

Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING
of the
City Council of Lookout Mountain, Georgia
December 17, 2015

PRESIDING: Sandy Gothard, Mayor

PRESENT: Council Members David Bennett, Taylor Watson, Caroline Williams, and Jim Sabourin; City Attorney Bill Pickering; City Clerk Cindy Roberts, and Chief of Police Todd Gann.

ABSENT: Council Member Beth Soloff and City Manager Brad Haven.

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 THE MINUTES: The minutes of the Council's Regular Meeting of November 19, 2015, and Executive Session of November 19, 2015, were approved as submitted.

REQUEST FOR REZONING – 1827 LULA LAKE ROAD: The City is proposing that its property located at 1827 Lula Lake Road, which is currently for sale for residential use, be rezoned from Municipal to Single-Family residential. City Attorney Bill Pickering advised the Council that although residential use was permitted in the Municipal zone, it would make sense for the property to be rezoned as residential to be consistent with its intended use. The Planning Commission has so recommended, and Planning Commission member Jimmy Campbell advised that a survey separating the residence on the property from the City's public works building (which will remain in the Municipal zone) had been prepared. Mr. Pickering advised that the proposed rezoning of the residence could be included as part of the Planning Commission's upcoming public hearing on the proposed consolidation and restatement of the City's zoning ordinance.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 290 (AMENDED AND RESTATED SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE): City Attorney Bill Pickering advised the Council that he had prepared an Amended and Restated Subdivision Ordinance which includes original Ordinance No. 37 and all subsequent amendments. The substance of the original ordinance and its amendments have not been changed, but having everything in a single ordinance will make it much easier to review. The Planning Commission has recommended approval. The new ordinance, Ordinance No. 290, was provided to the Council in advance of the meeting. Mr. Pickering then read in its entirety Ordinance No. 290, an Ordinance to amend and restate in its entirety Ordinance No. 37, as heretofore amended, to regulate the subdivision of land within the City of Lookout Mountain, and for other purposes. Council Member David Bennett made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 290 on first reading. The motion was seconded by Council Member Taylor Watson and passed unanimously.

MONTHLY CITY MANAGER’S REPORT: City Manager Brad Haven was absent due to illness.

Council Member David Bennett announced that the City’s police department was working with Rock City on a solution to the heavy traffic from visitors during Rock City’s Enchanted Garden of Lights. Mr. Bennett advised that residents coming home in the evening should do so on the Ruby Falls side.

RESIGNATION OF MAYOR GOTHARD; APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR DAVID BENNETT: Mayor Sandy Gothard announced that over the past two years he had partnered with a law firm in Knoxville, Tennessee, and had now established residence there. Mayor Gothard stated that, since he would no longer be a legal resident of the City, he would have to resign as Mayor. Mayor Gothard then shared some of his hopes for the City going forward, including the development of the new Town Center, completion of long-term sewer plans and development of the City’s property located behind the Fairyland School track. Mayor Gothard stated that he had enjoyed his many years serving the community and recommended that Council Member David Bennett be appointed to fill his unexpired term. Council Member Taylor Watson made a motion to appoint David Bennett as Mayor to fill Mr. Gothard’s unexpired term. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jim Sabourin and passed unanimously.

City Attorney Bill Pickering administered the Oath of Office to new Mayor David S. Bennett. The signed oath is filed with these minutes.

The meeting was then adjourned.

COUNCIL MEETING REOPENED: Mayor David Bennett reopened the Council meeting at the City’s Annual Christmas Party at the Lookout Mountain Golf Club. Mayor Bennett read a Resolution honoring Sandy Gothard for his many years of service and valuable contributions to the City of Lookout Mountain. The resolution was passed unanimously and has been made a part of the official minutes of the City.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Roberts
City Clerk