

## **MINUTES**

### **FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**APRIL 15, 2008**

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

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

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present for the meeting was Mayor Tye Howard, 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.

#### **WELCOME OF THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP**

Mayor Howard welcomed the Youth Leadership Group. Mayor Howard stated that the Youth Leadership Group will be holding a mock council meeting on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Howard called on Mrs. Lisa McClendon, instructor of the Youth Leadership Group. Mrs. McClendon reviewed what the Youth Leadership Group is and what they do.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2008 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH TURNER BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. TO AIR THE BRAVES BASEBALL GAMES**

Due to Mr. Alvin Randall not being present for the meeting yet, Mayor Howard deferred review of the contract until Mr. Randall arrived.

#### **BETTER HOMETOWN/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT**

Mrs. Joan Heath, BHT Director, reported the following for the Chamber:

- Mrs. Walter is at a tourism conference this week.
- The Hubbard Alumni celebration and banquet is this weekend.
- Business After Hours will be April 17<sup>th</sup> at Save-A-Pet in Bolingbroke from 5:30 PM until 7:00 PM.
- Ribbon cutting for At Ease Therapy will be April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 AM at the Welcome Center.

Mrs. Heath reported the following for the BHT:

- Reviewed the National Mainstreet conference recently attended.
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the first 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Concert series with the Tams in concert.
- BHT moved into their new office downstairs at the Welcome Center.
- Streetscape concept has been approved by DOT and the construction documents will begin after the ecology report is complete.

- Reviewed what the BHT program is and what it means to the City for the students in attendance.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Lawrence asked that before the Mayor asked for the committee reports that the four students in attendance introduce themselves and what they hope to do after graduation.

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor. Mrs. Hall stated that these totals are included in the totals each committee chair will offer for approval.

**MR. DODD**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the cemetery department committee invoices totaling \$292.13. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd stated that the City will offer the same summer camps as last year and they should begin in June. Mr. Dodd stated that there is not money in the budget this year for a swimming pool.

**MRS. WALKER**

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$3,277.28, the BHT department committee totals of \$87.50, and the court department committee totals of \$143.32 for a total of \$3,458.10. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

**MR. CALLOWAY**

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the cable department committee totals of \$3,723.54, the electric department committee totals of \$7,450.76, and the water department committee totals of \$21,892.75 for a total of \$33,067.05. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway called on Mr. Pat Wright, Utilities Partners, for the water report. Mr. Wright stated that Strack has made their first tie in at CVS for the Tift/DOC project; Crawford is near completion on the Union Hill project; work continues on the NEWWTP Belt Press project; and the EPD made a site visit to the old RWTP and requested testing, when the results of the test are received, EPD should grant permission to start up the old plant.

**MR. HANSFORD**

Mr. Hansford had no invoices to offer for payment.

Mr. Hansford stated that the Ordinance & Zoning Committee will again review the proposed amendment to Chapter 4 of the City Code relating to distance from churches and schools for alcohol pouring licenses and the addition of a caterer's license section.

Mr. Hansford stated the Ordinance & Zoning Committee will also review the zoning issue for several properties on College Street.

**MR. RUSSELL**

Mr. Russell welcomed Acting Chief Art Phillips back after a brief illness. Mr. Russell called on Chief Phillips to review the police department for the students in attendance. Chief Phillips reviewed the number of officers currently in the department and what each division is responsible for within the department.

Mr. Russell offered a motion to approve the fire department committee totals of \$205.03 and the police department committee totals of \$9,041.15. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the street department committee totals of \$7,531.18 and the garage department committee totals of \$70.53. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence commended the street department for the work they have performed around the city.

Mr. Hansford asked Mr. Frank Vaughan for a report. Mr. Vaughan stated that the annexations and those properties not on the digest but should have been has been delivered to the tax assessor's office. Mr. Vaughan stated that a letter has been sent to all property owners notifying them of the change/correction.

**APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH TURNER BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. TO AIR THE BRAVES BASEBALL GAMES**

Mayor Howard called on Mr. Alvin Randall to review the contract with Turner Broadcasting to air the Atlanta Braves games. Mr. Randall stated this is a 2-year contract; there will be no cost to the City except for equipment and he and Mr. Wade Kite are checking on the price of the equipment. Mr. Randall stated that we will need to decide what channel the games will be aired on and how the programming will switch to the games (whether manually or by equipment). Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the contract to air the Atlanta Braves games provided a reasonable cost of the needed equipment. Mr. Calloway seconded the motion. Mr. Russell asked for additional explanation for which games would be aired and why we needed a contract. Mr. Randall stated that Forsyth is within the area that is being blacked out for home games and the contract with Turner Broadcasting will allow us to air the games on Forsyth Cable. The motion carried unanimously.

**MRS. HALL**

Mrs. Hall had nothing further to report.

**MR. MELTON**

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

**ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Dodd asked Mr. Melton for a legal opinion on the proposed amendment to the alcohol ordinance. Mr. Dodd stated that to allow alcohol for the Chamber event in May, at the Welcome Center, this needs to be changed. Mr. Melton stated that the amendment includes two parts – 1) changing the distance required for a pouring license from 300' to 60' from a church, school, or college. This change would not affect a package license; 2) the addition of a catering section. Mr. Dodd stated that if this matter is not handled tonight the Chamber will not be able to serve alcohol at their May 17<sup>th</sup> event. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the proposed amendment to Chapter 4 of the City Code. Mayor Howard stated the side door of the Welcome Center would not be used if this passes. Mr. Melton stated that the ordinance on the books states that the distance is measured from front door to front door and does not take any other doors into account. Mr. Russell seconded the motion to allow for discussion. Mr. Russell asked if council could grant an exemption for the Chamber event. Mr. Melton stated there is no allowance for a variance in the alcohol ordinance. Mr. Melton stated that council could approve for advertisement, have the committee meeting, and then vote on the amendment at the May 6<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Mr. Dodd rescinded his motion to approve the proposed amendment. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to advertise the proposed amendment to Chapter 4 of the City Code. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Randall stated that the next Tift/DOC project meeting will be April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am for any official that would like to attend.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk