

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 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. Mrs. Banks 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 SEPTEMBER 7, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2010 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

TIFFANY ANDREWS – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to amend the agenda to add Mrs. Tiffany Andrews, Chamber of Commerce, to the agenda. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously and Mrs. Andrews addressed council. Mrs. Andrews stated that she is coming before council tonight on behalf of the Monroe County Development Authority and reported that the Development Authority has been working with a prospect for the Industrial Park for six months. Mrs. Andrews reviewed that the company will phase in their operation and that Phase I will be a \$2 million project and will employ 20 people. Mrs. Andrews stated that she is requesting a 10-year incentive on real and personal property for the company on a sliding scale and that there will be wording in the contract that if the company does not meet personnel levels within 3 years the tax incentive will be null and void. Mrs. Andrews stated that this must be approved by the City, County, and Board of Education and then the tax accessor's office. Mrs. Banks stated that this will be a utility customer and asked how long it will take to recoup the tax money and Mrs. Andrews stated that by year 3 will be in full phase and the tax incentive would already be recouped through utility charges. Mayor Howard asked about staffing for the company and Mrs. Andrews stated that they would be bringing in a plant manager but

will hire all others locally. Mrs. Andrews stated that they are in final decision process now. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to offer a tax abatement to the company provided they meet their personnel requirements as agreed. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH CARLSON ENVIRONMENTAL FOR THE LANDFILL GS COLLECTION AND CONTROL SYSTEM INSTALLATION

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to table this matter until the first meeting in October to allow the public works committee to review the contract. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion to table carried unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Popham had nothing further to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MR. DODD

Mr. Dodd reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the water department committee totals of \$11,751.59 and the electric department committee totals of \$544.75. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

MRS. BANKS

Mrs. Banks reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the public affairs committee totals of \$2,972.55. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Banks reminded everyone of the Forsyth Alive concert this Saturday at 8:00 PM and the Taste of Monroe this Thursday at the Training Center.

Mrs. Banks stated that Halloween falls on Sunday this year and that in the past city council has pushed the general trick-or-treating back to Saturday. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to move the general trick-or-treating to Saturday, October 30th. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve all invoices for the public safety department committee. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway called on Chief Corley for a report from the police department. Chief Corley had nothing to report from the police department.

MR. HANSFORD

Mr. Hansford reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$5,047.16 and the cable department committee totals of \$24.80. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Mr. Dodd asked what the \$1500 invoice from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission covers. Mr. Hansford stated that the invoice shows charges for August special projects. Mr. Popham stated that the MGRC is working on maps for the annexation project. Mr. Popham stated that the expectation was to see MGRC staff at City Hall but due to the mapping system being in their office they have been working from there. Mr. Melton stated that he has had a lot of contact with MGRC staff regarding the annexation project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford stated that the administrative and telecommunication committees need to set dates for meetings.

MR. WILSON

Mr. Wilson reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the cemetery department committee totals of \$719.84 and the recreation department committee totals of \$7,500. Mr. Hansford seconded the motion. Mr. Dodd asked what work the UGA staff has done for the \$7,500 invoiced. Mr. Wilson stated that he received some information from them last week but has had very little interaction with them and also stated that we had approved to pay a portion of the total cost upfront. Mr. Popham stated that there are working through the planning process and collecting data. Mr. Popham stated that they will be providing a timeline and setting dates for public hearings. It was agreed that the UGA staff need to keep council apprised of what they are working on. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson reported on the Cemetery Association Conference he recently attended.

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 \$3,187.72. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence reported that the public works department continues to work on the potholes around the city.

Mr. Lawrence stated that we are working within the 30-day deadline to repair the driveway entrances on James Street and College Street. Mr. Lawrence asked Mr. Popham for an update on Streetscape and Mr. Popham stated that they are some days out of schedule. Mrs. Banks asked about the sign improvement and maintenance project that the public works department was working on and Mr. Lawrence stated that he believes that project is complete. Mr. Dodd asked if the public works employees can pick up the temporary signs. Mrs. Hall stated that there is an ordinance on the books governing this and also allowing for a deposit to be requested by the city before the placement of temporary signs. Mr. Dodd offered a motion for the city crews to pick up all temporary signs. Mr. Hansford seconded the motion. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the types of signs included and how city crews would determine which signs to pick up. Mrs. Banks stated that they can work off the premises that when in doubt, pick it up. Mr. Melton stated regarding political signs, that either all should be picked up or none should be picked up, they cannot pick up some and leave others. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR HOWARD

Mayor Howard reminded everyone of the Department of Corrections kickoff scheduled for November 9th. Mayor Howard stated that he has received notification that the City has been awarded the grant for Kynette Park. Mayor Howard stated that tickets for Taste of Monroe are still available.

MR. MELTON

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel matters and pending litigation. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 7:35 PM.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 8:15 PM.

Mr. Calloway offered a motion not to extend Mr. Pophams' contract for 2011. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion failed with two (2) votes for (Dodd and Calloway) and four (4) votes against (Banks, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence).

Mr. Melton stated that Mrs. Hall sends out a preliminary agenda and if there is something that needs to be added or removed, that is the time to let Mrs. Hall know but the agenda can be amended at the meeting as it was tonight.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion stating that Section 7 of Mr. Pophams' contract calls for a performance evaluation. Mayor Howard stopped Mr. Dodd stating that personnel matters should be discussed in executive session. Mr. Dodd withdrew his motion.

Mr. Hansford stated that mayor and council need to see all correspondence coming into city hall and correspondence sent to committee. Mrs. Banks stated that there needs to be one accountable person opening and distributing the mail to ensure that all correspondence flows to everyone. Mr. Hansford stated that he will offer a motion if one is required or this can be done as a policy. Mrs. Banks stated that past correspondence not being copied to all elected officials has caused problems and hopefully this will alleviate this in the future.

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk