

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 5, 2010

CALL TO ORDER BY CITY CLERK AND INVOCATION

In accordance with Section 2.301 of the City Charter, City Clerk, Janice Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Mrs. Hall called on Reverend Darryl Watson of the First Baptist Church, for the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present for this portion of the meeting was Mayor Tye Howard, 2009 City Councilmembers, Mike Dodd, Rosemary Walker, Desi Hansford, Lamar Russell, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was City Administrator, Greg Popham, and City Attorney, Bobby Melton.

Councilmember, James Calloway is still on active military duty and therefore, unable to attend the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF ROSEMARY WALKER

Mrs. Hall called on Mayor Howard for the recognition of outgoing councilmember, Rosemary Walker. Mayor Howard read a resolution written in honor of Mrs. Walker.

Mrs. Walker thanked everyone for the resolution and stated that she had enjoyed her 12 years on city council. Mrs. Walker stated that she will continue to work for the citizens of Forsyth.

RECOGNITION OF LAMAR RUSSELL

Mrs. Hall called on Mayor Howard for the recognition of outgoing councilmember, Lamar Russell. Mayor Howard read a resolution written in honor of Mr. Russell.

Mr. Russell thanked everyone for the resolution and stated that he has enjoyed his 34 years on city council.

OATHS OF OFFICE FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mrs. Hall administered the oath of office to Mrs. Jo Anna Banks. Mrs. Banks took her seat at the council table.

Mrs. Hall administered the oath of office to Mr. Eric Wilson. Mr. Wilson took his seat at the council table.

MEETING TURNED OVER TO MAYOR HOWARD TO PRESIDE

Mrs. Hall turned the meeting over to Mayor Howard.

ROLL CALL OF 2010 CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Howard called the roll for the 2010 council. Councilmember James Calloway is still on active military duty; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes for (Dodd, Banks, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence).

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to elect Mr. Hansford as Mayor Pro-Tem. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to adopt the revised Robert's Rules of Order as the parliamentary procedures for all meetings. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

2010 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor Howard read the 2010 committee assignments. Mayor Howard stated that the number of committees has been increased to seven committees to include a broader committee of Public Affairs and to have a separate committee for Telecommunications.

2010 APPOINTMENT OF CHARTER – CODE DESIGNATED CITY OFFICIALS

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to ratify the contract with Mr. Popham as City Administrator for one (1) year. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to reappoint Municipal Court Judges, William Clifton, Bryan Tillers, and Jeff Davis. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to reappoint Municipal Court officers Kristi Rowell as City Solicitor; Elmo Remick as Public Defender; and Georgia Corrections as the probation office. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to adjourn into executive session for personnel matters. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 7:20 PM.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 7:50 PM.

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to accept the resignation and acceptance of early retirement for Mr. Arthur Phillips, Mr. Walter Carter, and Mrs. Gloria Buckner. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to appoint Mr. Arthur Phillips as Police Chief for a period not to exceed 90 days and not to exceed 29 hours per week during this 90 day period. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Hansford stated that a nationwide search will be conducted to replace Chief Phillips.

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to appoint Mr. Walter Carter as Fire Chief for a period not to exceed six (6) months and not to exceed 29 hours per week during this six month period. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Hansford stated that the search for a new Fire Chief will begin after the new Police Chief is hired.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2009 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2009 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 29, 2009 WORK SESSION OF THE 2010 CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2009 work session of the 2010 City Council as written. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED 2010 BUDGET UPDATE

Mayor Howard stated that the 2010 budget is still being worked on. Mayor Howard stated that an emergency ordinance is needed so that the work of the City can continue while the 2010 budget is finalized. Mr. Hansford offered a motion to adopt a continuing resolution for the 2010 budget. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON ANNEXATION REQUESTS FOR PROPERTIES ON HIGHWAY 83 SOUTH

Mr. Popham stated that after the Planning & Zoning Commission met regarding the annexation requests, the leading applicant withdrew the request for annexation.

DDA MEMBER UPDATE

Mr. Popham stated that Dr. Trellis Baker has asked not to be reappointed to an additional term on the DDA board. Mr. Popham stated that the DDA Board has a recommendation for the vacancy. Mr. Popham stated that he would like names from all council members of possible candidates. Mr. Dodd stated that the names brought forward by the DDA are qualified to serve on the board. Mr. Dodd stated that he agrees that the procedure of the city council submitting names should be followed. Mr. Hansford asked if the appointment could be made at the next council meeting. Mr. Popham stated that time is needed to meet with all possible candidates and it could take several weeks depending upon the number of candidates submitted.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Popham welcomed the new councilmembers and stated that he looks forward to working with everyone.

Mrs. Banks asked for an update on the CDBG James Street Project and the Streetscape Project.

Mr. Popham stated that the contractor began mobilizing on the James Street Project in mid-December after receiving their Notice To Proceed. Mr. Popham stated that he is working with DCA to use the overage on the project in the area but not necessarily on James Street, but for sidewalks to join Frontage Road, James Street, and Railroad Avenue.

Mr. Popham stated that we are waiting on the signed documents to be returned from DOT so that the project can be let for bid. Mr. Popham stated that he is tracking down the documents to see what has already been done and what is left to be done on Phase III of the Streetscape Project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MR. DODD

Mr. Dodd reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the electric department committee totals of \$6,210.16; the water department committee totals of \$847.83; the cable department committee totals of \$6,278.34; the cemetery department committee totals of \$66.78; and the recreation department committee totals of \$95.77. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd welcomed the new members to council.

MR. HANSFORD

Mr. Hansford reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$6,293.24; the BHT department committee totals of \$2,158.50; and the court department committee totals of \$380.92. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the police department committee totals of \$1,995.72 and the fire department committee totals of \$3,075.05. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford welcomed the new city council members.

MR. LAWRENCE

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the public works department committee totals of \$1,921.59. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he has been reappointed to the GMA Training Board as the representative from District 6.

MR. MELTON

Mr. Melton asked if dates have been set for the public hearings for the proposed 2010 budget. Mayor Howard asked Mr. Melton to set the dates to comply with the laws regarding setting the budget. Mr. Melton stated that he will work with the City Administrator and City Clerk to set the dates for the public hearing.

MAYOR HOWARD

Mayor Howard thanked Mr. Russell and Mrs. Walker for their service to the City and stated that he looks forward to working with the new council.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk