

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 2, 2010

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

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

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2010 council meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

JENNY LYNN BRUNER – GEORGIA FORESTRY – REVIEW OF TREE CITY REQUIREMENTS

Mrs. Jenny Lynn Bruner, Georgia Forestry, passed out information to the City Council regarding the Tree City requirements. Mrs. Bruner reviewed the benefits of becoming a Tree City and stated that the City has met several of the requirements for being a Tree City. Mrs. Bruner stated that council would need to appoint a Tree Board and that the existing Tree Ordinance should be reviewed for any revision that would need to be made. Mr. Boyd, Georgia Forestry, reviewed the history of Tree Cities and stated that he and Mrs. Bruner would help in any way that they could. Mr. Dodd stated that this would fit in well with the Streetscape and Corridor Overlays. Mrs. Bruner stated that the first step is to hold an Arbor Day Celebration.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR ADULT LITERACY, SONJA EVANS

Mayor Howard presented Mrs. Sonja Evans with a Proclamation honoring Adult Literacy. Mrs. Evans reviewed the local program. Mrs. Evans stated that there are

currently 40 students enrolled in the GED program. Mrs. Evans asked City Council to consider adding funding for the Adult Literacy Program in to the City budget.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Greg Popham offered the following report:

- Mr. Bernard Barkley, electric department worker, recently underwent surgery and is recovering well.
- **Sewer Access Roads** – Benson Ham lift station access roadway is complete; Union Hill lift station access roadway is 95% complete; work will begin soon on the Holiday Inn lift station access roadway and then on to the South Plant access roadway.
- **Disorderly Conduct Ordinance** – One of the City judges has requested that City Council review and amend the City Ordinance pertaining to disorderly conduct. Mr. Popham will pass the information on to the Ordinance Committee.
- **Church Street** – The deed will be signed tomorrow which will complete the paperwork for the closing of Church Street between King Street and Morse Street.
- **Ingram Drive** – The Hospital Authority has submitted a request to close Ingram Drive and deed the property to the hospital. Mr. Popham will review the paperwork submitted and make a presentation to the appropriate committee.
- **James Street** – The original city match was \$207,776 and has now been reduced to \$181,135 due to savings on the project. The savings will be used to enhance Railroad Avenue.
- **Eggs & Issues** – tomorrow morning Mr. Popham will have the program for the Chamber Eggs & Issues meeting.

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 \$3,057.90 and the water

department committee totals of \$5,637.18. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd stated that Mrs. Jackie Keadle passed away today and offered condolences to the family.

MRS. BANKS

Mrs. Banks thanked everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and phone calls during the recent illness of her father. Mrs. Banks stated that her father is recovering well.

Mrs. Banks reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the BHT department committee totals of \$1,188.88. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Banks stated that the DOT LARP program is being converted into a grant program and DOT encourages a meeting to review projects.

Mrs. Banks stated that the 2010 Census Forms will be mailed out mid-March and encouraged everyone to complete and return their form to be counted in the census.

Mrs. Banks stated that Georgia Cities Week will be in April and the City will be participating.

Mrs. Banks stated that Eggs & Issues will be tomorrow morning at 7:30 am and the cost is \$10.

Mrs. Banks stated that there is a vacancy on the DDA that needs to be filled. Mrs. Banks stated that the Public Affairs Committee met on February 8th to review the candidates names submitted for appointment. Mrs. Banks offered a motion from the Public Affairs Committee to appoint Mrs. Bonnie Barker to fill the 4-year term on the DDA left vacant when Dr. Trellis Baker asked not to be reappointed at the expiration of her term. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Banks stated that council is elected to serve the public and that the deficiencies in the cable department have not been discussed. Mrs. Banks asked council to review the cable budget. Mrs. Banks asked that this be an item that the telecommunications committee reviews in the near future.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the fire department committee totals of \$1,030.48 and the police department committee totals of \$1,289.16. Seconded by Mrs. Banks the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway stated that 26 applications for police chief were received and will be reviewed by the Public Safety committee. Mr. Calloway stated that he hopes the committee will hold interviews by the end of the month and make a recommendation to council by the first meeting in April.

Mr. Calloway stated that firefighter Daryl Prince has completed his firefighter education training.

MR. HANSFORD

Mr. Hansford reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$6,063.05; the court department committee totals of \$316; and the telecommunications committee totals of \$17,268.42. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford stated that he is in full agreement with Mrs. Banks regarding the need to review the cable department. Mr. Hansford stated that he is already working with Mr. Popham to get all information together before taking it before the committee.

MR. WILSON

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the cemetery department committee totals of \$540.18. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson stated the parks, recreation, and cemetery committee will meet on the 3rd Wednesday, March 17th at noon.

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 \$3,651.72. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence stated that work on the James Street project continues.

Mr. Lawrence stated that the public works department backhoe is beyond repair and that we have been renting a backhoe for several weeks. Mr. Lawrence stated that we need to move forward on purchasing a backhoe and trailer for the department.

Mr. Lawrence asked Mr. Popham if the funds for the Methane Extraction Project are in place and Mr. Popham confirmed that they are.

Mr. Lawrence asked Mr. Popham for an update on the Streetscape Project. Mr. Popham stated that the advertisement for bids began this week, a pre-bid meeting will be held on March 16th, and the bid opening will be April 1st. Mr. Popham stated that bids are open to all companies that are qualified to perform this type of construction.

MR. MELTON

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Mayor Howard stated that he has taken the Work Ready test and encouraged others to take the test as well.

Mayor Howard stated that he will be in Washington DC March 16th and 17th with the Georgia Clean Air Coalition

Mayor Howard asked Mrs. Banks to transcribe her thoughts on the cable system for everyone to review and to aid the committee in their discussion of the system.

Mr. Dodd stated that the electric department budget included a trencher and trailer. Mr. Dodd stated that Mrs. Hall has the financing figures and we need to move forward in purchasing the trencher and trailer. Mrs. Banks asked if we had storage areas for the new equipment that we will be purchasing. Mr. Popham stated that he and Mr. Hodges are working on completing the storage area that was started several years ago.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.