Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING
of the
City Council of Lookout Mountain, Georgia
September 18, 2014

PRESIDING:  Sandy Gothard, Mayor

PRESENT:  Council Members Beth Soloff, David Bennett, Taylor Watson, David Fussell, and Jim Sabourin; City Attorney Bill Pickering; City Manager Brad Haven; Chief Todd Gann; and 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  The minutes of the Council’s Regular Meeting of August 21, 2014, were approved as submitted.

ADDIE CHAPIN – APPLICATION FOR PRIVILEGE LICENSE:  Ms. Addie Chapin appeared before the Council to request a privilege license for her design consulting business. In response to questions from Mayor Gothard and City Attorney Bill Pickering, Ms. Chapin stated that the business, which would be in her home on Peter Pan Road, would have no employees other than herself, no inventory on premises, no signs, and no customers entering or parking on the premises. Council Member David Fussell made a motion to approve Ms. Chapin’s application for a privilege license. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beth Soloff and passed unanimously.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION:  Mayor Gothard advised the Council that Municipal Planning Commission Chair Earl Carstens and Commission Members Chip Corley and Thompson Pettway were up for reappointment. Council Member Taylor Watson made a motion to reappoint Mr. Carstens, Mr. Corley and Mr. Pettway as members of the Municipal Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jim Sabourin and passed unanimously.

AMEND GARBAGE FEE ORDINANCE:  City Clerk Cindy Roberts advised the Council that the schedule of fees for City services which had been recommended by Catherine Fox included a fee of $300 per year per residential household for garbage service. The fee currently charged is $298. City Attorney Bill Pickering advised that the city ordinance regulating garbage service gave the Council the right to set garbage fees (without the passage of an additional ordinance). Council Member Taylor Watson made a motion to set the annual fee for residential garbage service at $300 per year per residence. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Fussell and passed unanimously.

DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES REVIEW:  Mayor Gothard recognized Planning Commission Chair Earl Carstens who advised that the Planning Commission was recommending
changes in its procedures but that the proposed procedures, which have been made available to
the City Council, needed to be studied in more detail and considered in light of the provisions of
existing City ordinances. Mr. Carstens recommended that a committee of key people be formed
to work on this process, and the consensus of the Council was that this should be done. Mr.
Carstens suggested that the committee include himself, City Attorney Bill Pickering, City
Manager Brad Haven, and Building Official Larry Reed. Mr. Haven noted that updated
procedures were expected by the Environmental Protection Division and needed to be in place as
soon as reasonably possible.

SEWER BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS: Sewer Advisory Board Chair Jimmy Campbell
presented a spreadsheet (copy attached) showing different options for increasing sewer revenues
to help defray the anticipated expense of replacing the grinder pumps which are part of the City's
sewer system. Mr. Campbell stated that the Sewer Advisory Board was recommending the
option set forth in Column E of the attached spreadsheet which would increase sewer charges to
$6.00 per 100 cubic feet. Mr. Campbell also recommended that the additional money raised be
placed in a fund for the replacement of the grinder pumps. Council Member Taylor Watson
made a motion to accept the Sewer Advisory Board's recommendation. The motion was
seconded by Council Member Beth Soloff and passed unanimously. City Attorney Bill
Pickering advised that the rate change would need to be included in an amendment to the City's
sewer ordinance and that he would have the amendment ready at next month's Council meeting.
Mr. Campbell asked that the new rate be effective January 1, 2015.

BEER AND WINE SALES – SPECIAL EVENTS: Mayor Gothard advised the Council that
he had done some preliminary research on potential vendors who might be interested in selling
alcohol at special events but that the vendors whom he had identified had Tennessee licenses
only and not Georgia licenses. Mr. Gothard stated that it was unclear at this time whether there
would be an interest by qualified vendors in selling alcohol at the weekly Farmers' Market or
other special events. City Attorney Bill Pickering suggested that, before the City went to the
trouble of drafting and considering an ordinance for special events alcohol sales, the City
determine if there was sufficient interest by qualified vendors to make such sales feasible. The
Council agreed that this was a good suggestion and that the matter should be studied further
before an ordinance is drafted.

2014 MILLAGE RATE: Mayor Gothard advised the Council that additional work was needed
in the calculation of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) rollback and the net millage rate for
2014. The setting of the 2014 millage rate will therefore be deferred, most likely to an upcoming
special meeting.

SPLOST EXPENDITURES: A two-year list of anticipated SPLOST expenditures was
provided in the City Manager’s Report. The Council discussed developing a list covering six
years of SPLOST expenditures and adding street signs to the two-year list.

Council Member Beth Soloff suggested that the City Manager obtain quotes on striping the
streets and that he determine how critical the other street repairs are. Mayor Gothard also
suggested that quotes be obtained for renovations to the sleeping quarters for the Fire and Police
Department.
MONTHLY STORMWATER, SEWER AND MANAGER’S REPORT: City Manager Brad Haven provided the Council with the monthly Stormwater, Sewer and City Manager's Report which is on file and available for review.

STREET SIGNS: Mayor Gothard recognized Council Member David Bennett who presented three options to the Council for the purchase of new street signs. Option 1 is a standard street sign with green and white lettering with a standard metal post. The estimated cost is $5,300 to $6,000. Option 2 is a reflective white street sign with black lettering and the City logo. The street sign would be mounted on a cedar post. The estimated cost for Option 2 is $11,000 to $12,000. Option 3 would include the same reflective black and white street sign with the City logo but would have an iron post and hanger. The estimated cost for Option 3 is $14,000 to $15,000. All three options include reflective signs which will meet federal guidelines. Mr. Bennett estimated that 3-4 weeks would be needed for the signs to be prepared by the manufacturer. Mr. Bennett also informed the Council that Walker County will install the signs with no labor cost to the City. Following a discussion of the different options and an inspection of the sample signs which Mr. Bennett had available at the meeting, Council Member Jim Sabourin made a motion to authorize an expenditure of up to $16,000 for the purchase of new street signs and posts as described in Option 3. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Bennett and passed unanimously. City Manager Brad Haven will prepare an appropriate advertisement for bids.

PROPERTY PURCHASE: Mayor Gothard recognized Council Member David Bennett who provided a report on the potential purchase of property located at the corner of Red Riding Hood Trail and Lula Lake Road. As previously reported in Executive Session, Mr. Bennett contacted leaders of the Lookout Mountain United Methodist Church earlier this summer about the possible purchase of the property for use as green space by the City. The church leaders were very receptive to the proposal and agreed that they would not put the property on the market for the remainder of this year in order to give the City the opportunity to raise funds for the purchase and development of the property for use as green space. Mr. Bennett stated that the Church had also agreed to reduce the price on the property to $135,000. At Mr. Bennett's request, City Attorney Bill Pickering has prepared a written option agreement giving the City the right to purchase the property through the end of this year. The option would be obtained for a nominal sum ($10) and would not obligate the City to complete the purchase. Mr. Pickering reminded the Council that appraisals of the property would need to be obtained before the purchase could be completed. Council Member Taylor Watson made a motion to authorize the City to enter into the option to purchase the property under the terms stated. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jim Sabourin and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Roberts
City Clerk