

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 1, 2008

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mr. Dodd 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2008 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

HOWARD FAULK – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PASSING OUT FLYERS AT WAL-MART AND LEE STREET INTERSECTION

Mr. Howard Faulk, Logwall Baptist Church, came before council to request permission for the Church members to continue passing out religious flyers in front of Wal-mart at the intersection with Lee Street. Mr. Faulk had previously been granted permission to pass out religious flyers for three months and instructed to return after that time to report to council if any problems had been encountered. Mr. Faulk stated that there had been no problems and that the group had passed out an average of 250 flyers on each Saturday morning that they had been able to meet. Mr. Russell offered a motion to allow the group to continue passing out religious flyers until the end of the year. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR REZONING REQUEST FROM JIMMY LAWSON (THE RLC GROUP) FOR 6 ACRES ON RAILROAD AVENUE FROM TRADITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT (TND) TO HIGHWAY BUSINESS (HB)

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the rezoning request from Jimmy Lawson, RLC Group, to rezone six acres located on Railroad Avenue from Traditional Neighborhood (TND) to Highway Business (HB). Mr. Melton stated that this first came before council on June 3, 2008; has been properly advertised in the Reporter in the June 11, June 18, and June 25 issues; the sign was properly posted on the property on June 17th; and this matter was heard by Planning & Zoning during their June 30th meeting. Mrs. Hall read the recommendation with stipulations for approval from Planning & Zoning. Hearing no further comments for or against the

approval of the request for rezoning, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the rezoning request without the stipulations recommended from P&Z. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. There was discussion concerning the approval without including the stipulations from P&Z. Mr. Calloway withdrew his motion and offered a motion to approve the rezoning request with the stipulations recommended by Planning & Zoning. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF TABLED MATTER FROM JUNE 3RD COUNCIL MEETING FOR REQUEST FROM JIMMY LAWSON (THE RLC GROUP) TO CLOSE HATCHER STREET AND ROTAN STREET

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to bring the matter back to the table. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Hall stated that it appears that Hatcher Street and Rotan Street are indeed city streets as the public works department has maintained both streets, the streets are shown on the GDOT City street map, there are City street signs located on these streets, and there are street lights maintained by the city on both streets. Mr. Melton stated that council has several options before them to consider concerning closing city streets and reviewed the possible options for closing a city street. Mr. Melton stated that there is good evidence that these are indeed city streets. The proposed roadway through the property during future development was reviewed. Mr. Melton stated that State law allows for the substitution of roadways and council could consider the new roadway as a substitute for closing Hatcher and Rotan Streets. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to advise The RLC Group that council would consider the new roadway as a substitute for closing Hatcher Street and Rotan Street provided that the new roadway is built to city specifications, with an acceleration and deceleration lanes at Railroad Avenue. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAKING OF A TEMPORARY LOAN FOR THE REFINANCING OF THE DDA LOAN AT FARMERS BANK

Mr. Melton reviewed the resolution for the approval of a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for the temporary financing of loan for the Welcome Center. Mr. Melton stated that a TAN must be paid out by December 31, 2008. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the temporary loan for the refinancing of the DDA loan at Farmers Bank. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PRICE INCREASE FOR THE UNDERGROUND UTILITY INSTALLATION FOR PHASE II OF THE WISTERIA SUBDIVISION

Mrs. Hall reviewed the original bid received from Utili-Path for the complete subdivision work at Wisteria subdivision. Mrs. Hall stated that after bids were received in April 2007, the developer decided to divide the subdivision into phases. Mrs. Hall stated that Utili-Path has submitted a change order stating that the cost of installing the underground service for Phase II has increased by \$7,000. Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the increase for the underground utility installation for Phase II for Wisteria Subdivision. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE BEER & WINE PACKAGE LICENSE FOR WAL-MART FOR 120 N. LEE STREET

Mrs. Hall stated that Wal-mart has submitted an application for a beer and wine package license at their 120 North Lee Street store. Mrs. Hall stated that a fingerprint report has already been received. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to advertise the application for a beer and wine package license received from Wal-mart. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE REZONING OF 5 PROPERTIES LOCATED ON COLLEGE STREET FROM INSTITUTIONAL AND R-3 TO HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Mrs. Hall reviewed the information provided to each councilmember concerning the rezoning of five properties located on College Street from Institutional (INST) and R-3 to Highway Business (HB). Mrs. Hall stated that this matter has previously been reviewed by the Zoning & Ordinance Committee and council, but that now there are five property owners that want to be included. Mrs. Hall stated that this matter is before council for approval to advertise the rezoning request for all five properties. Mrs. Walker offered a motion to advertise the rezoning request for five properties located on College Street from INST and R-3 to HB. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DATES FOR CONDITIONAL USE VARIANCE REQUEST FROM WILLIE WOOTEN (DICONSER INC) FOR 7.841 ACRES LOCATED OFF COLLEGE STREET FOR A CAMP GROUND

Mrs. Hall reviewed the dates for the consideration by Planning & Zoning and City Council for the conditional use variance request received from Willie Wooten, Diconser Inc. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the dates as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST FROM COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT COALITION TO WAIVE UTILITY CHARGES FOR JUNE THROUGH AUGUST

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the request received from Community Improvement Coalition to waive the utility charges for their building on Washington Street where the summer camp for underprivileged children are held. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO TRANSFER FROM MEAG ACCOUNT INVOICES FOR TIFT/DOC PROJECT

Mrs. Hall stated that council approved \$219,000 of invoices at the last council meeting for work performed on the Tift/DOC project. Mrs. Hall requested permission to transfer \$219,000 from the MEAG Flex Account to the City operating account to cover the cost of these invoices. Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the transfer of \$219,000 from the MEAG Flex Account to the City operating account for the Tift/DOC project. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RENEWAL CONTRACT WITH DOC FOR 3 INMATE CREWS

Mrs. Hall reviewed the renewal contracts with the Department of Corrections for the three inmate crews. Mrs. Hall stated that each contract will increase \$1,000 annually. Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the renewal contract with DOC for three inmate crews. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

BETTER HOMETOWN/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

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

- The Chamber is tracking the number of requests received for information.
- The Hometown Holidays Parade has been named as one of the Top 20 events in Georgia.
- Changing methods of advertising and marketing Forsyth and Monroe County, which has lead to an increase in requests for information. Advertising in Milledgeville publication for “50 things to do within 50 miles”.
- Work on the new directory has begun.
- July 9th will be the Hotel/Motel Association meeting.
- July 10th Economic Development Day for leadership Monroe class.
- July 17th Business After Hours at the Reporter from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm.
- Working on rental agreement for Alderman Hall.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

MR. DODD

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the cemetery department committee totals of \$644.06. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

MRS. WALKER

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$5,194.73. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Walker reviewed the summer camps being held.

Mrs. Walker reminded everyone of the Picnic on the Square on July 5th from 4:00 pm until 10:00 pm.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the electric department committee totals of \$148,615.93; the telecommunications department committee totals of \$13,828.33; and the water department committee totals of \$42,456.93. 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 police department committee totals of \$46,173.30 and the fire department committee totals of \$1,028.77. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. LAWRENCE

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the public works department committee totals of \$14,045.20. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence thanked council for the opportunity to serve as the voting delegate during the GMA convention and stated that one of the matters before the delegates was to approve increasing the board from 8 members to 14 members and that all members must be city officials. Mr. Lawrence stated that these were approved by the voting delegates.

MR. PAT WRIGHT, UTILITY PARTNERS

Mr. Wright reported on the damage done by the lightening strike at the service pump. Mr. Wright stated there was approximately \$7,000 damage to the pump, the SCADA system was knocked out but is back online now without damage. Mr. Wright reviewed all equipment damaged. Mr. Wright stated that a backup pump carried the load so there was no downtime on water production.

Mr. Wright updated council on the work at the Northeast Wastewater Treatment Plant.

MR. ALVIN RANDALL, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Mr. Randall reported on the work being performed on the cable system stating that the antenna for the lower channels has been ordered and will take 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. This antenna will be digital feed antenna. Mr. Randall stated that when the antenna is being replaced, the tower will be reconditioned and painted during the installation.

Mr. Randall stated that the contractor at the Tift/DOC project has hit rock again. Mr. Randall stated that paving has begun, installation of street lighting has begun, and the water and sewer system has been tested. Mr. Randall stated that during the testing of the water and sewer system, a leak was found that the contractor will be responsible for repairing.

MRS. HALL

Mrs. Hall stated that Mauldin & Jenkins would like to meet with council to review their findings of the city finances on July 3rd at 3:30 pm. Council requested that the meeting date be changed to next Tuesday if possible.

Mrs. Hall stated she attended a preliminary meeting with the county clerk and the RDC on the Service Delivery Strategy to get the financing of all projects correct. The RDC has requested a joint meeting of the City Council and County Commissioners to finalize the Service Delivery Strategy on August 12th at 6:00 pm at This Little Piggy restaurant.

Mrs. Hall stated that Mayor and Council will be out of town for the next regularly scheduled council meeting. Mrs. Walker offered a motion to change the next meeting date to July 22nd at 7:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. MELTON

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 8:00 pm.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 8:30 pm.

Mayor Howard reviewed the animal control ordinance before the county commissions at their meeting tonight.

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Walker offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk