

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL CALLED MEETING

DECEMBER 15, 2015

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 6:02PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Howard gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting were Mayor Howard, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, Jimmy Jones, Chris Hewett and Melvin Lawrence. Also present were City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Manager, Janice Hall; City Clerk, Kristal Dunn.

Councilmember Greg Goolsby offered a motion to amend the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Dodd the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Hewett and Lawrence). Mr. Goolsby stated he would like to thank the Mayor and Councilmember Jimmy Jones for their dedicated service to the City of Forsyth. Mr. Goolsby presented to Mr. Jones a gift from the City for his dedicated service. Mr. Goolsby presented to Mayor Howard a shadow box from the City for his dedicated service.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$283,360.63

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000

a. TURBITROL – REPAIR TO SYSTEM DAMAGED BY LIGHTNING - \$7,940.40

Mayor Howard read the Consent Agenda. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Hewett and Lawrence).

AGENDA ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

REVIEW CVB 2016 BUDGET

Ken Bowman from the KOA Campground came forward and stated that the CVB had approved the budget at the 9:00AM meeting today. Mr. Bowman stated that the CVB was already doing great things. Mr. Bowman stated that billboards have been put up on the Southside and that soon there would be some on the Northside of Interstate 75. Mr. Bowman stated that the terms of office had been set and that there were two that would be expiring; Helen Walker and Angie Ellis. Mr. Bowman stated that they would both like to serve again. Mayor Howard stated that he was glad to see the CVB come to life and he expected great things. Mr. Stroud stated that the billboards were a nice addition. Mr. Bowman stated that they wanted to keep everything positive. Mr. Goolsby stated he wanted to thank Mr. Bowman for his effort and that he was excited about

where we are heading. Mr. Bowman stated that the CVB had approved the company to do the website for the CVB.

APPROVAL OF RENEWAL MOU WITH MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Mrs. Hall stated that there were no changes for the upcoming year. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the renewal MOU with the Main Street Program. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Hewett and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF 2016 HEALTH INSURANCE CARRIER

Mrs. Hall recommended to stay with Blue Cross Blue Shield of GA for the upcoming year. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to stay with BCBS of GA for the upcoming year. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Mr. Goolsby stated he would like to keep this high on the priority list; that we need to do something for employees and their families. Mr. Stroud asked if we had a wellness program with incentives. Mrs. Hall stated that we only had the physical exam that was paid at 100%. Mr. Stroud asked about mental health, he stated that he didn't think the employee had to pay the copy out of their own pocket for doing their job. Mr. Jones stated that something like that usually fell under Workers Comp. Mrs. Hall stated that she would make sure. Mr. Hewett asked if we knew how many incidents we had last year. Mrs. Hall stated not at this time. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Hewett and Lawrence.)

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET

Mr. Melton stated that the Public Hearing was advertised for tonight. Mayor Howard opened the Public Hearing. Mrs. Hall reviewed the proposed budget for 2016 by department. Mrs. Hall stated that the proposed budget included a 3% raise for all employees and an additional 2% for all department heads. Mrs. Hall stated that she would be forgoing her 3% to make this happen. Mr. Hewett asked if we still have the contract with the State (Department of Corrections) for prison crews. Mrs. Hall stated yes, we are getting two (2) crews for the price of one (1). Mr. Stroud stated that he did not like that the City Manager was not getting a raise. Mr. Goolsby stated that Mrs. Hall should take the raise. Mrs. Hall stated that all the Department Heads had taken on additional duties and that they had turned in a balanced Budget. Mr. Jones stated that they had turned in the balanced Budget with the City Manager. Hearing no comments from the Public, Mayor Howard closed the Public Hearing. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion that we accept the adoption of the 2016 Budget with the exception that the City Manager gets the raise along with the other employees. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL TO CLOSE A PORTION OF SOUTH JACKSON STREET FROM WEST CHAMBERS TO BRENTWOOD PLACE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016 FOR A

SUPER HERO STROLLER RACE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FORSYTHIA FESTIVAL – REQUEST MADE BY THE PREGNANCY CENTER OF MONROE COUNTY

Mrs. Hall stated that this was the same race as last year and that they wanted to come back for next year. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to close a portion of South Jackson Street from West Chambers to Brentwood Place for the Super Hero Stroller Race on Saturday, March 12, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY AND SOUTHERN RIVERS FOR JOINT POLE USE

Mrs. Hall stated that this had been reviewed by Mr. Melton, MEAG, Electric Cities and Johnny Hodges. Mrs. Hall stated that this will provide redundancy for Southern Rivers to. After much discussion Mr. Dodd asked if Mr. Hodges had thoroughly researched and Mrs. Hall stated yes that he had. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Southern Rivers for joint point use. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD WITH DECLARING BEVERLY STREET AS ABANDONED

Mrs. Hall stated that it had been researched and no one can find where it was formally abandoned. Mrs. Hall stated that the property owners would need to be notified and see if they were interested in buying the street. Mr. Melton stated that the street is no longer being used by the public. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to move forward with approving and declaring Beverly Street as Abandoned. Seconded by Mr. Stroud. Mr. Stroud asked what the next steps would be. Mr. Melton stated that the property owners have the right to buy the street from the City, so they would be contacted first. Mr. Lawrence asked if this would be expensive to the land owners. Mr. Melton stated no it would not be. Mr. Dodd asked that if both want it, would it just be split down the middle and what would happen if one is willing to pay more. Mr. Goolsby asked if the utilities had been pulled yet. Mr. Melton stated that he was not sure, that we would need to check. Mr. Goolsby asked if it was the Cities responsibility to remove the street. Mr. Melton stated that it was not. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL TO USE EXCESS USDA FUNDS TO PURCHASE RECORDING EQUIPMENT FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Hall stated that there were excess funds from the USDA loan. Mrs. Hall stated that it was assumed we had spent all of it, but we have not. Mrs. Hall stated we would like to buy new

radios and recording equipment for phone calls and radio traffic. Mrs. Hall stated that the system went down and when repairs were made the systems does not record radio traffic any longer. Mrs. Hall stated that when we do go to the new radio system, this equipment will not have to be changed. Mrs. Hall stated that we will use either SPOLST or General Funds for any amount that is over what we have. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the use of excess USDA funds to purchase recording equipment for the Police Department. Seconded by Mr. Hewett. Mr. Jones asked if this was just recording equipment. Mrs. Hall stated yes, this was did not include a new phone system. Mr. Stroud asked if training would be provided. Mrs. Hall stated that if training was necessary, Williams would do it. Mrs. Hall stated that she relied on Chief Herndon to help make the purchase. Mr. Jones asked about the warranty and service agreement. Mr. Jones amended the previous motion to be contingent on whether there is a warranty and the service period after day one. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL FOR ADDITIONAL PAVING BY LMIG CONTRACTOR IN CITY PARK

Mrs. Hall stated that GA Asphalt had won the bid for the LMIG paving and they would like to pave at the City Park to fix the huge holes. Mrs. Hall stated that this was not part of LMIG and there it was not in the budget. Mr. Jones stated that that that area may not exist in the future and we should just wait. Mr. Jones offered a motion to deny the additional paving by GA Asphalt in the City Park. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF CATERER'S EVENT PERMIT FOR THE ANVIL ROOM TO CATER THE MAYOR'S BALL ON DECEMBER 20, 2015 AT GALLERY 51 ON ADAMS STREET

Mayor Howard stated that he would love for Council to come to the Mayor's Ball, that it was only to raise money for Main Street. Mayor Howard stated that it was a way to put money in to the Main Street program. Mayor Howard stated that he had talked to the Mayor-Elect and that he has agreed to get behind it for next year. Mayor Howard stated that maybe it could even be moved to New Year's Eve for next year. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the caterer's even permit for the Anvil Room for the Mayor's Ball on December 20th. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Hewett and Lawrence.)

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Mrs. Hall stated that the Old Brent Rd. Landfill was being worked on, so that the EPD guidelines would be met.

- Boards will need to be reappointed at the 1st meeting. Mr. Stroud stated that he would like to see more youth with experience on the Planning & Zoning and Design and Review Boards.
- Eddie Harris has been appointed as Interim Police Chief until at least January 31st. Have some ideas of different paths to present to council which would require change to organization. Eddie is doing an awesome job as interim and Officers seem to be pleased with the appointment.
- Met with Police Department Officer and Majors after Chief Corley resigned. Their main concern in all meetings was the recording system for phone and radio tariff and that the portable radios were not being able to pick up in some areas. Chief Herndon is working with Williams Communications (Vendor for New Radio System), and we have ordered seven (7) new portable radios to be paid from SPLOST at a cost of \$4,818. Also working with vendor to check repeater antennae on water tank and to do some spot checks to see what other problems may be with the radio system.
- The Council retreat has been scheduled for January 15th, at the Industrial Children's Home.
- A variance application will be coming before the council for Wanda Lucear on January 5, 2016; requesting to replace her mobile home that was destroyed by fire with another mobile home in R-3 District.
- A variance application will be coming before the council for Shrad Amrit and Bran Hospitality on January 5, 2016 for number of required parking spaces.
- The Electric Cities year end settlement is \$9,398.54 and we will request a check for reimbursement rather than applying to Education and Training Fund.
- Contract for Probation Services will go to Mr. Melton for review and then to Council for approval on January 5, 2016 with professional appointments that will be made.
- Fire Chief has a couple of Departmental Policy changes that he would like to make at the first of the New Year.
- Estimated cost to repair the sinkhole at the Medical Plaza is \$127,000. It will require a 30 day advertisement after specs are written. We need to move forward but this is not a budgeted project. Mr. Jones asked what happened. Mrs. Hall stated that it was a failure of the storm drain system. Mr. Dodd asked where the water is going. Mrs. Hall stated that this is one of the areas being looked into.
- Mr. Lawrence asked if we would be hiring within for the Police Chief position. Mayor Howard asked that everyone trust in the City Manager.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Howard stated that this was his last meeting and it has been an interesting, great ride and that we have gotten a lot done. Mayor Howard stated that we made a lot of decisions that were not popular and if you are here to do what is right by the City your decisions are not going to be popular. Mayor Howard stated that we have got a changed government, we were able to buy a ladder truck, four (4) police cars, give Christmas bonuses and not think about where the money was coming from. Mayor Howard stated that nothing happens overnight and that the City will thrive. Mayor Howard said that if he had to do it again, he would do it exactly the same way. Mayor Howard thanked the Council for what we have been able to do. Mr. Lawrence told the Mayor that it takes a real man to say what he has. Mayor Howard stated that he meant it from the bottom of his heart.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Jones stated that he wanted Mr. Stroud to push and keep the Park front and center and that if he needs any help, feel free to call him. Mr. Jones stated that his 1st six (6) months he didn't know what he had gotten into, but feels that they have gotten a tremendous amount accomplished. Mr. Jones stated that the new Council will succeed if you work as a group and keep moving forward. Mayor Howard stated that he wanted to continue to see things moving forward and it was all good.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mr. Stroud asked if anyone had seen the email about txt to stop it. It is linked to Public Safety. Need to look at a text service for 911.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor-Elect Eric Wilson came forward and stated he appreciated the Mayors and Mr. Jones service to the City, and hoped that they kept their promise and stayed involved.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Jones offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Hewett and Lawrence). The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Submitted by:

Kristal S. Dunn
City Clerk