

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2010

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mr. Dodd gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

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

Councilmember James Calloway was still on active military duty and unable to attend the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes (Dodd, Banks, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2010 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE BEER & WINE PACKAGE LICENSE FOR NEW WAL-MART LOCATION – 180 N. LEE STREET

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to advertise the beer & wine package license for the new Wal-Mart location at 180 N. Lee Street. The current Wal-Mart at 120 N. Lee Street, has a current beer & wine package license. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion to advertise carried unanimously.

PAT CORLEY – SAVE-A-PET – PERMISSION TO HOLD NOODLES FOR POODLES EVENT

Mrs. Pat Corley, Save-A-Pet, came before council to request permission to hold the annual Noodles for Poodles fund raising event on Johnston Street. Mrs. Corley requested permission to close Johnston Street between Lee Street and Jackson Street beginning at 5:30 pm on April 22, 2010. Mrs. Corley stated that she would also like to use the small platform again this year. Mrs. Corley stated that she has received permission from the County Commissioners to stage the tables on the courthouse lawn until the event begins. Mrs. Corley stated the reason for moving from Jackson Street to Johnston Street is for closer proximity to their sponsor Grits Café. Mrs. Corley stated that a small banner will hang temporarily from the awning in front of

Grits. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to allow Save-A-Pet to hold the event and to close Johnston Street from Lee Street to Jackson Street on April 22, 2010 beginning at 5:30 pm so long as the other businesses on that portion of the street agree to the time. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

SET QUALIFYING FEES

Mrs. Hall stated that council is required to set qualifying fees each year. Mrs. Hall stated that qualifying fees should be set at 3% of the salary for the office. Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to set the qualifying fees at 3% of the salary for the office. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT ELECTION SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Hall stated that the election superintendent for 2009 was Mrs. Karen Pitman. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to appoint Mrs. Karen Pitman as the election superintendent for 2010. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED 2010 BUDGET

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for the proposed 2010 budget. Mayor Howard stated that work continues on the proposed budget and that a meeting to review the proposed budget was held at 4:30 today. Mr. Lawrence stated that the meeting went well and that more discussion needs to be held regarding the cable system. Mayor Howard stated that tonight is the first of two required public hearings on the proposed budget and the next public hearing will be held during the February 2, 2010 council meeting. Mr. Melton asked Mrs. Hall if anyone had requested a copy of the proposed budget and Mrs. Hall stated that she had had no requests. Mayor Howard closed the public hearing.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Popham offered the following report:

- A letter has been sent to Mr. Howell Newton regarding the request from the First Baptist Church to close a portion of Church Street.
- The Memorandum of Understanding has been sent to the Department of Transportation on the TEA Grant for the Lee Street improvements.
- The review of the debt service for the cable bond continues.

- An analysis of the pole attachments between the City and AT&T needs to be done to establish an accurate count of pole attachments. The analysis will cost \$3,000 with ½ being borne by each agency.
- The auditor completed the random inventory count today.
- A list of accomplishments for 2009 has been written at the request of Mr. Lawrence and a copy will be made available to everyone.

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 \$10,228.11 and the water department committee totals of \$25,003.40. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

MRS. BANKS

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the BHT department committee totals of \$720.54. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Banks stated that two resignations have been received from the DDA. Mrs. Banks stated that there are guidelines for filling the vacancies. Mrs. Banks requested that the council members submit any candidates name for these positions to Mr. Popham before this Thursday. Then Mrs. Banks, Mr. Popham, and Mrs. Pippin will meet with all the candidates and make a recommendation to council at the February 16, 2010 meeting.

MR. HANSFORD

Mr. Hansford reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$2,571.03 and the court department committee totals of \$225. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the cable department committee totals of \$3,882.82. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, 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 \$2,260.05 and the fire department committee totals of \$1,781.24. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford stated that the search for a police chief has begun.

Mr. Hansford read an invitation to the Open House for Mrs. Rosemary Walkers' Black History Exhibit to be held at the Hollis House on January 31, 2010 at 4:00 pm. Mr. Hansford stated that the exhibit will be open for the month of February.

MR. WILSON

Mr. Wilson reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the cemetery department totals of \$44.52 and the recreation department committee totals of \$1,654.86. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson offered a motion from the cemetery committee to allow Mr. Popham to obtain bids from the local surveyors for surveys on the City cemeteries. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson stated that the parks & recreation committee has instructed Mr. Popham to present conceptual drawings for a pool/water park at the next committee meeting.

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 \$13,490.21. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence stated that the public works committee will meet on January 27th at noon.

Mr. Lawrence thanked Mr. Popham for the list of accomplishments for 2009 and stated that he would like to see the list continually updated.

Mr. Lawrence stated he was proud that the City did not have to lay off any employees in 2009 even with the bad economy.

MR. MELTON

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

MAYOR HOWARD

Mayor Howard called for any new business to be presented.

Mr. Larry Jamison, City employee out on workers compensation, addressed the council regarding his workers compensation benefits. Mr. Jamison stated that the City's former workers compensation carrier, (SEUS Common Sense Claims), folded and that his benefits and medical bills are not being paid. Mr. Jamison stated that he had not been paid in two weeks. Mayor Howard stated that a new carrier is in place but the process of getting Mr. Jamison's case

transferred to the new carrier will take time. Mr. Jamison stated that he almost lost his life for the City and does not understand why he is not getting paid. Mr. Jamison stated that his attorney has assured him that if this is not handled he will pursue a hearing. Mayor Howard thanked Mr. Jamison and stated that if he has an attorney engaged that the attorneys would be able to address any problems in the future.

Mr. Jim Peters, Monroe County Commissioner, came before council to announce that the County Commissioners chose an architect firm for the new administrative building tonight at the commission meeting.

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

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk