

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 21, 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; City Administrator, Greg Popham; and City Clerk, Janice Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2010 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2011 BUDGET

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing to order for comments for or against the proposed 2011 budget. Hearing no comments for or against the proposed 2011 budget, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mrs. Hall reminded everyone of the called council meeting and public hearing on the proposed 2011 budget scheduled for December 28th at 10:00 am.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR 2011 HOUSING CDBG FUNDING

Mrs. Banks reviewed meeting held with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) regarding upcoming grant opportunities for 2011. Mrs. Banks stated that we have just completed the James Street project and the next application should include substandard housing occupied by seniors. Mrs. Banks stated that we could partner with the Middle Georgia Community Action Agency (MGCAA). Mrs. Banks stated that there are citizens that have applied with MGCAA for weatherization grants for their homes but turned down due to other repairs that need to be made before the house would qualify for winterization. Mrs. Banks stated that citizens would have a matching fund on a sliding scale and those that cannot afford the matching funds will

have additional alternatives of funding for assistance. Mr. Popham stated that we could use the list from the drive-by survey previously done to get a starting point. Mayor Howard asked if this would target a specific area or just by household and Mrs. Banks stated it would be hard to do by an area as next door neighbors may not have the same needs and each house in an area may not be owned by the occupant. Mr. Popham stated that we could use the previous denials by the MGCAA to get specific names and addresses. Mayor Howard asked what the match would be and Mrs. Banks stated that the city would have no cost; the match is paid by the property owner. Mr. Popham stated that this is a general support resolution. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 23 WITH REGARD TO THE OUTDOOR LANDSCAPE WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of amendments to the Outdoor Landscape Watering ordinance. Mr. Melton reviewed that this matter first came before council on November 22, 2010; was properly advertised in the December 8th and 15th issues of the Reporter; and is mandated by the Georgia Legislature to be adopted by January 1, 2011. Mr. Popham stated that the water department has been following these regulations for some time and council just needs to approve the ordinance amendments. Mr. Melton stated that these are the minimum restrictions. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to adopt the amendments to the outdoor watering ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF TUNNELL, SPANGLER & ASSOCIATES, INC. CONTRACT

Mr. Popham reviewed the contract stating that council reviewed this at the December 14th meeting. Mr. Popham reviewed the letter from Mr. Melton wherein he reviewed the contract. Mr. Popham stated the total contract price is \$54,500. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the contract with Tunnell, Spangler, & Associates, Inc. (TSA). Mrs. Banks seconded the motion. Mrs. Banks stated that the construction dates need to be pushed out. Mr. Melton stated the contract provides for an additional 90 days

without additional cost. Mr. Wilson stated that council needs to keep in mind that money has already been drawn down from the SPLOST money and this would be an additional \$54,500 from the SPLOST funds for recreation. Mr. Wilson stated that council will also have to appropriate money to operate the pool and for staffing the pool. Mr. Dodd stated that the first step on the contract is for a feasibility study to see if the existing pool can be used and if not, an additional cost of \$5,000 for a new pool design would be added to the contract price. Mr. Melton agreed that the contract price is \$54,500 contingent upon whether the existing pool can be used, if not, then the contract price would be \$59,500. Mr. Melton stated that the contract can be terminated at any stage with notice and payment of services completed up to that point in the contract. There was discussion regarding the additional cost of \$5,000. Mr. Melton stated that a report will be provided at the end of the feasibility study and council could decide then which way to go depending upon the report. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RETENTION SCHEDULE AS CITY POLICY

Mrs. Hall stated that it is State mandated that the City have a retention schedule and Mr. Hopkins pointed out in his management letter for 2009 that we do not have a retention schedule. Mrs. Hall stated that the Secretary of State's Office provides a model to go by and most cities adopt their schedule as their policy. Mrs. Hall stated that the model schedule is a 167 page document. Mrs. Hall stated that each department head will review the schedule for possible changes within their departments. Mrs. Hall asked that the 167 page Retention Schedule be adopted as a City policy with future amendments being made by department. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the Retention Schedule as a City policy. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Popham thanked everyone for the last year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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 \$41,721.65 and the electric

department committee totals of \$4,820.47. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

MRS. BANKS

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the public affairs committee totals of \$371.50. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs Banks thanked the city employees and those responsible for the City Christmas party last weekend.

Mrs. Banks wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the fire department committee totals of \$672.82 and the police department committee totals of \$2,413.98. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway thanked the vendors that donated to the Christmas party and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

MR. HANSFORD

Mr. Hansford reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$3,164.68; the court department committee totals of \$176.83; and the cable department committee totals of \$329.02. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford asked for an update on the telecommunications report. Mr. Popham stated that he received an outline from GMA and reviewed conversations held with GMA personnel concerning the report. Mr. Popham stated that GMA referred him to a consultant for a due diligence report at a cost of \$5,000. Mr. Popham stated that the consultant had stated that the report was good so he did not understand why they would require \$5,000. No response has been received from the consultant. Mr. Popham stated that he would handle the public input meeting.

Mr. Hansford stated that there has been a lot of death in the community this year and need to reflect during the holidays and enjoy life.

Mr. Hansford wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

MR. WILSON

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the recreation department committee totals of \$583.84 and the cemetery department committee totals of \$146.59. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson stated that he rode through the parks and cemeteries today and there has been some improvement but some swings still need to be replaced. Mr. Popham stated that he is receiving daily reports from the police department on patrol of parks and working with Mr. Randall on a checklist for his department.

Mr. Wilson wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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 \$33,168.68. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence stated that four bids have been received on the leaf truck which is in the budget for 2011.

Mr. Lawrence stated that the sewer issue on George Street should be finalized and he will be meeting with the owners tomorrow.

Mr. Lawrence wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

CITY CLERK REPORT

Mrs. Hall thanked Mayor and council on behalf of the city employees for everything they do for the employees during the year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe New Year.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Mr. William Arthur Calloway thanked council for listening to him during council meetings and wished Merry Christmas to everyone.

Mayor Howard stated that 2010 has been a very hectic year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel matters. 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 9:15 PM.

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to terminate Mr. Popham's contract. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Mr. Wilson stated that this is related to lack of communication and gave Mr. Popham the opportunity to address the issues. Mr. Popham stated that he feels he has done all that he could to communicate to council and stated that Mrs. Hall is copying everything to council. Mr. Popham stated that no council member calls or comes by to see him on a daily basis. Mr. Popham stated that he has sent out numerous emails and memos that no council member has responded to. Mr. Lawrence asked if this could wait until the first council meeting in January when all reappointments are made. The motion carried with four (4) votes for (Dodd, Banks, Calloway, and Wilson), one (1) vote against (Hansford), and one (1) abstention (Lawrence).

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk