

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 3, 2010

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Wilson gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting was Mayor Tye Howard, 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.

Councilmember Desi Hansford was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes (Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Wilson, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2010 council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE DDA FOR THE PARKING LOT ADJACENT TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the agreement between the City and the DDA for the surfacing and landscaping project for the parking lot adjacent to the Public Safety Complex. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Wilson stated that the agreement has been changed to remove the basketball court due to the potential liability with a basketball court within the parking lot. The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AN URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AREA AND URBAN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the Urban Redevelopment Area and Urban Redevelopment Plan. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS REGARDING DREDGING SERVICES

Mayor Howard stated that the Department of Corrections (DOC) brought the proposal to the City for a pass-through agreement from the DOC to the City to the Georgia Rural Water Association (GRWA). Mayor Howard stated that the project will be for the dredging of the pond at the Training

Center. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to table the matter until council and City Attorney have had time to review the agreement. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion to table the matter carried unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Popham offered the following report:

- Dilapidated Houses – Mr. Popham reported that two of the four original dilapidated houses brought before council has been resolved.
- Derelict Signs – Mr. Popham will be sending out courtesy letters to nine sign owners.
- RFP for Pool Design – as of today, one packet has been picked up and letters have been sent to two companies advising of the RFP. Mr. Popham reviewed how the RFP will be advertised.
- Demolition Requirements for Dilapidated Houses – Mr. Popham reviewed the cost for permitting and removal of asbestos in the dilapidated houses. Mr. Popham stated that a typical asbestos inspection would cost \$1,000 to \$2,000 and the removal would cost \$2,000 to \$3,500 and with additional miscellaneous cost the total cost could be over \$9,000. Mayor Howard stated that we may have to budget 2 or 3 demolitions per year. Mrs. Banks stated that she is hopeful that the property owners will take the initiative and take care of their properties themselves.
- James Street CDBG Project – Mr. Popham reported that due to the change order from the City to widen the roadway on James Street, the curb had to be broken out and was poured again today; milling and base coat should go down between now and the 10th so that the final paving can be done on the 11th. Mr. Dodd requested clarification on the origin of the change order. Mr. Popham stated that the Church pastor raised the question of the width of the roadway to Mr. Randall and Mayor Howard and the decision was made that the roadway was too narrow. Mr. Dodd asked the cost of the change order and Mr. Popham stated that he would have to get that information from the contractor. Mr. Popham stated that the \$54,000 additional funds for the project will be spent on Railroad Avenue. Mr. Lawrence asked if Tribble Street and Benjamin Street were to be a part of the resurfacing. Mr. Popham stated that storm water work must be done before these roadways can be resurfaced. There was discussion as to the need to include these streets in the resurfacing due to the increased traffic that will be sent down these streets.
- Highway 83 North sewer line – Mr. Popham stated that the preliminary work continues on the Highway 83 North sewer line at Hardee's/Tradewinds.
- Timberlake Ministries water line – Mr. Popham stated that the engineers have begun work on the water line to Timberlake Ministries.

- HUD Grants – Mr. Popham stated that applications have been submitted for two special projects in the amount of \$343,000 and \$650,000 for reimbursement of the cost of the infrastructure renovations at Tift/DOC. Mr. Popham stated that the environmental assessments must be completed before the applications are reviewed.
- Mr. Popham stated that Mr. Dodd and Mrs. Banks submitted roadways for resurfacing and that anyone with additional roadways can be submitted no later than tomorrow.
- Millage Rate – Mr. Popham stated that the administrative committee needs to meet to review the proposed millage rate and tax digest. Mr. Popham stated that the tax digest increased by \$1 million.
- Cable/Internet System Report – Mr. Popham stated that he is engaged in work for the requested report on the CATV system.

DAMC/INDIAN SPRINGS BUSINESS PARK

Mr. Melton reviewed the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and the Development Authority of Monroe County (DAMC). Mr. Melton stated that the maintenance bond put up by the previous owner, R&B Construction, has been called in by the City and that money will be used to correct erosion problems on and off site. DAMC will be responsible for correction of erosion problems above the money recovered by the City. Mrs. Banks asked for clarification of the meaning of “off-site” and Mr. Popham stated that it would be anything beyond the City right-of-way. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Charlie Haygood, Attorney for DAMC, stated that \$81,000 in taxes was collected at the closing of the property last Thursday.

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 \$15,914.14 and the water department committee totals of \$27,564.08. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd stated that Forsyth was highlighted on one of the local news channels yesterday when one of the gubernatorial candidates was in Forsyth. Mr. Dodd stated that typically the city elected officials are notified of these types of visits.

MRS. BANKS

Mrs. Banks reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the public affairs committee totals of \$2,878.75. Seconded by Mr. Callaway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Banks thanked council for the approval of the Urban Redevelopment Plan/Area; reported that the HPC Guideline and District public hearing will be held during the next council meeting; appreciate work being done on correcting the dilapidated housing issues; reported that the public affairs committee is reviewing beer/wine sales on Sunday; and urged citizens to shop locally.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the fire department committee totals of \$3,790.41 and the police department committee totals of \$16,354.97. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway stated that he saw an ad in the Reporter that the City is hiring a lineman and asked the Mayor why we are advertising when we have a qualified lineman in-house. Mayor Howard stated that he was unaware of the posting of the position.

MR. WILSON

Mr. Wilson reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$1,572.70 and the cable department committee totals of \$2,199.88. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson stated that per agreement we must pay a minimum of \$250 per month for PPV programming and \$500 per month if late. Mr. Wilson stated that this month's PPV charges to customers totals \$51.

Mr. Wilson reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the cemetery department committee totals of \$1,572.70. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson stated that the bidding process is ongoing for the pool design. Mr. Wilson stated that several other surrounding counties have swim teams and we could potentially have a swim team with the correct design of the pool.

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 \$3,636.93. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he is working on scheduling a committee meeting possibly for this Friday and that the department continues to work on repair of all potholes around the City.

MRS. HALL – STREETScape/CITY CLERK REPORT

Mrs. Hall gave a full report on the status of the Streetscape Project as of today:

- The bumpouts on all four corners of Johnston and Jackson Streets are being cut and the one in front of City Hall has been poured.
- Began laying block in front of City Hall today for the planters
- One crepe myrtle has been transplanted
- Hit a large concrete pillar in front of Ann's Deli that will take numerous hours to break out and the contractor is working closely with the owners of Ann's Deli to minimize disruptions.
- Using the side entrance to City Hall as the main entrance during construction and any elderly, disabled, or handicapped customers that need to make payments can either get the attention of the workers to bring in their payment or to have someone from City Hall come outside to them.
- Signage is up to direct pedestrian traffic to the sidewalks around the construction zone.
- Mrs. Banks asked about the use of straw rather than the gravel that was promised during the preconstruction meeting. Mrs. Hall stated that the straw is being used in the areas that pedestrians are not to be in and that JHC has built temporary wooden sidewalks for entrance to the buildings. Mrs. Hall stated that the gravel will go down under the pavers.

Additional information reported by Mrs. Hall:

- Hiperweb training for the requisition system will be August 24th and 25th at the police department in the training room.
- Eggs & Issues – Mrs. Hall asked that anyone wishing to attend the Eggs & Issues either let her know or RSVP to the Chamber no later than Monday before the event.
- Taste of Monroe – tickets went on sale today and Mrs. Hall asked that council let her know if they wish to attend so that tickets can be purchased.
- Mrs. Hall stated that GMA Fall Training is being held in Marietta and asked that anyone wishing to sign up for a class let her know so registrations can be sent in.
- Mr. Ronnie Daniel asked today that Mayor and Council help him on Thursday with the annual fund raiser for the Dairy Queen for the Children's Hospital of Macon.
- Mrs. Hall stated that there are several employees out on extended sick leave and requested that everyone keep them in their thoughts and prayers.

ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS

There was no additional old business to discuss.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to request action by the Department of Transportation to transfer the monies for Phase III of the Streetscape from the Lee Street Corridor to the Tift College Corridor. The motion was seconded by Mr. Calloway. Mrs. Banks stated that this Phase was from the square to the railroad on Lee Street but Tift College Drive will become the main corridor when DOC gets moved in. Mr. Popham stated that there are no drawings for Phase III and this would fall hand-in-hand with the beautification of Tift College. Phase III is for \$750,000 with a \$250,000 City match. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 8:10 pm.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 8:25 PM. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at that time.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk