

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2008

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mr. Hansford gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting was Mayor Tye Howard, City 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 FEBRUARY 5, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2008 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. HOWARD FAULK – LOGWALL BAPTIST CHURCH – REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO HAND OUT RELIGIOUS FLYERS ON A PERMANENT BASIS ON CITY SIDEWALK (LOCATION NOT YET DETERMINED)

Mr. Howard Faulk, member of Logwall Baptist Church, came before council to request permission for members of local Churches to hand out religious flyers at intersections on City right-of-way. Mr. Faulk passed out samples of the flyers to council. Mr. Faulk stated the group would like to hand out flyers once a month, on Saturday to begin with and to increase to every Saturday. Mr. Faulk stated they will stand on City right-of-way in front of Wal-mart and Ingles and give flyers to vehicles when they stop at the intersection. Mrs. Walker requested that Mr. Faulk talk with the managers at Wal-mart and Ingles before they begin. There was a discussion concerning the application the City currently has for parades/gatherings/demonstrations and how it can be tailored to fit this situation. It was also discussed that the City must have specific dates and times the group will be handing out flyers. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve Mr. Faulks' request for three months and then review it again. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF EASEMENT FROM THE MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE WATERLINE EXTENSION TO FEED THE DOC CAMPUS

Mr. Melton presented the easement received from the Monroe County Board of Education approved at their meeting held on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 and requested acceptance of the easement by council. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to accept the easement received from Monroe County Board of Education for the waterline extension to the Department of Corrections campus. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE FROM CENTRAL GA EMC TO THE CITY OF FORSYTH FOR 1177 MONTPELIER ROAD AND FOR THE WISTERIA SUBDEIVISION ON MONTPELIER ROAD AND APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE FROM THE CITY OF FORSYTH TO CENTRAL GA EMC FOR THE ADAMSVILLE PARK SUDIVISION ON MONTPELIER ROAD

Mrs. Hall stated that this transfer is necessary to prevent both the City and Central Georgia EMC servicing the same subdivision. The City's territory will cover 1177 Montpelier Road and the Wisteria Subdivision and Central Georgia EMC's territory will cover the Adamsville Park Subdivision. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the transfer of the three service areas. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE BEER & WINE PACKAGE LICENSE FOR 430 TIFT COLLEGE DRIVE – CVS NEW LOCATION

Mr. Melton reviewed the application submitted for the new location of CVS at 430 Tift College Drive. Mr. Melton stated that CVS has held a beer & wine package license for a number of years and this application is for their new building. Mr. Melton stated the application shows the license will be for Revco dba CVS. Mrs. Hall stated that the store manager did not submit fingerprints until last week, so it may be several weeks before the store can sell beer & wine at the new location. Mr. Melton stated the matter is before council tonight for approval to advertise. Mrs. Walker offered a motion to advertise the beer & wine application for Revco dba CVS. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF GRINDING BIDS FOR TREES/STUMPS BEHIND CEMETERY

Mr. Lawrence reviewed the street department committee meeting and offered a motion on behalf of the committee to approve the bid from Placko in the amount of \$18,900. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Randall stated

that the company approved is not the correct company. Mrs. Hall apologized for the error and passed Mr. Lawrence the correct bid from Conkle Company. Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to rescind the previous motion. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion to rescind passed unanimously. Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the bid from Conkle Company not to exceed \$25,000. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MONROE COUNTY

Mr. Melton stated that everyone should have a copy of his opinion concerning the language in the agreement. There was discussion concerning the differences in the City and County ordinance for animal control. Mr. Russell requested that Mr. Melton discuss the matter with Mr. Dillon, County Attorney, to see what can be worked out concerning the language in the ordinances.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

Mr. Chan Layson, Middle Georgia RDC, came before council and reviewed the resubmittal and changes made to the original application for the CDBG for the James Street and College Street areas. The main changes made to the original application that was denied, was to eliminate the storm water drainage issue and to make the streets one-way. Mr. Layson stated that this is a draw-down grant and the City match would not have to be available until 2010. Mr. Russell offered a motion to approve the application for the CDBG for James and College Streets. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF EARLY RETIREMENT ENROLLMENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES WITH CERTAIN CRITERIA

Mrs. Hall stated that the first enrollment for early retirement began January 1, 2008 for 45 days. The employees eligible for the early retirement did not have sufficient time to review their offer and make an educated decision. Mrs. Hall stated that the administrative committee has agreed to open another enrollment period. Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) cannot have the necessary paperwork prepared and submitted to the City until the second meeting in March. Mrs. Hall stated she will present the paperwork at the March 18th meeting and the enrollment period will begin March 19th provided council approves the paperwork. Mrs. Hall stated that the

paperwork GMA is working on will also include the correction to the elected official's retirement amount.

UPDATE ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CENTRAL OF GEORGIA RAILROAD ON BORING PERMIT

Mr. Melton stated that he has had several conversations with the representative of the Railroad. Mr. Melton stated the Railroad is agreeable to the changes he has proposed to the language in the agreement. Mr. Melton stated negotiations continue on the monetary amount for the permit. Mr. Melton will continue to negotiate with the Railroad.

BETTER HOMETOWN/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE report

Mrs. Joan Heath, Better Hometown Director, reported the following for BHT:

- Working on Georgia Cities Week events. One of the events will be a mock council meeting conducted by the Youth Leadership Group. Mrs. Heath stated the students will shadow the officials at a council meeting and then conduct their own council meeting during Georgia Cities Week.
- Meeting with property owners of parking lot was held. A development concept is being worked on by UGA.
- Reviewed the Georgia Economic Development Academy she is attending.
- Received sponsorships from two more companies for the summer series.
- Received a \$250 grant from Sam's Club.
- The Downtown Business Association will meet on March 19th to approve a mission statement and elect a chairman for the group.

Mrs. Heath reported the following for the Chamber:

- February 21st will be Business After Hours at Remax in Bolingbroke.
- Georgia Convention and Visitors Bureau are in Forsyth this week. There are 90 participants and they are visiting local establishments.
- March 8th & 9th will be the arts & crafts festival for the Forsythia Festival. The vendors will start setting up on Friday, March 7th, so the streets will be closed at 5:30 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

MR. DODD

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the cemetery department committee totals of \$42.22. Mrs. Walker seconded the motion.

Mr. Dodd stated that the City needs to open a dialogue with the County concerning a joint City/County building. Mr. Dodd stated the government offices occupy spaces on the square that need to be used as retail space. Mr. Dodd stated that the County included a building in their SPLOST and they are beginning discussions with an architect for a building. Mr. Dodd stated the County has four locations they are reviewing and all four are inside the city limits. Mrs. Walker stated the City would need to look at funding for the building also. Mr. Calloway stated that he would like to begin meeting with the County at least quarterly so that issues like this can be discussed. Mrs. Hall will contact Ms. Crowley, County Clerk, to set up the quarterly meetings.

MRS. WALKER

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the better hometown department committee totals of \$80.91. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion.

Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$2,378.05. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway stated that he has been approached by a property owner about getting permission to fish the City Reservoir. Mrs. Hall stated she has an application that the property owner must complete. Mrs. Hall stated that for the application to be approved the property owner must have at least 10 acres with at least 500 feet of frontage on the reservoir.

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the water department committee totals of \$27,649.57. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the electric department committee totals of \$101,843. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the cable department committee totals of \$4,606.81. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway requested that Utilities Partners begin submitting a water consumption report each month.

MR. HANSFORD

Mr. Hansford stated the Zoning & Ordinance Committee continues to review several issues that have been brought before the committee.

MR. RUSSELL

Mr. Russell offered a motion to approve the fire department committee totals of \$749.76 and the police department committee totals of \$12,049.04. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. LAWRENCE

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the street department committee totals of \$3,408.14 and the garage department committee totals of \$262.45. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence called on Mr. Randall for a report from the Public Works. Mr. Randall stated the sidewalk crew began working this week. The crew began on Indian Springs Drive and will work their way around the City repairing the sidewalks.

Mr. Randall stated the recycling crew will begin tomorrow leaving flyers in the recycle bins. They will do this for two weeks and then they will begin leaving items in the recycle bin that cannot be recycled.

Mr. Randall stated the street department crews will begin removing illegal advertising signs from the City right-of-way.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Howard called on anyone with additional new business. Mrs. Georgiane Bearden came before council and stated that the city park on Country Club Drive has been unusually dirty lately. She said the playground equipment is in need of repair and the sand needs to be replaced. Mr. Dodd stated he would look into the issue.

MRS. HALL

Mrs. Hall stated that the 2007 franchise tax has been received from Georgia Power in the amount of \$19,752.82 which is \$2,235.38 more than the 2006 franchise tax amount.

Mrs. Hall stated that the fire department has been awarded the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The grant is \$15,000 which includes a 5% match by the City. Mrs. Hall stated the money for this grant was budgeted in Repair & Maintenance Equipment line item. Mrs. Hall requested permission to move \$750 from R&M Equipment to Equipment Purchase line item. Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve the budget move. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. MELTON

Mr. Melton stated that the signs Mr. Randall stated the street department crews will be removing are illegal unless a permit has been issued by the City Clerk.

Mr. Will Davis, editor of the Reporter, asked if any action had been taken on the letter received from Representative Jim Cole concerning the Homestead Tax Exemption reduction. Mayor Howard stated that the matter was tabled and the City needs more information before the matter can be approved.

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Walker offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Calloway the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk