

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2011

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INVOCATION

Mayor Howard led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Mr. Hansford gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting was Mayor Howard, City Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Jo Anna Banks, James Calloway, Des Hansford, Eric Wilson, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was City Attorney, Bobby Melton, and City Clerk, Janice Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the minutes as written for the January 4, 2011 council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

KAREN MANUS-PENNINGS REQUEST TO CLOSE CERTAIN STREETS FOR 2011 FORSYTHIA FESTIVAL

Mrs. Karen Manus-Pennings, Tourism Director for the Chamber of Commerce, came before council to request permission to close Jackson Street from Main Street to King Street and Johnston Street from Phelps to Lee Street for the Forsythia Festival on March 12th and March 13th. Mrs. Manus-Pennings stated that the streets will need to be closed Friday night to allow vendors to begin coming in. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to allow the street closings. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

2011 APPOINTMENTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DEFERRED FROM LAST MEETING

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to review one at a time. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Howard stated that Mrs. Hall was reappointed as the City Clerk/Acting City Administrator and Chief Keith Corley was reappointed as the Police Chief at the January 4, 2011 council meeting. Mayor Howard called out each of the department heads name and position.

Alvin Randall, Public Works Director - Mrs. Banks offered a motion not to reappoint Mr. Randall as the Public Works Director. Mr. Calloway seconded the motion. Mr. Lawrence asked if there was a reason for not reappointing and Mr.

Calloway stated that the reason would have to be discussed in executive session. Mr. Lawrence 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 7:07 PM. Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 7:27 PM. Mayor Howard reviewed the motion on the table and called for the vote. The motion ended in a tie with three (3) votes to not reappoint (Dodd, Banks, and Calloway) and three (3) votes against the motion (Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence). Mayor Howard stated that he would not vote. Mr. Hansford offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Randall as the Public Works Director. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion ended in a tie with three (3) votes for (Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence) and three (3) votes against (Dodd, Banks, and Calloway). Mayor Howard voted in the affirmative to reappoint Mr. Randall.

Fire Chief - Mr. Wilson offered a motion to appoint Mr. Brandon Walker as Acting Fire Chief while a search is underway to hire a fire chief. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Johnny Hodges, Electric Superintendent - Mr. Calloway offered a motion not to reappoint Mr. Hodges as Electric Superintendent. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion failed to pass with two (2) votes for (Banks and Calloway) and four (4) votes against (Dodd, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence). Mr. Dodd offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Hodges as Electric Superintendent. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried with four (4) votes for (Dodd, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence) and two (2) votes against (Banks and Calloway).

Steve Jones, Street Supervisor - Mrs. Banks offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Jones as Street Supervisor. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Steve Butler, Garage Supervisor - Mrs. Lawrence offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Butler as Garage Supervisor. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

William Clifton III, Municipal Court Judge - Mrs. Banks offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Clifton. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Davis, Municipal Court Judge, Pro-tem Hac Vice - Mrs. Wilson offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Kristi Rowell, Municipal Court Solicitor - Mrs. Hansford offered a motion to reappoint Mrs. Rowell. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Elmo Remick, Municipal Court Public Defender - Mr. Dodd offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Remick. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Georgia Corrections Corp, Municipal Court Probation Office - Mrs. Banks offered a motion to reappoint Georgia Corrections Corporation. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Bobby Melton, City Attorney Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Melton. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Hodges, Harbin, Newberry, & Tribble, City Water & Sewer Engineers - Mr. Dodd offered a motion to reappoint Hodges, Harbin, Newberry, & Tribble. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

Elmo Richardson & Garry Garretson, Boxankle Plant Engineers and Withdrawal Permit Engineers - Mr. Calloway offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Richardson and Mr. Garretson. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

G.E.C., Landfill Engineers - Mr. Hansford offered a motion to reappoint G.E.C. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

John Hewitt, City Electrical Utility Engineer - Mr. Calloway offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Hewitt. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Buckley & Hopkins, City Financial Auditors - Mr. Wilson offered a motion to reappoint Buckley & Hopkins. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

Charles Grinstead, City Financial Consultant - Mr. Wilson offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Grinstead. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Karen Pitman, Election Superintendent - Mr. Calloway offered a motion to reappoint Mrs. Pitman. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to appoint Mr. Wilson to the Chamber of Commerce Board. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried with five (5) votes for and one (1) abstention (Wilson).

APPROVAL OF ENGAGEMENT LETTER FROM BUCKLEY & HOPKINS FOR THE 2010 AUDIT

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the engagement letter from Buckley & Hopkins for the 2010 audit. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Banks asked if this reflected an increase over the 2009 audit cost and Mrs. Hall stated that it does not.

APPROVAL OF 2011 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mrs. Hall stated that all amendments discussed during the 2011 budget public hearings have been made. Mrs. Hall stated that the Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC) is working on various projects and grants for the city. The money to cover this work was originally budgeted in the Planning & Code Enforcement line item. Mrs. Hall stated to correctly account for this work, the \$18,000 budgeted needs to be moved from salaries to Legal & Professional line item. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the requested budget move. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO PROVIDE SIGNATURE COMMUNITY LETTER FOR BRENTWOOD PLACE APARTMENTS

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to provide a Signature Community letter for Brentwood Place Apartments to be submitted to the DCA along with their application for tax credits. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Banks stated that they will be reviewing the information submitted last year to DCA to find out why they were turned down last year.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR ONLINE UTILITY PAYMENTS WITH TYLER TECHNOLOGIES

Mrs. Hall reviewed the contract stating that this would not only allow customers to pay their utility bills online but to also review their account such as previous usage and payment history. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the contract for online payments

with Tyler Technologies. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Hall stated this will only cover utility bills and not cable bills but she is also working with Subscriber Net to get online payments setup for cable payments.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE ORDINANCE TO INCREASE SALARY FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mr. Calloway offered a motion to advertise an ordinance to increase the salary for all elected officials. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR THE CLEAN AIR COALITION FOR NON-PROFIT STATUS

Mayor Howard reviewed the information stating this will allow the Clean Air Coalition to accept tax exempt donations. Mr. Dodd asked why the City had to approve this for the Clean Air Coalition and Mayor Howard stated the Clean Air Coalition is requesting approval from all cities to show support when presenting to the State for approval. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to table the matter to allow council time to review the information. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion to table carried unanimously. Mrs. Banks asked if there is a deadline for approval and Mayor Howard stated that they would like all approvals by the 3rd Thursday in February for their monthly meeting. Mayor Howard stated that a packet of the information is at the mailboxes for anyone to review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MR. DODD

Mr. Dodd reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the street department committee totals of \$560.96 and the garage department committee totals of \$1,303.43. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd commended the public works department for their work during the ice storm last week. Mr. Dodd stated that he would like to develop a plan for response to emergencies such as this and to make sure that supplies are on hand.

MRS. BANKS

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the public affairs committee totals of \$247.50. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Banks stated that the MGRC has begun the review of the City Ordinances starting with the Noise Ordinance and then the Police Ordinance. This will be an ongoing project until all ordinances have been reviewed.

Mrs. Banks stated that the committee is looking at possible changes for the City Logo.

Mrs Banks offered a motion to advertise the Better Hometown Director position. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Banks stated that the MOU for Phase III of the Streetscape Project has been received by M.A. Mrs. Banks stated that we need to look at the right-of-ways. Mayor Howard stated that he has a verbal from DOT that the R.O.W.'s are clear. Mr. Melton stated that he has received copies of the plats and will need approval from City to move forward to in checking the R.O.W.'s. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to authorize Mr. Melton to verify the R.O.W.'s on Tift College Drive for Phase III of the Streetscape Project. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Howard stated that we need to begin choosing an engineer also. Mrs. Banks stated that the MGRC can work on that after they complete the HVAC and Pest Control RFQ's.

Mrs. Banks stated that she has placed a copy of the summary from the council retreat in each mailbox and asked that each councilmember review the information.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the water department committee totals of \$1,935.10 and the electric department committee totals of \$954.30. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway stated that he has spoken with a company that will provide computer training, CDL licensing instruction, driver's license reinstatement assistance, and counseling sessions to City employees. Mr. Calloway stated that the employees will need to sign up at City Hall.

Mr. Calloway reminded all City employees not to text while driving and to pull to the side of the roadway while on the phone in a city vehicle.

MR. HANSFORD

Mr. Hansford reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$6,468.49 and the telecommunications department committee totals of \$159.25. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford stated that a Town Hall meeting will be held on Monday, February 21st at 6:00 pm in the City Hall Annex. The Town Hall meeting is to review and discuss the cable/internet system and the new city pool project.

MR. WILSON

Mr. Wilson reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the fire department committee totals of \$3,164.15 and the police department committee totals of \$2,695.32. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson stated that the fire chief job description will be rewritten by the next committee meeting.

MR. LAWRENCE

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the parks, recreation, and cemetery department committee totals of \$592.22. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence congratulated the department heads and professionals on their reappointments.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he has received bids for the purchase of a leaf truck and the committee will review them at the next meeting.

Mr. Lawrence reminded everyone that the Town Hall meeting will include discussion on the new pool. Mrs. Banks asked where we stand on the feasibility study. Mrs. Hall stated that she had not heard back from TSW and will contact them.

CITY CLERK REPORT

Mrs. Hall had nothing further to report

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton thanked everyone for his reappointment.

ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Howard reviewed the information discussed during the work session on the MEAG 2011 budget. Mayor Howard stated that the increased cost to the City while the generation plants are down could be as much as a 14% increase.

Mayor Howard stated that he met with Electric Cities of Georgia and General Electric today on a Smart Grid system for meter reading.

Mayor Howard stated that the City has been awarded a grant through the Clean Air Cities Coalition for two vehicles and one sedgeway. Mayor Howard stated that this is an 80/20 matching grant with the total grant being \$76,300 and the city portion being \$15,260.

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to go into executive session for personnel matters. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

Mr. James Green came before council to commend them for doing a good job and stated that he is puzzled about the conflict on the reappointments. Mr. Green stated that if there is a problem with someone, the public has a right to know.

Council adjourned into executive session at 8:15 PM.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 9:05 and there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk