

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mayor Howard welcomed Mr. Calloway back from active military duty. Mr. Calloway gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting was Mayor Tye Howard, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Jo Anna Banks, James Calloway, Desi Hansford, Eric Wilson, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was City Administrator, Greg Popham; City Attorney, Bobby Melton; and City Clerk, Janice Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2010 SPECIAL CALLED 2010 PROPOSED BUDGET MEETING

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2010 special called 2010 proposed budget meeting as written. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2010 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2010 SPECIAL CALLED 2010 PROPOSED BUDGET MEETING

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2010 special called 2010 proposed budget meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION HONORING SCOUTING VALUES

The representative of the boy scouts was not present, so this item was postponed until later in the meeting.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

Mayor Howard read the proclamation honoring National School Counseling Week and presented the proclamation to the school counselors in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2010 PROPOSED BUDGET AND APPROVAL OF 2010 BUDGET

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the 2010 budget. Mayor Howard reviewed the called meeting held yesterday to review the proposed budget. Mayor Howard stated that he is concerned with the proposed revenues. Hearing no further comments for or against the approval of the 2010 budget, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing.

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to accept the 2010 budget as presented. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Hansford stated that everyone needs to keep a close eye on their budget. Mr. Hansford commended the staff for their hard work on preparing the budget. Mr. Hansford stated that we will space out new hires as much as possible and delay any purchases as much as possible. Mr. Popham stated that he will have a meeting with the department heads on Thursday to review the Mayor's list of concerns provided at yesterday's meeting. Mr. Popham stated that he and Mrs. Hall are already working to find areas that reductions can be made.

REVIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ELECTRIC CITIES OF GEORGIA ON SUBSTITUTE BILL FOR SB - 328

Mayor Howard stated that SB-328 is a follow-up on the discussions previously held on pole rental. Mayor Howard stated that GMA and Electric Cities strongly suggest not letting the Public Service Commission get involved in these discussions which is what the bill is requesting. Mayor Howard asked that if anyone is contacted regarding this bill, to refer them to him.

Mr. Dodd stated that GMA is also following the bills regarding municipalities not being allowed to patrol on federal highways and also on deannexation.

Mr. Popham stated that GMA encourages the elected officials to contact their senators directly to voice opposition to SB-328 and other bills being presented that GMA and ECG are opposed to.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MR. DODD

Mr. Dodd reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 and offered a motion to approve the electric department committee totals of \$560.23 and the water department committee totals of \$34,828.47. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd stated that the utilities committee will meet tomorrow at 11:00 am to review the status of committee and to work on a “to-do” list for 2010.

MRS. BANKS

Mrs. Banks reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the BHT department committee totals of \$1,142.62. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Banks stated that interviews for the DDA vacancies have begun.

Mrs. Banks stated that the public affairs committee will meet on February 8th to review the HPC Design guidelines. Mrs. Banks stated that a copy of the design charette done in 2006 has been provided to all of council and asked that everyone begin reviewing this material.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway thanked the City for allowing him to spend time away from city council serving his country.

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the fire department committee totals of \$837.17 and the police department committee totals of \$1,675.59. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. HANSFORD

Mr. Hansford reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the administrative committee totals of \$10,993.74 and the cable department committee totals of \$5,031.41. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford stated that the Property & Liability coverage is up for renewal. Mr. Hansford stated that our agent and GMA have submitted quotes for the coverage. Mr. Hansford offered a motion to accept the low bid of \$93,300 from Trident Insurance Company. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. WILSON

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the parks, recreation, and cemetery department committee totals of \$44,520. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson welcomed Mr. Calloway back.

Mr. Wilson stated the parks, recreation, and cemetery committee will hold their monthly meeting next Wednesday.

MR. LAWRENCE

Mr. Lawrence reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the public works department committee totals of \$6,481.52. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence welcomed Mr. Calloway back.

Mr. Lawrence stated that Mr. Randall, Public Works Director, is out on sick leave after surgery.

Mr. Lawrence stated that all required information has been received back from the First Baptist Church regarding the closing of a portion of Church Street.

MR. MELTON

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Howard stated that he has formed a search committee for the police chief position. Mayor Howard stated in addition to the public safety committee Sheriff John Carey Bittick and Mr. Al Shackelford will serve as the search committee. Mayor Howard stated that Sheriff Bittick has agreed to serve but in case he is absent he will have a designee attend. Mr. Calloway requested that Mr. Arthur White, who is retired from the State Patrol, be added to the committee. Mr. Lawrence asked how many people are needed on the committee and Mayor Howard stated that there is no set number. Mrs. Banks asked what the timeframe for an appointment is. Mr. Popham stated that council appointed Chief Phillips for 90 days and once the committee meets they will need to set guidelines and a timeline. Mr. Lawrence stated that if Sheriff Bittick cannot participate that he would like Pete Jones included in the committee. Mayor Howard apologized for

the time delay it has taken to appoint the committee. Mr. Wilson stated that he would like the committee to adhere to the 90-day timeframe for an appointment.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Howard apologized for the sound on the council meetings videos and hopes that the sound was fixed today.

Mayor Howard welcomed Mr. Calloway back and thanked him for his service to the Country.

Mrs. Banks asked if a retreat date has been set yet. Mayor Howard stated that no date has been set yet and that he is looking for an afternoon and then the next day. Mr. Popham requested that good dates for a retreat be submitted and then a mediator can be scheduled. Mayor Howard asked that each councilmember submit available dates to Mr. Popham or Mrs. Hall.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he was an Eagle Scout 48 years ago and he stood and recited the Boy Scout Laws. Mr. Lawrence requested that Mayor Howard read the proclamation honoring the boy scouts even though the representatives were unable to attend. Mayor Howard read the proclamation.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk