

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 7, 2010

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, 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, James Calloway, Desi Hansford, Eric Wilson, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was City Attorney, Bobby Melton (joined meeting at 7:10 pm); City Administrator, Greg Popham; and City Clerk, Janice Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2010 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE OUTDOOR LANDSCAPE WATERING RESTRICTION

AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 23 OF THE CITY CODE

Mrs. Hall stated that council reviewed and agreed by consensus at the work session on November 16th to advertise the required amendments to the outdoor landscape watering section of the City Code; however, this was not brought up for approval during the council meeting. Mrs. Hall stated that since council had discussed and agreed to advertise the amendments, she had requested Mr. Melton to write the advertisement and ordinance for a public hearing to be held at the December 21st council meeting. The approval to advertise is just a formality for the record. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to advertise the required amendments to the outdoor landscape watering section of the City Code. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE PROPOSAL – LION INSURANCE COMPANY

Mr. Hansford stated that the annual premium for the workers compensation premium for 2011 will decrease by approximately \$55,000 to \$136,630. Mr. Hansford

offered a motion to accept the change in carrier and annual premium for the workers compensation coverage. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PROPOSAL – COVENTRY

Mr. Popham reviewed the changes to the health insurance coverage with Coventry which includes providing an option of coverage to the employees and allow employees the option to buy up to more coverage, the employees will contribute 1% of the premium to allow those with other credible coverage to opt out of the city coverage and to pay all employees that opt out \$150 per month as an incentive to opt out. Mr. Popham stated that the changes were necessary due to an 18.9% increase in premium proposed by the carrier. Mr. Hansford stated that the administrative committee met with the local agent and reviewed several possible options for the coverage. Mr. Hansford offered a motion to offer city employees an option on the dual coverage, employees' participation of 1% of the premium, and an opt-out incentive of \$150 per month for those that opt out. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF STREETScape CHANGE ORDERS

Mr. Popham reviewed the change orders for the Streetscape project. Mr. Popham stated that Change orders #7, #8, #9, and #10 for a total cost of \$9,355.66 are mostly for the removal of the tanks found so far in several areas around the square. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve change orders #7, #8, #9, and #10 for a total cost of \$9,355.66. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF COLA/ CHRISTMAS BONUS FOR EMPLOYEES

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to give city employees a Christmas bonus of \$300 for fulltime employees with over 1 year of service; \$150 for fulltime employees with less than 1 year of service; and \$100 for all part-time employees. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Hanford stated that the bonus is made possible by the department heads holding down cost throughout the year.

APPROVAL OF FIRST TSW CONTRACT – FEASIBILITY OF USE OF EXISTING POOL

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to postpone this matter until a later date. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion to postpone carried unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Popham offered the following report:

- The engineers are still working on a few items on the Water Conservation Plan but should still have it complete by the end of January
- Any elected official wishing to take the tour of Plant Vogtle on February 2, 2011 need to let him know as soon as possible as background checks are required for the tour
- Bid opening for the Highway 83, Timberlake Project will be December 20th
- Received notification from DOT Board that the transfer of Phase III Streetscape has been approved to move funds from Lee Street to Tift College Drive. Mayor Howard thanked Mr. Jim Cole for the work he did to make this move possible and to make it happen in such a short time. Everyone offered their thanks to Mr. Cole.
- Reviewed sewer rates compared to other cities and stated we are just below the median range. Georgia Rural Water Association (GRWA) will review the rates the same as Electric Cities did at a cost of \$500. Mr. Popham will provide the report without going through GRWA
- Finance report shows beginning balance of \$1,770,910 and an available balance of \$946,357

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 \$20,756 and the electric department committee totals of \$4,001.40. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Dodd, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Banks due to one of the vendors being a family member).

Mr. Dodd stated that he had an additional expenditure for the contract with Elmo Richardson and Garry Garretson for engineering work at the Boxankle Plant. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the contract. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

MRS. BANKS

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the public affairs committee totals of \$290.13. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Banks stated that the standing public affairs committee meeting for this Thursday is cancelled and will have the MGRC attend the next meeting to review amendments to the city ordinances beginning with the noise ordinance.

Mrs. Banks offered a public apology to Mr. Charlie Jackson for poor customer service on the drainage issue at his home. Mrs. Banks stated that the problem will be addressed immediately. Mr. Lawrence asked Mrs. Banks for clarification on what the problem is. Mrs. Banks stated that only part of the required work has been done to rectify a drainage problem on his property and the asphalt to guide water off his property has not been done.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the fire department committee totals of \$10,819.18 and the police department committee totals of \$4,316.37. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway requested an update on the status of the property on Cabiness Road where the property owner had been notified to demolish the structure. Mr. Melton stated that it turned out that the notification was sent on the wrong property and the advertisement was done on the wrong property. After a brief discussion regarding how the wrong property information was sent to Mr. Melton, Mrs. Banks offered a motion to rescind the order to tear down the property on Highway 83 owned by Mrs. Ann Wilburn Jackson. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Melton stated that the correct property is owned by Ms. Sallie Lucear heirs in care

of Mr. Willie Shannon. Mr. Melton stated that the correct address of the property is not known and requested that the property be referred to by the owner name. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to re-advertise the property on Highway 83 North owned by Sallie Lucear heirs. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Melton stated that this will come back before council at the first meeting in January 2011.

MR. HANSFORD

Mr. Hansford reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$3,455.10; the court department committee totals of \$46.50; and the cable department committee totals of \$4,004.46. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. WILSON

Mr. Wilson reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the recreation department committee totals of \$276.22 and the cemetery committee totals of \$1,178.91. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson stated that the parks, recreation, and cemetery committee will hold their regularly scheduled meeting at noon tomorrow. Mr. Wilson stated that TSW will attend the meeting to address the pool project.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Popham to review the park maintenance issue that was reported in the Reporter. Mr. Popham stated that the Reporter had an article this week on the condition of the parks. Mr. Popham stated that he has sent a memo to the public works director and the police chief advising them of action to take. Mr. Popham stated that vandalism happens but the city maintains the parks. Mr. Wilson stated that a checklist will help in oversight to make sure that items are taken care of. Mayor Howard stated that we need a person to take care of the parks. Mayor Howard stated that the City will prosecute those responsible for the vandalism. Mr. Wilson stated that the police chief will make sure that the parks are locked each night and that we are considering surveillance equipment at all the parks to catch the vandals.

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 \$7,911.26. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he appreciates the Christmas bonuses being approved for the employees.

Mr. Dodd stated that he has noticed several commercial companies and entities blowing the leaves from their property into the street. Mr. Dodd stated that he would like to see someone speak with each entity to ask them to refrain from blowing leaves into the street. Council discussed ways to notify the companies. Mrs. Hall suggested that a letter be written so that those blowing the leaves into the street can be given notification.

CITY CLERK REPORT

Mrs. Hall stated that the proposed 2011 budget public hearings need to be advertised.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Ms. Carolyn Redding and Ms. Barbara Zellner of 14 George Street came before council with complaints regarding the sewer problem from October. Ms. Redding stated that the sewer lines broke and allowed sewage to run into their house and even though the City had someone come out and clean up, the house still stinks. Ms. Redding stated that she has been advised by her doctor not to stay in the house and they have been staying with their brother for the last two months. Ms. Redding stated that Serv-Pro, the company hired by the city to do the work, did not do what they should have. Ms. Redding and Ms. Zellner provided pictures to council to review. Ms. Redding stated that their brother also works for the city and was questioned by the City Administrator. Mr. Popham stated that Serv-Pro states that the work was done and completed as submitted to the City. Mr. Popham stated that the sewer main is higher than their

home and entered the home due to their home not having a check valve. Mr. Popham stated that the property owner did work to repair the damage to the pipes. Mr. Calloway stated that this is unacceptable and stated that Mr. Randall needs to go to the house tomorrow and get this corrected. Mr. Calloway stated that council needs an update by the end of the week.

Mr. William Arthur Calloway came before council to discuss problems at the city parks and stated that all the problems are not related to vandalism. Mr. Calloway stated that the parks are not being maintained. Mr. Calloway stated that the replacement of the wood at the Hill Street Park is not what is needed and will only have to be replaced again next year.

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 8:15 pm.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 8:26 pm. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk