

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 15, 2011

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Mrs. Banks gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO DCA FOR FUNDING FROM THE CDBG

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the adoption of a resolution for DCA funding for the CDBG. Mrs. Banks stated that in preparation for the CDBG application and working with home owners, it was realized that one of the home owners, Lillian Lyons, is related to Councilman James Calloway. Mrs. Banks stated that the purpose of tonight's public hearing and adoption of the amended resolution is to make this relationship a matter of record. Mrs. Banks stated that Mr. Calloway stated that he was not aware that Mrs. Lyons was one of the property owners applying for assistance. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to adopt the resolution for CDBG funding for Housing Rehab. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Dodd, Banks, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Calloway).

KENNY FREEMAN, BROTHER JAMES JOHNSON, AND DARQUITA JOHNSON - JAMES STREET AND OTHER CITY ISSUES

Mr. Kenny Freeman and Brother James Johnson came before council to discuss issues on James Street. Mr. Freeman stated that he is speaking on behalf of the James Street family regarding issues on the street that the newspaper has deemed as the "nobody

street". Mr. Freeman reviewed problems that he had trying to get additional lighting installed on James Street for pedestrian traffic. Mr. Freeman stated that he had tried to contact Mayor Howard, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Randall, and the electrical superintendent without resolution. Mr. Freeman commended Mr. Lawrence for getting the lighting added the next day after being asked to look into the matter. Mr. Johnson stated that his driveway is still not repaired after the construction on the street is complete. Mr. Freeman and Mr. Johnson reviewed problems with the driveways on James Street. Mayor Howard thanked both Mr. Freeman and Mr. Johnson for bringing this matter before council.

APPROVAL OF PLANS FOR FRONT ADDITION TO THE FORSYTH MEDICAL MALL

Mr. Stephen Holland, architect for the Forsyth Medical Mall project, reviewed the overall plan for the site. Mr. Holland stated that a porte-cochere will be added to the front of the building and will be 2 lanes wide and capable of holding four vehicles at a time. Mr. Holland stated that the traffic flow through the property will be improved. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the plans for the front addition to the Forsyth Medical Mall. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

SET DATE FOR HEARING APPEAL REQUESTED BY TONIA MAYS ON DENIAL OF ALCOHOL PACKAGE LICENSE FOR PANSY'S

Mrs. Hall stated that Mrs. Mays has requested an appeal hearing on the denial of a beer and wine package license for her place of business, Pansy's. Mr. Hansford offered a motion to hold the appeal hearing during the next city council meeting on April 5th. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Melton stated that the appeal is provided for by City Code and appeals are to come back before City Council. Mr. Dodd asked about notification to those that attended the public hearing to speak against the approval of the license and if anyone will be allowed to speak during the appeal hearing. Mr. Melton stated that it is at council's discretion whether to allow input during the appeal hearing. Mr. Hansford stated that this is not a public hearing but is to hear from Mrs. Mays and Mr. Melton stated that this too is at council's discretion but is not required.

APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION MEMBERSHIP AND UPDATE ON CLEAN AIR COALITION FROM MAYOR

Mayor Howard stated that the invoice for the renewal membership for the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition is included in the packets. Mayor Howard reviewed the flyer previously provided to council regarding the projects the Clean Air Coalition is working on. Mr. Hansford offered a motion to approve the membership renewal. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Lawrence asked if the invoice includes the county or if it is for the city only and Mayor Howard replied that the invoice is for the city and the amount of the invoice is based on population.

RENEWAL OF FUEL DEPOT CONTRACT WITH MONROE COUNTY

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the renewal of the fuel depot contract with Monroe County. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION TAX

Mayor Howard stated that a list of the county projects has been received and is available for review in the clerk's office. Mayor Howard stated that the list is due by the end of March. Mayor Howard reviewed HB277 and stated that any roads or bridges inside the city need to be included whether it is city, county, or DOT governed. Mrs. Banks asked if a list of public works projects exists that would provide starting place or will council be beginning at ground zero. Mayor Howard stated that no list exists to this magnitude. Mrs. Banks asked if this is something that the public works committee can develop and Mayor Howard stated that all members of council need to be included as the list is all inclusive. Mr. Hansford stated that this can go through committee with all members of council participating. Mayor Howard stated that the list submitted cannot be changed in any way after it is submitted. Mrs. Banks stated that this is contingent upon the tax being passed by the voters.

APPROVAL OF SOFTWARE CONTRACT WITH CSI FOR POLICE AND COURT

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the contract with Courtware Solutions Inc. for software for the police department and for the court. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Wilson stated that the cost of the software is covered by the \$10 per ticket that is already added to each ticket.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MR. DODD

Mr. Dodd reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the garage department committee totals of \$2,587.44. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Dodd stated that he passes approval of the public works department invoices on to Mrs. Banks.

MRS. BANKS

Mrs. Banks reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the public works department committee totals of \$6,976.87 (including one invoice from Dodd Builders Supply). Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Dodd).

Mrs. Banks reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the public affairs department committee totals of \$1,241.31. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Banks thanked all city employees for their involvement in the Forsythia Festival.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the water department committee totals of \$8,722.79 and the electric department committee totals of \$5,893.65. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway stated that the public utilities committee met with the Monroe County Development Authority to review changes to be made to the Indian Springs Business Park in regards to the sewer lines. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the requested changes to the Indian Springs Business Park. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Calloway requested an update on the house on Highway 83. Mrs. Hall stated that she has received reports from two different companies regarding the asbestos in the remaining structure. Mrs. Hall stated that one report shows significant asbestos in the back portion of the house while the other report shows only a small amount of asbestos in

the tin roof on the front of the house. Mrs. Hall stated with conflicting reports she cannot get bids from contractors to demolish and remove the structure. Mrs. Hall will get a third report.

Mr. Calloway stated that council needs to move forward on reviewing the applications received for the city administrator position.

MR. HANSFORD

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to approve the administrative department committee totals of \$1,118.25; the court department committee totals of \$35; and the cable department committee totals of \$227.07. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford stated that a date needs to be set to begin reviewing the resumes received for the city administrator position. After a brief discuss, a meeting was set for March 23rd at 11:00 am.

MR. WILSON

Mr. Wilson reviewed invoices totaling over \$500 for each vendor and offered a motion to approve the police department committee totals of \$4,876.68 and the fire department committee totals of \$2,816.76. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson handed out a timeline for the fire chief search. Mr. Wilson stated that if the timeline is followed a new fire chief can be announced at the April 5th council meeting.

Mr. Wilson commended the police department for their swift work at the break-in at Castleberry's Drug Store.

Mr. Wilson commended the police and fire departments for their work and presence at the Forsythia Festival.

Mr. Wilson stated that the public safety committee is reviewing specifications for a new fire truck to be purchased with SPLOST funds.

Interim Fire Chief Brandon Walker stated that the fire department has submitted an application for a Homeland Security Grant which is a 100% grant for the purchase of an air trailer with a primary mover. Interim Chief Walker stated that we are currently #4 on the approval list and should know in September if approved for funding.

MR. LAWRENCE

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the recreation department committee totals of \$47.63 and the cemetery department committee totals of \$87.48. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence stated that the parks/recreation/cemetery committee will meet on March 23rd at 10:00 am.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he has appointed an advisory board for the recreation committee which consists of Mr. William Calloway, Mr. Ron Shipman, and Mr. Charles Wilder Jr.

Mr. Lawrence asked if the land behind the pool area at Country Club Park belongs to the City. Mr. Melton stated that the land was deeded to the County with the restriction to use for recreation and if not used for recreation the property would revert back to the City. Mr. Hansford stated that the property is used for practice fields. Mr. Dodd stated that the property will be needed for the overall recreation plan.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he is still working on naming several walkways after local citizens.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he continues to feel that if looking at contributions to non-profit must look at all and then budget the contributions in the 2012 budget. Mrs. Banks stated that a survey on Central Georgia is underway to see what other cities do and also what the city previously did for the non-profits that were contributed to.

Mrs. Banks asked if the pool survey has been done yet and Mrs. Hall stated that the feasibility study is done but a report has not been received yet. Mrs. Hall stated that TSW has requested permission to move forward with a survey but she has advised them that council approved the feasibility study and would make a decision as to how to move forward once the report is received. Mrs. Hall stated that TSW has reported that the feasibility report should be complete by the end of March.

CITY CLERK REPORT

Mrs. Hall had nothing further to report.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton stated that letters went out yesterday to all property owners involved in the Railroad Avenue project for easements.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Mayor Howard thanked the police and fire departments for their presence at the Forsythia Festival. Mrs. Hall added a “thank you” to the public works department and the electric department for their work before, during, and after the festival.

Mr. Pat Wright, Utilities Partners, reviewed the two proposals received for the engineering for the filters work at the Russellville Plant. Mr. Wright stated that Richardson and Garretson submitted a cost of \$8,975 and HHNT submitted a cost of \$3,500. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to award the engineering to HHNT. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Wright stated that the filters will change the design of the plant and the EPD is requiring the engineering before the work can be performed.

Mr. Wright stated that the first phase of the Watershed Protection Plan for the NE Plant must be engineered. Mr. Wright stated that Richardson and Garretson submitted a cost of \$24,850 and HHNT submitted a cost of \$26,800. Mr. Wright stated that Richardson and Garretson have the experience and contacts to expedite the process. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to award the engineering to Richardson and Garretson. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wright requested permission to bring in the city engineers, HHNT, to consult on a forced air leak underground to see if a contractor needs to be brought in. Mr. Wright stated that Utility Partners has little experience in this area and needs direction from the engineers. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to consult with engineer. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Wright stated that he will bring the matter back to committee if a contractor needs to be brought in.

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel and pending litigation matters. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 8:25 pm.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 9:35 pm. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to rescind the contract with Carlson Environmental for work on the methane project. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to employ HHNT to assist in the invitation to bid on capturing and venting methane gas at the Old Brant Road landfill. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk