

## **MINUTES**

### **FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**JANUARY 6, 2009**

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

Mrs. Janice Hall, City Clerk, called the organizational meeting to order. Mr. Calloway gave the invocation.

Mrs. Hall stated that there were no Oaths of Office to be administered to newly elected officials and turned the meeting over to Mayor Howard.

#### **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.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEM**

Mayor Howard requested that Mr. Russell be appointed as Mayor Pro-Tem. Mr. Hansford offered a motion to appoint Mr. Russell as Mayor Pro-Tem. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Dodd, Walker, Calloway, Hanford, and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Russell).

#### **ADOPTION OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES**

Mr. Russell offered a motion to adopt Roberts Rules of Order as parliamentary procedures for all meetings. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **2009 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Mayor Howard reviewed the 2009 Council Committee assignments.

#### **2009 APPOINTMENT AND OATHS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND PROFESSIONALS**

Mayor Howard reviewed the list of all department heads and professionals currently serving the City. Mr. Russell offered a motion to approve all department heads and professionals for 2009 as reviewed by the Mayor. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Lawrence stated that he would like to see some of the professional services bid out for 2009. Mr. Calloway asked why the City had three court judges. Mr. Melton stated that Judge Clifton works one of the night courts each month and Judge Tiller works the other night court and Judge Davis has the hearing court once a month during

the day. The motion failed with two (2) votes for (Russell and Dodd) and three (3) votes against (Walker, Lawrence, and Hansford) and one abstention (Calloway).

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve all department heads and professionals with the exception of the engineering services. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously. The engineering services will be bid out.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2008 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED BUDGET MEETING ON DECEMBER 30, 2008**

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the minutes of the special called budget meeting on December 30, 2008. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET**

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the proposed 2009 budget. Mr. Melton reviewed the proposed 2009 budget process stating that this matter first came before council on December 16, 2008; was properly advertised in the December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> issues of the Reporter; and that this is the second of two required public hearings on the budget with the first public hearing being held on December 30, 2008. Mr. Melton stated this matter is before council tonight for approval. Mrs. Hall reviewed changes requested at the first public hearing stating that all changes have been incorporated into the final proposed budget that is before council tonight. Hearing no further comments for or against the approval of the 2009 budget, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the 2009 budget as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 10 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL**

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of amendments to Chapter 10 of the City Code relating to soil erosion and sedimentation control. Mr. Melton reviewed this matter stating that this first came before council on December 16, 2008; was properly advertised in the December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> issues of the Reporter; and this amendment will revise Article III of Chapter 10 for Soil Erosion to comply with State mandates. Hearing no further comments for or against the approval of the amendment to Chapter 10 of the City Code, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Hansford offered a motion to approve the amendments to Chapter 10 of the City Code relating to Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPROVAL OF BEER & WINE PACKAGE LICENSE FOR 445 TIFT COLLEGE DRIVE – W.C. MINIT MART - CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP TO K.B. PATEL**

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of a beer and wine package license for 445 Tift College Drive for K. B. Patel the new owner of W.C. Minit Mart. Mr. Melton reviewed the application stating that a license has been held at this location for a number of years; this matter first came before council on December 16, 2008; was properly advertised in the December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> issues of the Reporter; this is a change of ownership application for beer and wine package. Mrs. Hall stated that the fingerprint report has not been received. Hearing no further comments for or against the approval of the beer and wine package license for W.C. Minit Mart, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the beer and wine package license application for K. B. Patel for 445 Tift College Drive pending a favorable fingerprint report. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT WITH CENTRAL GEORGIA EMC**

Mr. Alvin Randall, Public Works Director, reviewed the pole attachment agreement with Central Georgia EMC, stating that this is a renewal of an existing agreement with Central Georgia EMC. Mr. Randall stated that this is a standard agreement and the only change to the previous agreement is that the cost per pole is coming down from \$31 per pole to \$25 per pole. Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the pole attachment agreement with Central Georgia EMC. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

**BETTER HOMETOWN/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT**

Mrs. Laurie Pippin, BHT Director, offered the following report:

- 2008 ended on a positive note with a successful Christmas Tree Lighting
- Mr. Bill Bazemore was recognized at the December DDA meeting for his years of service on the DDA. Mr. Bazemore requested that he not be reappointed to a new term on the DDA.
- BHT committees are seeing new volunteers signing up.
- City was awarded a \$10,788 grant for repairs to two weather sirens and the purchase of one new siren.
- DCA assessment will be January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am for the BHT program reaccreditation.
- The events for the 2009 Forsyth Alive series have been finalized and sponsorships are being sought.

Mr. Russell stated that we need to get started on the Streetscape work within the first quarter of 2009. Mr. Russell asked Mrs. Pippin to schedule a work session with the Jeager Group to review the changes made to the Streetscape Plan.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MR. DODD**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the cemetery department committee totals of \$317.72. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

**MRS. WALKER**

Mrs. Walker reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$13,770.76. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to appoint Mr. Dodd to the vacant seat on the Downtown Development Authority. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Walker, Calloway, Hansford, Russell, and Lawrence) and one abstention (Dodd).

**MR. CALLOWAY**

Mr. Calloway reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the electric department committee totals of \$6,453.01; the cable department committee totals of \$6,015.92; and the water department committee totals of \$13,302.35. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

**MR. HANSFORD**

Mr. Hansford had nothing further to report for the ordinance and zoning committee.

**MR. RUSSELL**

Mr. Russell offered a motion to approve the public safety department committee totals of \$743.52 for the police department and \$422.50 for the fire department. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

**MR. LAWRENCE**

Mr. Lawrence reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the street department committee totals of \$1,016.95. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he is receiving numerous phone calls concerning the cable channel changes that were recently made. Mr. Lawrence asked if the utility committee can meet and review these changes.

**Mr. Alvin Randall, Public Works Director**

Mr. Randall reported that the City began working several years ago on a solution to the methane problems at the old landfill. Mr. Randall stated that a system is needed to convert the methane into a usable system. Environmental Credit Corporation wants to work with the City and buy the rights to the methane for conversion to carbon credits. Mr. Randall stated that the EPD is watching this project very closely and could mandate that we install a passive system and then the opportunity for carbon credits would be lost. Mayor Howard stated that the EPD has held back due to the City being in negotiations with Environmental Credit Corporation for an active system. Mr. Randall stated that this would make the City a “Green Community” to go along with the Signature Community. Mrs. Walker asked how much this would cost. Mr. Randall stated the system will cost approximately \$150,000, the testing required before the system can be installed will cost approximately \$16,000, and we will receive \$79,000 from Environmental Credit for the gas rights. Mr. Russell offered a motion to enter into negotiations and approve the \$16,000 for the testing but must come back before council before additional money is spent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansford. Mr. Dodd stated that all of this is very vague and asked if the committee could be involved before this is approved. Mr. Russell stated that the committee has reviewed this on several occasions and Environmental Credit has made presentations to the committee and to council in the past. Mr. Randall stated that a passive system will cost at least \$50,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Randall reviewed the projects to be submitted for the Federal Stimulus package. Mr. Randall stated that there are 18 projects on the list which includes the initial five projects presented previously.

**ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS/REVIEW OF 2008**

Mayor Howard stated that he appreciates everyone’s work during 2008. Mayor Howard stated that the greatest accomplishment for 2008 was the approval to purchase additional output from Plant Vogtle.

**ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS/PROJECTIONS FOR 2009**

Mayor Howard stated that all employment hires need to be resolved in early 2009. Mayor Howard stated 2009 will be a very lean year and all spending needs to be done very wisely and with careful consideration.

Mr. Randall stated that MEAG has purchased a table at the Macon Economic Luncheon Summit on January 20<sup>th</sup> and would like for a delegation from Forsyth to be their guest.

Mr. Larry Jamison came before council and stated that he has not received the information that he requested. Mr. Jamison stated that the City needs to show appreciation for their employees. Mrs. Hall stated that she spoke with Mrs. Davis today and she is still compiling the information for Mr. Jamison. Mr. Jamison submitted an Open Records Request to Mayor Howard.

Mr. Melton stated that he appreciates the reappointment and looks forward to the new year.

Mr. Dodd stated that the information that Mr. Randall presented on the projects for the Stimulus Package was put together with the help of the current engineers, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry, & Tribble. Mr. Dodd stated that we need that continuity in services.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk