

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 2, 2008

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

In accordance with the City Charter of the City of Forsyth City Clerk, Janice Hall called the organizational meeting to order. Mr. Russell gave the invocation.

OATHS OF OFFICE – NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mrs. Hall and Mr. Melton moved to the floor to administer the oaths of office to the newly elected officials. The outgoing elected officials left their seats at the council table.

Mr. Melton administered the oath of office for mayor to Mr. Tye Howard. Mr. Howard affirmed the oath and took his seat at the council table. Mr. Jimmy Pace passed the gavel to Mr. Howard. Mrs. Hall presented Mr. Howard with his desk name plate.

Mr. Melton administered the oath of office for alderman to Mr. Melvin Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence affirmed the oath and took his seat at the council table. Mrs. Hall presented Mr. Lawrence with his desk name plate.

Mr. Melton administered the oath of office for alderman to Mr. James Calloway. Mr. Calloway affirmed the oath and took his seat at the council table. Mrs. Hall presented Mr. Calloway with his desk name plate.

Mr. Melton administered the oath of office for alderman to Mr. Desi Hansford. Mr. Hansford affirmed the oath and took his seat at the council table. Mrs. Hall presented Mr. Hansford with his desk name plate.

Mrs. Hall and Mr. Melton returned to their seats at the council table. Mrs. Hall turned the meeting over to Mayor Howard.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting was Mayor 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.

Page 2 – January 2, 2008

MAYOR PRO-TEM

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to appoint Mrs. Walker as Mayor Pro-Tem. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion carried with five votes for (Dodd, Calloway, Hansford, Russell, and Lawrence) and one abstention (Walker).

ADOPTION OF PARLIMENTARY PROCEDURES

Mayor Howard stated that the parliamentary procedures usually followed has been Roberts Rules of Order. Mr. Russell offered a motion to adopt Roberts Rules of Order for parliamentary procedures. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

2008 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor Howard passed out copies of the 2008 committee assignments and reviewed them with council. A copy of the committee assignments is attached to the official minutes.

2008 APPOINTMENT AND OATHS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND PROFESSIONALS

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to postpone the reappointments of the department heads and professionals for 90 days to allow the new council member's time to get to know them. Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion. Mr. Hansford asked what council would be looking for during this 90-day period. Mrs. Walker stated that 90 days is not enough time to get to know each of the department heads and that the reappointments should be approved tonight. Mr. Russell stated that the City has a good group of department heads and the reappointments need to be approved tonight. After a lengthy discussion concerning the reappointments, Mayor Howard called for a vote. The motion

failed with two votes for (Calloway and Lawrence) and four votes against (Dodd, Walker, Hansford, and Russell).

Mr. Russell offered a motion to reappoint the department head and professionals. Mrs. Walker seconded the motion. Mr. Hansford asked if this was a motion to reappoint everyone as a blanket reappointment and not individually. Mr. Russell stated his motion is to reappoint everyone. Mayor Howard called for a vote. The motion tied with three votes for (Dodd, Walker, and Russell) and three votes against (Calloway, Hansford, and Lawrence). Mayor Howard stated that he would rather take each one individually, but since the motion is for all

Page 3 – January 2, 2008

names on the list, he would have to vote to reappoint everyone for one year. Mayor Howard stated that it would not be fair to leave everyone hanging for an additional 90 days. Mayor Howard voted in the affirmative to give the department heads and professionals a one-year contract. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2007 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Dodd made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2007 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS – UPDATE ON PROJECT

Mr. Larry Latimer, Georgia Department of Corrections, came before council to give a progress report on the work at the old Tift College Campus. Mr. Latimer presented council with a sample resolution and agreement for their review to finalize the closing of a portion of College Street and the State's request that the City donate the land occupied by that portion of College Street where it crosses the Tift property. Mr. Latimer stated that the City would not be responsible for any costs associated with the closing of the street or the moving of any facilities necessitated by the release of the land to the State. Mr.

Melton will review the resolution and agreement before it is voted on by council at their next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPROVAL OF BEER & WINE PACKAGE LICENSE FOR SUMITRA R. PATEL FOR 291 NORTH LEE STREET

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the beer & wine package license for Sumitra R. Patel for 291 North Lee Street. Mr. Melton reviewed the application. Mr. Melton stated this matter came before council on December 4, 2007 and has been properly advertised in the December 19th and 26th issues of the Reporter. Mrs. Hall stated a favorable fingerprint report has been received. Hearing no further comments for or against the approval of the beer & wine package license, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the beer & wine package license for Sumitra R. Patel for 291 North Lee Street. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

Page 4 – January 2, 2008

ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL EASEMENTS FOR THE UNION HILL SEWER LINE PROJECT

Mr. Melton stated that all easements required for the Union Hill sewer project have been received. Mr. Melton stated that those easements not previously approved by council for the Davis, Trevitt, Anderson, Jackson, and Criswell properties needs to be approved. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the remaining easements for the Union Hill sewer line project. Seconded by Mrs. Walker, the motion carried unanimously.

STATUS OF THE OMI JUDGMENT

Mr. Melton stated that he delivered the judgment payment to the City of December 26th. Mr. Melton stated the judgment payment was \$173,208.96, which was the initial judgment award plus interest.

UPDATE ON BASS, ETAL LAWSUITS

Mr. Melton stated that Judge Lawson ruled on December 21, 2007 to dismiss the first Bass, et al lawsuit in Federal Court and their recent request for an injunction to prevent any construction on the Wal-mart building and granted judgment to the City and the individual defendants.

UPDATE ON RECENT LAND ACQUISITIONS

Mr. Melton stated the closing was held on the headend property on December 28th. Mr. Melton stated the property was purchased from Mrs. Carolyn Watson for \$150,000.

Mr. Melton stated the closing was held on the building that sits on the impound lot behind the Public Safety Complex on December 28th. Mr. Melton stated the building was purchased for \$3,500 and the City previously purchased the property the building is located on.

APPROVAL OF BID FOR NEWWTP BELT PRESS BUILDING

Mr. Hal Newberry, of Hodges, Harbin, Newberry, and Tribble, City Engineers, presented the bid totals from the bid opening held today for the building to house the belt press and the Northeast Waste Water Treatment Plant (NEWWTP). Mr. Newberry recommended that the bid be awarded to the low bidder, Tommy Griffin Plumbing & Heating, with a low bid of \$389,415.

Page 5 – January 2, 2008

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to award the bid to Tommy Griffin Plumbing & Heating with a low bid of \$389,415. Seconded by Mr. Russell, the motion carried unanimously.

BETTER HOMETOWN/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

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

- Meetings continue with potential sponsors for the 2008 events.
- January 7, 2008 will be the BHT Assessment for 2007. This is an annual assessment.

- Mrs. Heath will be moving her files to the new building the remainder of this week and the BHT and Chamber will be open for business in the new building on January 7th.
- Interviews have been completed for the assistant position and the candidates have been narrowed down to two. Additional interviews will be held with those two candidates.
- Mrs. Heath will be attending workshops on January 17th and 18th.
- Reviewed the Economic Development Workshop held by the DCA.
- Pre-legislative forum will be held tomorrow morning at City Hall beginning at 7:30 AM.
- Open House for the new MEAG building will be January 30th from 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM.

ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS/ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Hall stated that due to new council and council committees, all invoices will be approved as a whole. Mrs. Hall stated the grand total of invoices to be approved tonight is \$181,691.29. Mrs. Walker offered a motion to approve all invoices for all committees. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hall read a letter of resignation from Mrs. Charlene deVries from the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Design & Review Board effective immediately as she has moved out of the city limits.

Mr. Calloway, Mr. Lawrence, and Mayor Howard thanked everyone for their vote and support in the November election.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Submitted by:
Janice L. Hall, City Clerk