

## **MINUTES**

### **FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**JUNE 3, 2008**

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION**

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mr. Hansford gave the invocation.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present for the meeting was Mayor Howard, City Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Rosemary Walker, James Calloway, Desi Hansford, Lamar Russell, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was City Attorney, Bobby Melton, and City Clerk, Janice Hall.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2008 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **EUGENE MONROE – CONCERNS ABOUT THE UNION HILL SEWER LINE PROJECT**

Mr. Eugene Monroe, 493 Sunset Circle, came before council to voice his complaints concerning the construction work on the Union Hill sewer line project. Mr. Monroe reviewed the last three months of the construction. Mr. Monroe's complaints included original easement not signed by him, straw not maintained on the site, loss of several trees on his property, silt fence not maintained, site not grassed until this week and then wrong type of seed was used.

Mr. Walter Carter, Fire Chief and E&S Officer, came before council and reported that he and the city engineers walked the entire sewer line yesterday and did find a couple of areas of silt fence that needed maintenance but had never failed or allowed silt to pass through into the creek. Mr. Carter stated that before the project is complete a Notice of Termination must be submitted to the City for approval and that will not be submitted for some time. Mr. Monroe had complained about the double silt fence remaining on the property after the project is complete and Mr. Carter stated he will discuss with the engineers to decide if the double silt fence can be removed.

Mr. Brent Lane, of Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble, the city engineering firm, came before council to report his findings on the project. Mr. Lane stated that the grass that was put

down is temporary grass to hold the soil. Mr. Lane stated that there is still a lot of work to be done on the project.

Mr. Melton reviewed the problem with the original easement stating that this has been resolved and proper easements have been signed. Mr. Melton stated that council has previously agreed to compensate Mr. Monroe for the tree or to replace the tree with a tree of Mr. Monroe's choosing.

Mr. Dodd stated that Mr. Monroe will be included in the meetings when the project is in the final stages to ensure that his property is back to its original condition.

Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Monroe for coming to the council meeting and making them aware of the problems he is experiencing and apologized for all the inconveniences caused to him by the project.

#### **APPROVAL OF PLANT VOGTLE AGREEMENT OF 6 MEGA WATTS**

Mayor Howard reviewed the Plant Vogtle expansion project and stated that council has held several meetings with MEAG and with the city electrical engineer to decide the City's best position in the expansion. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the purchase of 6 megawatts of power from Plant Vogtle. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF 3% ELECTRICAL RATE INCREASE**

Mr. Calloway reviewed the public utility committee meeting with Mr. John Hewitt, City Electrical Engineer, concerning the need for an electrical rate increase. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve an electrical rate increase of 3%. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Russell stated that the City has not had a rate increase since 1992 except for the power cost adjustment. Mr. Calloway stated that this should mean less than a \$5 increase per month in each residential bill. Mayor Howard stated that Georgia Power has increased their rates three times in the last six months. Mr. Dodd stated we are still 5% below Georgia Power's rates.

**APPROVAL OF DATES FOR REZONING REQUEST FROM JIMMY LAWSON (THE RLC GROUP) FOR 6 ACRES ON RAILROAD AVENUE FROM TND TO HB**

Mrs. Hall reviewed the dates for sign posting on June 16; Planning & Zoning review on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, and before council for review on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the dates. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF REQUEST FROM JIMMY LAWSON (THE RLC GROUP) TO CLOSE HATCHER STREET AND ROTAN STREET**

Mr. Dodd stated that these streets are a part of the agenda item just reviewed. Mr. Melton reviewed the procedure for closing a street depending upon whether the streets are actually city streets or not. There was discussion concerning how to handle the request and the need for additional information. Mrs. Walker offered a motion to table the matter until the next meeting so that additional information can be obtained. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

**BETTER HOMETOWN/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT**

Mrs. Tiffany Andrews, Chamber of Commerce, reported the following:

- Thanked all those that attended the dedication of the renovated Welcome Center.
- Comprehensive Economic Delivery Strategy meeting will be held tomorrow at the Welcome Center at 8:30 am.
- June 11<sup>th</sup> will be the grand opening of the Comfort Suites Hotel at 4:30 pm.
- June 13<sup>th</sup> will be a ribbon cutting for Bright Beginnings at 2:00 pm.
- June 14<sup>th</sup> will be the Murder Mystery Dinner at Royal Palm beginning at 6:30 pm.
- The change in the marketing strategy has triggered over 900 requests for information.
- Hotel tax receipts are down by \$8,000 from same time last year.
- Mrs. Walter is attending the Georgia on My Mind tourism conference.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Hall reviewed all invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor. Mrs. Hall stated that these invoices are included in the totals to be approved for each department.

**MR. DODD**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the recreation and cemetery department totals of \$2,311.64. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd stated that he has been contacted by the company interested in surveying the cemetery and they have advised that they can perform the work in phases.

Mrs. Walker reviewed the summer camps for the children stating the camps will begin this weekend at the Youth Center.

**MRS. WALKER**

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the administrative committee department totals of \$2,053.05. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

**MR. CALLOWAY**

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the water department committee totals of \$31,054.82, the electric department committee totals of \$39,211.96, and the cable department committee totals of \$13,724.32. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

**MR. HANSFORD**

Mr. Hansford had nothing further to report.

**MR. RUSSELL**

Mr. Russell offered a motion to approve the fire department committee totals of \$1,231 and the police department committee totals of \$1,629.95. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Russell stated that there have been several reports of vandalism to vehicles and items stolen from vehicles lately. Mr. Russell stated that the police department will catch the person or persons responsible for these thefts.

Mr. Russell stated the city continues to work with the county on an animal control ordinance, but no agreement has been reached. Mr. Russell stated for those with animal problems to call the county office.

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the street department committee totals of \$7,595.34. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence stated that his committee is working on ways to reroute traffic around town.

Mr. Lawrence stated that the company that made the methane recovery presentation at the last council meeting may have additional means of financing available.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Hall requested permission to reinvest the 2007 MEAG true-up into the MEAG Flex Account to replenish some of the funds removed from the account. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the reinvestment into the MEAG Flex Account. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd stated that Comfort Suites had requested permission to serve wine during their grand opening and asked Mr. Melton for an opinion on the subject. Mr. Melton stated that it has always been his opinion that you cannot serve alcohol without a license due to the State Law which prohibits sale or distribution of alcohol without proper licensing. Mr. Dodd stated that similar request keep being made for this and council will need to address the issue at sometime.

Mayor Howard reviewed the three quotes received for the CMTS unit required for the cable headend.

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss pending litigation and personnel matters. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 8:15 pm.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk