

## **MINUTES**

### **FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**APRIL 1, 2008**

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

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mrs. Walker gave the invocation. Mayor Howard called on Mr. Melton to review the issue of prayer as it relates to City Council meetings. Mr. Melton stated that an invocation prayer prior to the meeting of a legislative body or deliberating body (such as City Council) has been acknowledged by the U.S. Supreme Court as being constitutional.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

Councilman Lamar Russell was out of town and unable to attend the meeting; therefore all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes (Dodd, Walker, Calloway, Hansford, and Lawrence).

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2008 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **ACCEPT EASEMENT FROM EUGENE AND SANDRA MONROE FOR PARCELS 6 & 7 FOR UNION HILL SEWER LINE PROJECT**

Mr. Melton reviewed the easement stating that this is the last of the easements for the Union Hill sewer line upgrade. Mr. Melton stated the easement is before council tonight for acceptance. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to accept the easement from Eugene and Sandra Monroe for Parcels 6 & 7 for the Union Hill sewer line project. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPT AGREEMENT WITH MERCER LAND SURVEYING FOR SOUTH PLANT INTERCEPTOR SEWER EASEMENT PROJECT**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to accept the agreement with Mercer Land Surveying for the South Plant interceptor sewer project. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FROM GEOTECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENT CONSULTANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION QUALITY CONTROL TESTING SERVICES FOR THE TIFT/DOC PROJECT**

Mr. Randall stated that the City removed this from the contract with the general contractor for the Tift/DOC project to prevent the contractor from adding additional cost to the Quality Control Testing services. Mr. Randall stated this will be for compaction testing on the City line. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the contract with Geotechnical & Environment consultants for construction quality control testing services on the City line for the DOC project. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Hall reviewed all invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor. Mrs. Hall stated these invoices will be included in the totals the committee chairs will offer for approval.

**MR. DODD**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the cemetery department committee totals of \$66.83. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd reviewed a request received from the Jeager Group on the Streetscape Project for approval of an Ecology report, which the DOT is requiring be performed before the project can move forward. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the Jeager Group moving forward on an Ecology report at a cost of \$4,100 for the Streetscape Project. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd stated that he would like to volunteer to be on the city/county committee to review several possible projects discussed at the City/County dinner

meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Walker stated that she would also like to volunteer to be on the committee. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to accept both Mr. Dodd and Mrs. Walker request to be on the city/county committee. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried with three (3) votes for and two (2) abstentions (Dodd and Walker).

Mr. Dodd reviewed the eventuality of an open air amphitheater in the wooded triangle between the National Guard Armory and the Forsyth Golf Course. Mr. Dodd stated that the first step would be to clear the property and that hopefully we could get bids on that in the near future.

**MRS. WALKER**

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$61,807.16. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

**MR. CALLOWAY**

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the electric department committee totals of \$1,439.14 and the water department committee totals of \$8,757.76. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway stated that the City is currently charging a \$300 deposit for hydrant meters and that those meters cost approximately \$1,000. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to increase the cost of the deposit on hydrant meters to \$1,000 and that the deposit would be returned if the meter is returned in good working order, if not, the City will retain the deposit to cover the cost of replacing the meter. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway stated that the Monroe County Development Authority has requested that the City help defray the cost of boring under the roadway in the Industrial Park by agreeing to pay ½ of the estimated cost of \$13,500 for the bore. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the City's amount not to exceed \$6,750 for the bore under Industrial Park Road. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

**MR. HANSFORD**

Mr. Hansford had no report from the Ordinance & Zoning committee.

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to approve the fire department committee totals of \$664.11. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to approve the police department committee totals of \$4,453.48. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the public works department committee totals of \$18,905.42. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence encouraged citizens to report any problems they know of with the streets or sidewalks.

Mr. Calloway called on Mr. Patrick Wright, Utilities Partners, for the water department report. Mr. Wright stated that the DOT is moving forward on the Highway 41 project and has requested an update on the utility relocation within that area. Mr. Wright stated there is a force main in the right-of-way that will have to be moved. Mr. Wright stated that the DOT expects to let the project in October 2008. Mr. Randall stated there are electric lines that will also have to be moved.

Mr. Wright reviewed the progress on the NEWWTP Belt Press project and stated that the press should be delivered on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**MR. MELTON**

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

**MRS. HALL**

Mrs. Hall stated that Mr. James Green went before the Planning & Zoning Commission last week and that he has decided to withdraw his application for variances for property located on MLK Drive. Mrs. Hall stated that the dates approved at the last council meeting for Mr. Greens' project will be cancelled and new dates will be presented when Mr. Green resubmits his application.

Mrs. Hall reminded everyone of the revaluation meeting scheduled for April 8, 2008 at the BOE for the city council, county commissions, BOE, and chamber. Mrs. Hall stated the new tax assessor, Mr. Ross, has called the meeting.

Mrs. Hall stated that council approved a block party for the Wright's Grove Baptist Church for May 31<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Hall stated Reverend Foster would like to schedule a "rain day". Mrs. Hall requested permission to add the rain day to the original application. There were no objections.

Mrs. Hall stated that council approved Save-A-Pet setting up tables on Johnston Street sidewalks for their Noodles for Poodles event tomorrow night. Mrs. Hall stated that Mrs. Corley has called today requesting permission to also set up tables on Jackson Street due to the possibility of heavy rains tomorrow night. There were no objections.

**BETTER HOMETOWN/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT**

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

- Mrs. Heath, BHT director, is in Philadelphia this week at the National Mainstreet Conference.
- The first 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Concert is May 3<sup>rd</sup> with the Tams. Advance tickets are on sale at 15 locations.
- Reviewed the DDA Town Hall meeting held on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Andrews reported the following for the Chamber:

- Great feedback has been received from the ads placed in national publications.
- Reviewed the Forsythia Festival, stating very well attended, inspite of the weather.
- Downtown Merchants Association will meet tomorrow at 8:30 am at Ann's Deli.
- Chamber Past Presidents/Chairmen's breakfast will be held.
- Business After Hours will be April 17<sup>th</sup> at Save-A-Pet in Bolingbroke.

**ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Dodd stated that Mrs. Heath will begin looking for grants to fund the amphitheater.

A gentleman in the audience requested that the ditches on Hillcrest Drive be dug out to prevent runoff in the yards.

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Mr. Will Davis, Monroe County Reporter, asked who operates the traffic signals. Council stated that all signals are operated by DOT.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk