

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 20, 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, James Calloway, Lamar Russell, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was the City Attorney, Bobby Melton, and City Clerk, Janice Hall.

Councilmembers Rosemary Walker and Desi Hansford were unable to attend the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be four (4) votes (Dodd, Calloway, Russell, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2008 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

STAN STEURY – STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATES – LANDFILL METHANE RECOVERY

Mr. Stan Steury, Stewardship Associates, and others from within his company along with Mr. Chris Carlson, Carlson Environmental Consultants, gave a presentation on possible methane recovery from the old Brent Road landfill. During the presentation they reviewed what the City would have to do to capture the gas and the carbon credits the City could receive if this project is done before the EPD mandates it. Mr. Steury reviewed two options for the City to consider. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to have the street department committee further study this proposal. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

PRISCILLA DOSTER-JACKSON – PERMISSION TO CLOSE JOHNSTON STREET FOR CONFEDERATE MONUMENT CELEBRATION

Mayor Howard called on Mrs. Doster-Jackson stating that she was not on the agenda. Mrs. Doster-Jackson presented a fact-sheet to the council and reviewed the information. Mrs. Doster-Jackson stated that June 21, 2008 will be the 100th Anniversary Celebration for the Monroe County Confederate Monument and requested permission to close Johnston Street between Lee Street and Jackson Street between the hours of 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. Mr.

Calloway offered a motion to approve the request to close Johnston Street on June 21st. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH MONROE COUNTY FOR BOARDING, PROCESSING, AND BOOKING INMATES AT THE MONROE COUNTY JAIL

Mrs. Hall reviewed the intergovernmental agreement received from Monroe County increasing the per diem amount to \$45, having an annual true-up, and the agreement period from June 2008 until June 2009. Mrs. Hall also reviewed an intergovernmental agreement that she had made changes to which leaves the per diem at \$35 per day, has a monthly true-up, and an agreement period of January 2008 until December 2008. Mrs. Hall stated that Chief Phillips has discussed the proposed changes with Captain Slaughter, Monroe County Sheriff's office, and he is in agreement to leave the contract as it is and include the increase in the per diem in the 2009 agreement so that it can be added to the 2009 City budget. Mr. Russell offered a motion to approve the annual intergovernmental agreement with Monroe County for the jail as stated in the revised agreement written by Mrs. Hall. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AND SCOPE OF WORK WITH GREAT SOUTHWESTERN CONSTRUCTION INC. FOR ELECTRICAL AND CATV INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TIFT/DOC PROJECT

Mr. Randall, Public Works Director, reviewed the contract for electrical and cable infrastructure for the Tift/DOC project with Great Southwestern Construction Inc. Mr. Randall stated that the changes Mr. Melton had requested are being integrated into the contract. Mr. Russell offered a motion to approve the contract with Great Southwestern Construction Inc. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS WITH MEAG FOR PLANT VOGTLE EXPANSION

Mayor Howard stated that this is to approve that the mayor and city clerk sign and execute all documents required for the Plant Vogtle expansion. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and execute all documents for the Plant Vogtle expansion. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF CONVEYANCE OF HISTORIC CITY HALL BUILDING FROM DDA
BACK TO THE CITY**

Mr. Melton reviewed the original agreement between the City and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for the conveyance of the historic City Hall building, now called the Welcome Center. Mr. Melton stated that the City conveyed the building to the DDA for renovations, and that once those renovations were completed the building was to be conveyed back to the City. Mr. Melton stated that the renovations have been substantially completed. Mr. Melton stated that \$300,000 was earmarked in the 2008 SPLOST for the renovations of the building. The DDA will vote at their next meeting to convey the building back to the City. Mr. Melton stated that the council needs to decide who will complete the park beside the building, which prompted a lengthy discussion. Mr. Russell stated that the renovations to the building has been discussed for several years going back to the Paul Jossey administration and all those elected officials should be thanked for their input into the renovations of the building. Mayor Howard stated that the City would have to assume the DDA construction loan of \$300,000. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to accept the conveyance of the building from the DDA and to ask the DDA to complete the park beside the building. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH INTEGRATED BROADBAND SERVICES, LLC
(IBBS) FOR INTERNET SUPPORT SERVICES**

Mr. Randall reviewed the contract with Integrated Broadband Services, LLC (IBBS) for internet support services. IBBS made a presentation to the public utilities committee. Mr. Randall recommended that council approve the call center, email, modem, and network management contract at a cost of \$7 per subscriber which will be approximately \$2,300 per month with the current subscribers that the internet has. The City is currently paying \$8,500 per month for this service. Mr. Randall stated that the Mayor has recommended that the CMTS unit be replaced during this transition also. Mr. Paul Williams, Cable consultant, stated that the call center option will provide an immediate upgrade of service to the customers. Mr. Williams stated that this is a one year contract with a 30-day opt out clause with a small termination buyout clause. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the contract with Integrated

Broadband Services LLC. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Howard stated that this is 100% from their locale, there will be no ground support therefore, we must continue to contract with Kite Cable for ground services. Mayor Howard stated that the failing CMTS unit must be replaced due to the company that manufactured the unit no longer supports or services the unit and there are no parts to be found if the unit does go down.

APPOINTMENT OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR GMA ANNUAL CONVENTION BUSINESS MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 23RD

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to appoint Mr. Lawrence as voting delegate for the business meeting to be held on Monday, June 23, 2008. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion carried unanimously.

BETTER HOMETOWN/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Mrs. Hall reported the following for the BHT and Chamber:

- May 22nd will be the Business After Hours at the Arts Alliance from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm.
- May 28th will be the Downtown Business Association Meeting at Ann's Deli at 10:30 am.
- May 29th will be the dedication of the newly renovated Welcome Center from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm
- June 7th will be the 1st Saturday concert with Mustang Sally.
- June 14th will be the Murder Mystery dinner at the Royal Palm at 6:30 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Hall reviewed all invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor. Mrs. Hall stated that these invoices are included in the totals that the committee chairs will present for payment.

MR. DODD

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the cemetery department committee totals of \$288.22. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$1,002.80 and the court committee totals of \$223.60. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd stated that the local Church channel is doing well and thanked the local Churches for sending in the tapes of their services on a regular basis. Mr. Dodd stated that there was a period of time that only a few Churches were sending in tapes. Mr. Dodd stated that he would like to see the City offer assistance to the other local Churches to help them find cameras if they do not have one. Mr. Calloway stated that the City can provide flyers to all of the Churches explaining the availability of the Church channel and the information that is needed in order for the tapes to be aired. Mr. Randall stated that the services must be local Church services and cannot be rebroadcast of a service due to copyright regulations. Mrs. Hall stated that she has someone in the office that can design a flyer to provide to the Churches.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the water department committee totals of \$26,860.17, the electric department committee totals of \$69,293.47, and the cable department committee totals of \$151.50. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway stated that he would like to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter after the regular business is complete.

MR. RUSSELL

Mr. Russell offered a motion to approve the public safety committee totals of \$1,042.72. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Russell offered a motion to offer another early retirement incentive window in September 2009, the same as the one offered this year for public safety employees whose age plus years of service equals 72 and to include at least the continuation of health insurance benefits until age 65. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. LAWRENCE

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the public works department committee totals of \$2,535.75. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence called on Mr. Randall for his report. Mr. Randall stated that the Tift/DOC project is moving forward and they will begin watering down twice a day in an effort to keep down dust. Mr. Randall stated that the black fencing is coming down to allow for a duct bank to be installed and a temporary chain link fence is being erected around the entire site. Mr. Randall

stated that the construction company will put new sod in the area beside CVS that was disturbed while installing the new water line.

Mr. Calloway called on Mr. Pat Wright, Utilities Partners, for the water report. Mr. Wright stated that in September 2007 the EPD conducted a sanitary survey and the City scored 82 out of a possible 100. Mr. Wright stated that the normal scoring rate is in the low 70's so the City did very well in the survey.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Mayor Howard stated that funds are not available at this time to cover the invoices council approved tonight. Mr. Russell offered a motion to bring in the auditor or consultant to review the past several years and make a recommendation to the council as to what needs to be done and if a bond issue is needed for the SPLOST proceeds. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to appoint Mr. Ralph Ogletree to the Planning & Zoning Commission to fill one of the vacant seats. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters and pending litigation. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 8:45 pm.

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

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk