

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA  
JULY 31, 2010  
SATURDAY, 11:30 AM  
CITY HALL, 3444 HIGHWAY 246**

**MINUTES**

Mayor Martindale called the meeting to order.

Those present: Mayor Martindale, Council President Moore, Councilors Boyle, Carr, and Platt, City Manager Smith, City Clerk Cantrell.

Councilor Kleiber was unable to attend the meeting due to a schedule conflict. She submitted her comments to be considered at the meeting via letter dated July 31, 2010 to be entered into the minutes. A copy of this letter is incorporated herein.

Councilor Platt made a motion to adopt the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Boyle, unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Finalization of survey & authorization to send

Council President Moore said the draft survey is too long and that it is not what the Council approved. Mayor Martindale explained that there is confusion about what should be included in the survey due to the discussion included with the motion. Councilor Platt made a motion to send the survey as drafted, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Boyle. Councilor Platt said she likes the detail in the survey. She thinks people are concerned with the police presence at the entrance. She added that she does not want to increase the millage. Mayor Martindale said that if people are asked if they want a police presence at the entrance and if they want to pay for it, there could be a different response. Mayor Martindale said he paid for the plans to be drawn to give people an idea of what the building might look like and that the building and roof match construction done in the valley. Citizen Ray Becker asked if the cost of the septic has been considered. Mayor Martindale said he hopes to be able to use the existing septic but does not know if it will be possible. Councilor Boyle said they needed to decide on the survey and once the results are known, the Council can decide how to move forward. Council President Moore said he supports the first two questions. Citizen Ray Becker said he likes the survey because people need the information. Council President Moore said that he doesn't think people will finish the survey because of its length. Mayor Martindale said that when he sent the survey regarding the golf course over 400 people responded. Discussion followed about possible uses for a building at the entrance, like a welcome center and a police sub-station combination. Citizen Al Lee said he appreciates the work it took to prepare the survey and likes allowing tax payers

to have input, but he thinks more people will respond if it is shorter. Council President Moore said he thinks the attorney should prepare, send, and compile the survey results so that it is not slanted. Councilor Platt said she is concerned with the cost if the attorney does the survey. Councilor Carr said he is more comfortable if a neutral person tabulated the results. Citizen Sarah Bennett said she taught at Georgia Southern and graded papers for years, and she believes this will be very easy to tabulate. Councilor Carr said the Council should be able to make decisions. Mayor Martindale said there are many people who do not attend meetings that should also have their voices heard. Citizen Al Lee said he believes this issue warrants a survey. Councilor Carr asked the Council how their votes will change depending on the results of the voters versus the property owners. Council President Moore said he thinks people should be required to sign the survey for it to be counted. Citizen Ray Becker said he likes the survey having options and prioritization so people know what options they have adding that the City also purchased two lots on Bald Mountain across from the entrance for a possible combined public safety building for police and fire. Citizen Tom Ewing said that he appreciates the transparency by including numbers. He said that the public safety building across the street could also include a fulltime ambulance, something that has been a priority of the fire department for years. Mr. Ewing added that he does not believe it is any safer to have a building at the entrance because his house was burglarized twice when they were at the entrance. Citizen Ray Becker said he would be more concerned if the survey was shorter because people need this information to make an informed decision. Mayor Martindale said the survey covers everything and he wants people to have the chance to be heard. Councilor Platt said that people will probably not answer every question but that they should be required to sign it. Council President Moore made a motion to require the survey to be signed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Boyle, unanimously approved. Councilor Boyle said people should be given until September 1 to return the survey. There being no further discussion, Mayor Martindale called for the vote on the original motion. The original motion to approve sending the survey as drafted passed 3:1 with Councilors Boyle, Carr, and Platt voting aye and Council President Moore voting nay.

Councilor Boyle made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilor Platt, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:

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James Martindale, Mayor

Attested:

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Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk