

Callie Moore explains new environmental ordinance in council meeting

By Chad Stack
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The Hiwassee City Council welcomed Callie Moore of MountainTrue in the Nov. 5 regular meeting at City Hall.

Moore, formerly of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, attended the meeting to talk about the importance of the Local Issuing Authority Ordinance, for which the coun-

cil held a second reading and subsequent enactment during that Tuesday's meeting.

After speaking with a number of residents, Moore said most people do not really understand what the Local Issuing Authority Ordinance is.

Moore explained that, basically, the ordinance is in place to protect the environment during any new construction.

Anytime new building

is taking place, the Issuing Authority Ordinance will allow local officials to better protect against harmful runoff from construction going into Lake Chatuge by making sure that all the correct measures are followed to protect the environment.

The Lake Chatuge Watershed Action Plan of 2007 featured a list of recommendations for all kinds of stakeholders in the watershed, Moore said, including local governments.

With the new issuing authority in place, Moore said the list of recommendations was now complete.

"It's very exciting for me that this is happening," Moore said, noting that just the other day, she received an email concerning runoff going into the lake from a construction area.

Hiwassee Building Inspector Randy Day will be responsible for enforcing the Issuing Authority Ordinance, and any construction that causes erosion or sediment will result in a fine.

In other business, the council approved the AirMedCare Network Contract for 2020 in the amount of \$4,900. The contract provides city residents with air medical helicopter coverage for free transport to nearby trauma centers in case of emergency.

As previously reported, AirMedCare coverage applies only to residents living within Hiwassee City Limits, and it comes as a membership paid by the city to cover all current and future residents.

The service allows an unlimited number of uses as well, meaning that residents can use the service whenever necessary without the worry of ever having to pay out of pocket, with the only requirement for coverage being tangible proof of residency within City Limits.

During the Monday, Oct. 28, council work session, Mayor Liz Ordiales announced that the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority had awarded the city an additional \$70,000 grant for improvements at the Water Treatment Plant.

In the Nov. 5 regular meeting, the city council approved a resolution to modify the GEFA agreement to include the additional \$70,000 in grant money.

The council also approved the 2020 meeting sched-

ule that Tuesday.

Mayor Pro Tempore Anne Mitchell led the regular meeting, as Ordiales was away on business in Bristol, Tennessee, attending an Appalachian Gateway Community workshop.

Last month, the Hiwassee Downtown Development Authority announced that Hiwassee had been approved as an "Appalachian Gateway Community," which was part of the city's five-year strategic plan.

The Appalachian Gateway Community approval will help the city to expand its tourism business and promote other economic development opportunities, according to the city.

City council members



Callie Moore

will meet again on Monday, Nov. 25, for their monthly work session in the upstairs training room inside City Hall at 6 p.m.

Following the November work session, the next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. in council quarters.



Hiwassee City Councilwomen Patsy Owens and Nancy Noblet in the Nov. 5 regular city meeting. Photo by Chad

Operation Christmas Child local drop off dates and times

McConnell Baptist Church, 84 Church St., Hiwassee, will serve as a Samaritan's Purse Drop Off location for Operation Christmas Child during National Collection Week, November 18th - November 25th.

Other area churches or individuals may bring their filled shoeboxes to the covered drive thru portico entrance at the church during the days/hours listed below. Drop Off Center volunteers will prepare these for transport to the

regional collection center on Monday, November 25th. If you would like to volunteer to help with this ministry, please call the church office at 706-896-2281.

Monday, 11/18 - 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, 11/19 - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, 11/20 - 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Thursday, 11/21 - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Friday, 11/22 - 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 11/23 - 1 - 4 p.m. Sunday, 11/24 - 12 - 4:30 p.m. Monday, 11/25 - 9 - 11 a.m. T(Nov13.F1)SH

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office and poll workers will need ample time to train ahead of the Presidential Preference Primary in March 2020.

The state has sent a demo unit to the board office for in-house training purposes and eventual public demonstrations, though Oliva said they are still waiting to receive some components for the machine.

Recently, the board office completed an inventory of its old Diebold voting equipment for the state to pick up prior to delivery of the new machines, though the board office had not received a pickup date for the old inventory by press time Monday.

The new voting equipment will be subject to strict security requirements by the state. These security requirements will be made known at a later date, and Oliva said that the state is considering allowing video monitoring equipment to be used in place of security guards.

Edwards and Oliva attended a state-level training course on the new voting equipment last month, and they will go for more training once the state solidifies its calendar.

The new machines will feature a touchscreen interface, which Edwards said was comparable to the old Diebold equipment. However, the Dominion machines will feature ballot printouts for voters to verify before scanning into a lockbox for potential audit and recount purposes.



A demo set of machines from Dominion Voting Systems showing the equipment that will be used to cast ballots in the 2020 election cycle. Photo by Shawn

Oliva said the Secretary of State's Office is also scheduling inspections of every voter precinct in Georgia to make sure that buildings being used on Election Days can safely handle the electrical demands of the new equipment.

Inspections will also include Americans with Disabilities Act compliance checks, and anything found not to be in compliance for voting purposes may be remedied with relatively simple modifications such as temporary ramps at precincts.

As the county owns the Civic Center but not the Lodge or church, there's still a question of how to fix potential electrical issues discovered at precinct buildings, but Oliva said she

doesn't anticipate problems resulting from the inspections.

After elections board members vote to consolidate the Tate City Precinct with the Macedonia Precinct in their Nov. 13 regular meeting at 4 p.m., the county will have three precincts up for inspection: Hiwassee at the Civic Center; Young Harris at the Lodge Hall Building, aka Stephens Lodge; and Macedonia at Macedonia Baptist Church.

The board office is actively recruiting poll workers in the leadup to the 2020 election cycle. Interested parties - particularly those with software and technology backgrounds - should contact the board office at 706-896-4353.