

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 6, 2008

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mr. Calloway 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 APRIL 15, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2008 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE APPROVAL TO AMEND CHAPTER 4 OF THE CITY CODE (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES) TO ADD PROVISIONS CONCERNING CATERERS AND TO AMEND PROVISION WITH REGARD TO DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR POURING LICENSES

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of an amendment to Chapter 4 of the City Code to add provisions concerning caterers and to amend the distance requirement for a pouring license. Mr. Melton reviewed the two proposed amendments stating that these amendments were approved for advertising at the April 15th council meeting and these proposed amendments have been properly advertised in the April 23rd and April 30th issues of the Reporter. Mr. Hansford reviewed the Ordinance & Zoning Committee meeting where these proposed amendments were reviewed. Mr. Hansford stated that the original amendment for the distance requirement was changed to include only the Downtown Commercial District. Hearing no further comments for or against the proposed amendments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Hansford offered a motion not to change Chapter 4 of the City Code. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried with five votes for (Walker, Calloway, Hansford, Russell, and Lawrence) and one vote against (Dodd). The matter of private parties was reviewed and Mr. Melton stated that private parties that provide

alcohol are not allowed unless properly licensed since the State law on selling or distributing alcoholic beverages is the governing law. Mr. Dodd asked Mr. Hansford if he would consider special catered events and Mr. Hansford stated that he would not.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER FROM CRAWFORD GRADING FOR UNION HILL LINE

Mrs. Hall reviewed that a change order has been received from Crawford Grading for an extension of the Union Hill line to include the portion of the sewer line that has been undermined. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the change order. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Mrs. Hall stated that Mrs. Tatrabian Charles and Mr. Martin Presley appointments to the Planning & Zoning Commission have expired and they need to be reappointed. Mrs. Hall also stated that Mr. Tom Brunson, who was appointed to P&Z in December 2007, has submitted his resignation. Mrs. Hall stated that there is also a vacant seat on the Design & Review Board. Mrs. Walker offered a motion to reappoint Mrs. Charles and Mr. Presley to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RENEWAL CONTRACT WITH MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR FUEL DEPOT

Mrs. Hall reviewed the proposed renewal contract with Monroe County Commissioners for the fuel depot. Mrs. Hall reviewed the differences between the 2007 and 2008 contracts, stating that the City's portion has increased. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the renewal contract with Monroe County Commissioners for the fuel depot. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH HALL, BOOTH, SMITH, & SLOVER IN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MATTERS

Mrs. Hall stated that Hall, Booth, Smith, & Slover (HBSS) previously handled all Public Service Commission matters through Georgia Public Web (GPW). Mrs. Hall stated this is a contract for HBSS to handle these matters directly. Mr. Randall stated that it has been determined that it was a conflict of interest for GPW attorneys to represent the cities at the Public Service Commission. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the

contract with Hall, Booth, Smith, & Slover for all Public Service Commission matters. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Howard questioned the amounts listed in the contract stating that they could be substantial. Mr. Randall stated that the amounts charged would depend upon the issues that arise for them to represent the City.

APPROVAL OF POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT WITH CENTRAL GEORGIA EMC

Mrs. Hall stated this is for the cable attachments to poles belonging to Central Georgia EMC. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the pole attachment agreement with Central Georgia EMC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Russell asked that Mr. Randall have the rates that we charge for pole attachments available at the next council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF POLE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH SOUTHEASTERN WOOD POLE INSPECTORS

Mrs. Hall stated this is an annual contract that the City has with Southeastern Wood Pole Inspectors. Mrs. Hall stated they inspect 300 poles per year. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the pole maintenance contract with Southeastern Wood Pole Inspectors. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF GMA DISTRICT 6 OFFICERS FOR 2008-2009

Mrs. Hall stated that GMA has changed the manner in which officers are elected. Mrs. Hall stated votes are now cast by mail rather than at the GMA Annual Convention. Mrs. Hall stated Mr. Dodd is the city's voting delegate and he will be casting the ballot for the city.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE 2008 BUDGET

Mrs. Hall stated that there are several amendments that need to be made to the 2008 annual budget due to projections being made for 2008 that are not going to come through in 2008 and some line items that need to be adjusted. Mrs. Hall stated that each of these amendments was discussed at the administrative committee meeting. Mrs. Hall reviewed and read the list of amendments. Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the amendments to the 2008 budget. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF MONEY FROM MEAG FLEX ACCOUNT TO OPERATING ACCOUNT FOR TIFT/DOC PROJECT

Mrs. Hall stated that over \$300,000 has been expended on the Tift/Doc project that needs to be reimbursed to the City from the MEAG Flex Account. Mrs. Walker offered a motion to transfer \$300,000 from the MEAG Flex Account to the City Operating Account as reimbursement for monies expended on the Tift/DOC project. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE ZONING CHANGE FROM INSTITUTIONAL TO HIGHWAY BUSINESS FOR FOUR PROPERTIES LOCATED ON COLLEGE STREET

Mr. Hansford reviewed the Ordinance & Zoning committee meeting where the proposed zoning change for four properties located on College Street was discussed. Mr. Hansford stated the properties were zoned Institutional in the city-wide rezoning and the property owners are requesting a change to Highway Business. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to advertise a zoning change from Institutional to Highway Business for four properties located on College Street. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

BETTER HOMETOWN/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

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

- The TAMS concert held on May 3rd was less attended than expected. Mrs. Andrews thanked the street department, electric department, police, fire, and sheriff's departments, BHT volunteers, and the mayor and council for their work before, during, and after the concert.
- The ecology report for the Streetscape Project was approved last Friday.
- Mrs. Heath is working on overview for all projects due to her last day of employment being Friday, May 9th.

Mrs. Andrews reported the following for the Chamber of Commerce:

- Mrs. Beverly Walter is attending a series of conferences being held at Welcome Centers around the State.

- The Highschool Rodeo will be held at the Monroe County Recreation Department on Friday, May 9th and Saturday, May 10th.
- May 9th will be the Rising Star luncheon for the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who have maintained straight A's for the year.
- Business After Hours will be May 22nd at the Arts Alliance from 5:30 PM until 7:00 PM.
- The building dedication for the Welcome Center will be May 29th from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM with a ribbon cutting at 6:00 PM.
- A Legislative Wrap-Up will be held at City Hall on May 13th at 8:30 AM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

MR. DODD

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the cemetery department committee totals of \$354.82. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd reviewed a meeting he and Mrs. Walker recently had with a mapping company for cemeteries. Mr. Dodd stated that the company can create a map for all three cemeteries and will also x-ray the ground to verify if there is an unmarked grave in all areas.

Mr. Dodd asked Mrs. Walker to review the summer camps being offered. Mrs. Walker stated that all camps offered last year will be offered again this year and that a water slide is being added.

MRS. WALKER

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$14,748.95. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the cable department committee totals of \$6,035.56, the water department committee totals of \$40,247.80, and the electric

department committee totals of \$44,060.54. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway called on Mr. Pat Wright, Utilities Partners, for the water report. Mr. Wright reported the following:

- The Russellville Plant filter trials have been completed and passed and we are waiting on EPD approval of the filters.
- Consumer Confidence Report is complete.
- NEWWTP belt press roof is complete and work continues on the building.
- Strack began prep work to bore under the railroad but had to change direction due to cables under the railroad. Will close a portion of the roadway for three days to allow Strack access to the railroad for the bore.

Mr. Calloway called on Mr. Alvin Randall, Public Works Director, for the electric and cable department reports. Mr. Randall reported the following:

- Reviewed progress on the Tift/DOC project.
- The GUST grant has been approved for \$2,500 for the removal of underground tank at the street department.
- Working on all cemeteries to have them ready for Mother's Day.
- Braves games are now being aired on Channel 74.

MR. HANSFORD

Mr. Hansford stated that he has no invoices for approval.

Mr. Hansford called on Mr. Frank Vaughan for his report. Mr. Vaughan stated Phase I of Manor at Montpelier has been completed and Planning & Zoning has required the developer to close the roadways that will be dead-end streets until Phase II is completed. Mr. Dodd stated that the Zoning Ordinance requires that a bond be presented by the developer and if the project is done in phases, the bond is held until all phases are complete. Mr. Dodd stated that the Manor at Montpelier developer wants the bond to be released before Phase II is completed. Mr. Melton stated that their attorney has contacted him and he will get back in touch with him.

MR. RUSSELL

Mr. Russell offered a motion to approve the fire department committee totals of \$311.20 and the police department committee totals of \$3,059.70. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Russell stated that Art Phillips has been working as the Acting Police Chief since January and has done a fine job. Mr. Russell offered a motion to appoint Art Phillips as Chief of Police. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Howard administered the Oath of Office to Chief Phillips.

Mr. Russell encouraged all elected officials to sign-up for the Citizens Police Academy when it is offered again.

MR. LAWRENCE

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the street department committee totals of \$9,286.10. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk