

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 16, 2010

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Pro-Tem Desi Hansford called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mr. Lawrence gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Tye Howard was in Washington DC with the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition and unable to attend the meeting; therefore, Mayor Pro-Tem Hansford presided over the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2010 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE CALLED MARCH 12, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2010 special called council meeting as written. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

ENDORSEMENT OF RESOLUTION FROM MONROE LEADERSHIP CLASS OF 2010 RECOGNIZING MONROE COUNTY AS THE PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL OF GEORGIA

Mrs. Karen Manus-Pennings came before council on behalf of the 2010 Monroe Leadership Class to request City Council endorse a resolution to be presented to the House of Representatives naming Monroe County as the Public Safety Capital of Georgia. Mr. Wilson thanked the class for bringing this forward and stated that this is a great idea and good for Forsyth. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to endorse the resolution. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO SIGN AND EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS FOR THE SURFACE WATER WITHDRAWAL PERMIT APPLICATION TO THE EPD

Mr. Popham stated that this matter was reviewed during a recent Public Utilities committee meeting. Mr. Popham stated that this will be a withdrawal permit from the Towaliga River for the Boxankle Plant in addition to the withdrawal permit already on hand for Rocky Creek. Mr. Popham stated that this will be a 2.5 mg/d permit. Mr. Popham stated that the application requires the Mayor's signature and then will be submitted to the EPD for review and approval. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and execute all documents required for the withdrawal permit. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE AMENDMENTS TO CITY CODE SECTION 15-15

Mr. Melton reviewed the proposed amendment to City Code Section 15-15 stating that this request came from one of the City Judges. Mr. Melton stated that this amendment will bring the City ordinance regarding Disorderly Conduct more compatible with the County ordinance regarding the same. Mr. Melton stated that he blended the wording of the County ordinance into the City ordinance with the exception of the fine. Mr. Melton stated that this is before council tonight for approval to advertise, and the first reading for the public hearing. Mr. Melton stated that the Public Affairs Committee has reviewed this amendment. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to advertise the amendments to Section 15-15 of the City Code. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT FORM AND RENTAL FEES FOR ALDERMEN HALL

Mrs. Banks stated that the Public Affairs Committee has reviewed this matter. Mrs. Banks stated that the original form was written at the direction of the Chamber of Commerce through Mr. Melton's office. Mrs. Banks stated that oversight of Aldermen Hall falls under the Better Hometown Director. Mrs. Banks stated that the only changes recommended by the committee is the fee schedule. Mrs. Banks stated that exemptions to the fees would be City, County, Chamber of Commerce including the Development Authority, Board of Education, and the Department of Corrections. Mr. Wilson stated

that political candidates reserving Aldermen Hall will not be exempt from the fee. Mrs. Banks stated if the BHT director has a question as to whether or not to charge an entity they have been directed to contact the Public Affairs Committee for clarification. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the lease agreement form for Aldermen Hall along with the fee schedule for those nonexempt entities. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY ALCOHOL PERMIT FOR CONSUMPTION ONLY FOR THE FORSYTH CHAPTER OF DUCKS UNLIMITED

Mrs. Hall stated that this is before council as a matter of record that a phone poll was taken and unanimously approved. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the temporary alcohol permit for consumption only for the Forsyth Chapter of Ducks Unlimited for March 20, 2010. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO AMEND MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 2, 2009 REGARDING THE REZONING OF SOUTH JACKSON STREET PROPERTY

Mr. Melton stated there was an error in the boundary description of the property rezoned on June 2, 2009. Mr. Melton stated that the boundary to the North should be Lovers Lane and not Chambers Street as listed in the description. Mr. Melton stated that council adopted Robert's Rules of Order which allows minutes to be amended at anytime an error is found. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to amend the minutes of the June 2, 2009 city council meeting to reflect the correct boundary for the property on South Jackson Street that was rezoned. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Popham offered the following report:

- **Streetscape** – Mr. Popham stated that final approval for Phase III of the Streetscape Project has been received. All three DOT Streetscape Projects are now approved.
- **Downtown Streetscape** – Mr. Popham reviewed the pre-bid meeting held today for the Downtown Streetscape project that is currently out for bids. Six contractors attended the meeting and discussion was held concerning business

- operations during construction. Mr. Popham stated that the contractors were asked to submit an addendum reviewing how they would accommodate the businesses during construction. Bid opening for the project will be April 1, 2010.
- **Strategic Planning Session** – Mr. Popham stated that he is working on getting the Strategic Planning Session scheduled and the potential dates are April 9, 16, or 23. Mr. Popham stated that he is waiting on confirmation from a facilitator for the meeting and that the meeting will be held at Gresco on Rumble Road.
 - **Ingram Drive** – Mr. Popham stated that a request has been received from the Hospital Authority requesting that the City close Ingram Drive and deed the property over to the Hospital Authority. Mr. Popham stated that we will proceed in the same manner that we did for the street closing for First Baptist Church.
 - **Rate Structure** – Mr. Popham stated that corrected rate structure packets from MEAG/ECOG have been placed in each councilmember's mailbox.

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 \$2,649.10 and the water department committee totals of \$35,140.90. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimous.

Mr. Dodd commended the Chamber of Commerce on the Forsythia Festival this weekend and stated that it was well attended. Mr. Dodd also commended the city employees for their work on the festival.

Mr. Dodd stated that Wal-Mart held a VIP opening last night at the new store and the new store looks very good.

Mr. Dodd stated that he has been made aware of an historical landmark at St. James Church that is in danger of being destroyed by the James Street project work. Mr. Dodd stated that this landmark must be preserved.

Mr. Dodd stated that the Public Utilities committee held a work session last Friday and it is obvious that all city rates need to be reviewed.

MRS. BANKS

Mrs. Banks thanked the Chamber for a job well done on the Forsythia Festival.

Mrs. Banks reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the Better Hometown department committee totals of \$998.05. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Banks offered a motion from the Public Affairs committee to appoint Mr. Paul Jossey to the DDA to fulfill the term left by Mr. Art Rauschers' resignation in January. Mr. Jossey's term would expire December 2010. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Banks stated that the meeting structure for the DDA and BHT boards will be restructured so that the DDA board will hold their meeting, adjourn and then go directly into the BHT board meeting.

Mrs. Banks encouraged everyone to complete and return their census forms.

Mrs. Banks stated that the landmark Mr. Dodd was referring to is a piece of sidewalk that Dr. Bodie signed. Mrs. Banks stated that if that portion of sidewalk can be saved we can then move it to Dr. Bodies' house.

Mrs. Banks reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the telecommunications department committee totals of \$3,441.38. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Banks reviewed the telecommunications committee meeting held last week wherein the broadband system was reviewed. Mrs. Banks stated that the committee needs data to bring educated information back to the council. Mrs. Banks tasked Mr. Popham with gathering all information required and presenting this information to the telecommunications committee no later than September 30, 2010.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the police department committee totals of \$767.04 and the fire department committee totals of \$1,729.13. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway thanked the Chamber of Commerce and the city employees for their work on the Forsythia Festival.

Mr. Calloway stated that the Public Safety committee will meet on April 6 and will have a list of candidates to be interviewed for the police chief position at the April 20th council meeting.

MR. WILSON

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the cemetery department committee totals of \$22.59 and the recreation department committee totals of \$10.22. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson commended the Leadership Class for their work on the resolution having Forsyth known as the Public Safety Capital.

Mr. Wilson commended the Chamber of Commerce and city employees for their work on the Forsythia Festival.

MR. LAWRENCE

Mr. Lawrence reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$3,693.90. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence thanked the public works department for their work on the Forsythia Festival.

Mr. Lawrence reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the public works department committee totals of \$2,117.11. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence asked Mr. Popham if the public works department is still purchasing a backhoe. Mr. Popham stated that we are still working on that, but yes one will be purchased. Mrs. Banks asked if the backhoe will have an enclosed cab. Mr. Popham stated that the operators were asked which they preferred and they prefer the backhoe without the enclosed cab. Mrs. Banks stated that she agrees with the purchase of the backhoe, but it must be used in all types of weather.

MR. MELTON

Mr. Melton stated that the Church Street closing is complete and the check has been mailed to the City. Mr. Melton stated the DOT has also been notified.

Mr. Melton stated there was an article in the Macon Telegraph regarding the importance of the census. The article stated that if your census form is not returned, a

census worker will come to your house to get the information. Mr. Lawrence stated that people with Post Office boxes will not have a form mailed to them, that a census worker will be assigned to visit their address. Mr. Lawrence also stated that neither the census form nor the census worker should ask for any financial information or for your social security number.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hansford stated that the Chamber did a great job on the Forsythia Festival in spite of the weather.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hansford also thanked the Leadership Class for their work on the Resolution.

Mr. Calloway stated that Mr. Hansford did a good job presiding over the meeting.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 7:50 PM.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hansford called the meeting back into open session. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk