduce Ordinance HL-O 2025-08** – An Ordinance Regarding Preservation And Prohibitions Relating To The Highland Lake Dam And Prohibition Of Drilling Of Wells, Etc. **(Replaces HL-O 93-11)**
- 14. Introduce Ordinance HL-O 2025-09** – Ordinance to Adopt The State Laws By Reference **(Replaces HL-O 93-09)**
- 15. Introduce Ordinance HL-O 2025-10** – Ordinance Regulating Activities and The Type, Size, Use And Horsepower of Watercraft On The Waters Of Highland Lake And Establishing Penalties For The Violation Thereof And Adopting The Rules And Regulations Of The State Of Alabama Regarding Boating **(Replaces HL-O 93-03)**

All six ordinances were introduced tonight and will be voted on at the April Council Meeting.

16. Fishing Tournament

Details were discussed during the Lake Preservation Committee report.

17. Other business items as determined by the Council

Councilman Carl Randall suggested that it would be informative to have the building inspector give a monthly report at each council meeting.

There have been questions regarding a mobile home being setup on Town property. Mayor Bailey explained that the mobile home is not in the town limits.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Ann Allen – Town Clerk

Gail Bailey - Mayor