

Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING
of the
City Council of Lookout Mountain, Georgia
August 20, 2015

PRESIDING: Sandy Gothard, Mayor

PRESENT: Council Members David Bennett, Taylor Watson, Beth Soloff, Caroline Williams, and Jim Sabourin; City Attorney Bill Pickering; and City Manager Brad Haven.

ABSENT: City Clerk Cindy Roberts

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Sandy Gothard called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1214 Lula Lake Road, Lookout Mountain, Georgia. Council Member Taylor Watson opened the meeting with a prayer.

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council's Regular Meeting of June 18, 2015, Public Hearing of June 18, 2015, and Regular Meeting July 16, 2015, were reviewed. Council Member David Bennett asked that the July 16 minutes be corrected to reflect that he did not second the motion regarding the purchase of the Methodist Church's property on Red Riding Hood Trail. The Council agreed that it was actually Beth Soloff who seconded the motion and that the minutes should be corrected accordingly. Council Member Taylor Watson stated that she was not present for the June 18 Regular Meeting or Public Hearing, and the Council likewise agreed that those minutes should be corrected accordingly. With these corrections, the three sets of minutes were approved as submitted.

FRANK HITCHINGS MEMO – ABANDONMENT OF CITY PROPERTY – Mayor Gothard read to the Council a Memorandum from City Manager Brad Haven advising that he had inspected a small strip of City-owned property adjacent to property owned by Mr. Frank Hitchings, had determined that the property was of no use or value to the City, and recommended that the City dispose of the property or abandon it for a nominal sum. Mr. Hitchings was present for the meeting and confirmed his willingness to accept ownership of the property and to pay all costs associated with the transfer, including the preparation of a survey, and to clear the property as necessary. Council Member Taylor Watson moved that the City accept Mr. Haven's recommendation to transfer the property to Mr. Hitchings for nominal consideration, such consideration to consist of Mr. Hitchings' clearing the property and paying the costs associated with the transfer. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jim Sabourin and passed unanimously.

ZONING PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS – City Attorney Bill Pickering advised the Council that the City's Municipal Planning Commission had for the past several months been working on updated Zoning Procedures and Standards. At its meeting on August 11, 2015, the Planning Commission approved a proposed Zoning Procedures and Standards Ordinance and thereafter submitted a report to the City Council recommending that the proposed Ordinance be approved and adopted by the Council. Mr. Pickering advised the Council that, because the

proposed ordinance would constitute an amendment to City's Zoning Ordinance, a public hearing would be necessary before the proposed ordinance could be adopted. The Council set the public hearing for September 17, 2015, at 5:00 p.m.

CHARTER SCHOOL LULA LAKE ROAD – Debbie Tringale, who had been scheduled to make a presentation for the Lula Lake Academy, was not present for the meeting but will be welcome to appear at a future date. Bill Pickering and Jimmy Campbell gave the Council a brief report of Ms. Tringale's presentation to the Municipal Planning Commission on August 11.

NANCY BURTON – EVENT HONORING LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN FIRST RESPONDERS – Ms. Nancy Burton, a recently retired teacher at Fairyland Elementary School, appeared before the Council to announce that she had organized a special event to honor the Lookout Mountain police officers, fire fighters, and other first responders. The event will take place on Tuesday, September 22, at the Fairyland Elementary School Gymnasium. The first responders will be presented with tokens of appreciation. Secretary of State Brian Kemp will be present as well.

MONTHLY CITY MANAGER'S, STORMWATER & SEWER REPORT – City Manager Brad Haven presented the monthly City Manager's, stormwater and sewer report. Highlights included:

1. The City's Stormwater program was audited by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) last month. The City was found to be 100% compliant and will not be subject to another audit for five years.
2. Two pumps at the Chickamauga Trail Pump Station are currently out of service. One pump will be repaired at a cost of \$10,969.80. The other pump will be examined to determine if it can be repaired or if it must be replaced. Mr. Haven and Sewer Advisory Board Chair Jimmy Campbell both recommended that the pump be replaced with a new pump, which will be under warranty, if the cost of repair is significant. Council Member Taylor Watson made a motion to authorize the replacement of the pump if Mr. Haven determines that this is needed. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Bennett and passed unanimously. Mr. Pickering recommended that Mr. Haven obtain a copy of the warranty before the new pump is purchased.
3. The flow meter at the Chickamauga Trail Pump Station has been replaced by the City of Chattanooga.
4. Paving striping contractors have been contacted to provide quotes on repainting the stripes on City streets. Only two contractors have shown interest. Council Member Beth Soloff offered to provide names of contractors who may be interested.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Gothard reminded the Council that the Walker County Chamber of Commerce event will be held at the Fairyland Club on August 25. The City will have a table for 8 people.

Jerry and Mary Kay Chevalier, residents at 1214 Peter Pan Road, appeared before the Council to discuss problems they are having with an adjoining property owner. Mr. and Mrs. Chevalier previously obtained permission to erect a wooden fence to hide the other property owner's chain link fence. The other property owner took down the chain link fence but subsequently began constructing a 7-foot wooden fence. A permit for the new wooden fence had not been obtained, and the other property owner was directed to stop construction. The other property owner expressed interest in applying for a variance to allow construction to go forward but never did so. Mr. and Mrs. Chevalier expressed concern about the unsightly appearance of the partially constructed 7-foot fence. Mr. Pickering commented that variances are only allowed under certain limited circumstances involving the size, shape or topography of the property and that it was unlikely that a variance could be obtained for the erection of the fence. Mr. Pickering offered to work with Mr. and Mrs. Chevalier in addressing this matter and provided them with his contact information.

Mr. and Mrs. Chevalier also expressed concern that the same neighbor had shot off fireworks toward their property. Mr. and Mrs. Chevalier were encouraged to call the police if this should occur in the future.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS/EXECUTIVE SESSION – Mayor Gothard had provided the members of the Council with a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the purchase and development of property owned by the City. Council Member Taylor Watson made a motion that the Council go into executive session to discuss this matter which involves the potential authorization of negotiations to sell real property owned by the City. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beth Soloff and passed unanimously.

The Council then met in executive session for the purpose stated. No action was taken. Minutes of the executive session have been recorded in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e)(2)(C) but, in accordance with that code section, are not available to the public.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Pickering
City Attorney and Acting Clerk