

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 5, 2011

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mr. Calloway gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

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

Council member Jo Anna Banks was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes (Dodd, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 21, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2011 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

JOHN WATTS, JR. REQUEST TO HOLD EVENT ON JULY 30, 2011 ON THE SQUARE

Mr. Watts was not present for the meeting. Mrs. Hall stated that she has spoken with Mr. Watts and he wants to hold an event similar to the Back to School events that the Police Department and BHT have held in the past. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the request if it is that type of event. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hansford. Mr. Lawrence stated that he would like to hear from the person organizing the event to make sure of the type of event being held, the time of the event, and any assistance that will be required from the city. Mr. Lawrence stated that the event held in June was approved prior to the City hiring a BHT Director but all future events should go through Mrs. Khoury now. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to table the matter until Mr. Watts can come before council and discuss the event. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried with four (4) votes for (Dodd, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence) and one (1) vote against (Calloway).

PUBLIC HEARING – AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 23 (UTILITIES)
INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAYMENT

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of amendments to Chapter 23 – Utilities. Mr. Melton reviewed the matter before council and stated that this was properly advertised in the June 22nd and June 29th issues of the Reporter and that this will involve the deletion of one section and replace that section with other wording. Mrs. Hall reviewed the proposed changes to the ordinance stating that the current ordinance only states that arrangements on the utility bill can be made and does not provide for any parameters. Mrs. Hall stated that Section 23-120(c)(3) will be deleted and replaced with “If arrangements for payments are made prior to the cut-off day”. Mrs. Hall stated that a policy governing arrangements has been written and read the policy which stipulates that arrangements must be made prior to the disconnect date, a maximum of seven (7) days beyond the disconnect date can be approved by all city hall staff, failure of two (2) arrangements within a twelve (12) month period will place the customer on a no arrangement status for the next twelve (12) months, and that all arrangements will be tracked in the computer. Mr. Dodd questioned what was meant by “all city hall staff” and Mrs. Hall responded that all city hall staff that now takes utility payments will now be authorized to make arrangements.

Hearing no further comments for or against the approval of the amendment to the ordinance, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Hansford offered a motion to approve the amendment to Chapter 23 as stated. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the policy governing arrangements. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPROVAL OF VARIANCE REQUEST FROM
GEORGE WILLIS TO ALLOW DUPLEX IN R-3 ZONING FOR 3 LOTS ON
WILLIS WILDER DRIVE

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the variance request from Mr. George Willis. Mr. Melton reviewed the variance application and stated that this matter has been before the Planning & Zoning Commission for their recommendation. Mr. Melton stated that P&Z recommends approval provided that the duplex size be increased to 900 square feet per unit; that the

duplexes include lots 32 through 35 for the 3 duplexes; and that adequate setback of 20' be established from property lines to each duplex unit. Mr. Melton stated that the variance request is to allow 3 2-family dwellings in an R-3 Zone on four lots in Block A of Hillcrest Subdivision. Mr. Willis was not present for the public hearing.

Hearing no further comments for or against the approval of the variance request, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Hansford offered a motion to accept the recommendation from Planning & Zoning with the requested conditions. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried with four (4) votes for (Dodd, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Calloway).

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES

Mrs. Hall stated accounts payable invoices to be approved total \$207,351.44 with \$195,705.69 from general funds and \$11,645.75 from SPLOST funds. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the accounts payable invoices. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Howard asked that each council member be provided a copy of the ledger for the invoices and Mrs. Hall stated that each council member receives the portion of the report that covers their departmental committee. Mayor Howard requested that a copy of the ledger report be included with the minutes.

BETTER HOMETOWN REPORT

- Mrs. Loraine Khoury offered the following report:
- Farmers Market is going well; she will be attending the Mulberry Street Farmers Market in Macon tomorrow to see if any of those vendors would like to participate in our market; collecting \$5 per vendor each Friday and have collected \$85 to-date which will go towards to cost of the porta-john for the market.
 - Fireworks display was a great success with over 1,000 viewers inside the park and several hundred viewing from outside the park
 - Working with Chan Layson, RDC, on the Opportunity Zone and will bring additional information as that progresses
 - Working on the HPC District designation

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MR. DODD

Mr. Dodd offered the following report from the public works department:

- Reviewed the Parks & Recreation Class that he attended at the recent GMA Conference; reviewed discussion held with vendor attending the conference on the cost of a street sweeper
- Good report received from Mr. Alvin Randall during the work session

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway offered the following report from the public utilities committee:

- Electric department had 2 blown transformers that had to be replaced last week
- An independent contractor will be trimming trees around the city and they are working on West Johnston Street this week

MR. HANSFORD

Mr. Hansford offered the following report from the administrative and telecommunication committees:

- Conference call is planned with Mr. Paul Williams to discuss the cable system RFQ
- Reviewed the training class he attended at the GMA Conference

MR. WILSON

Mr. Wilson offered the following report from the public safety committee:

- Reviewed the public safety committee meeting held today and thanked Chief Herndon for the statistics reports presented to the committee; the fire department ran 94 calls in June
- The new fire truck has been ordered and delivery is expected in January 2012
- Reviewed the training class he attended at the GMA Conference

MR. LAWRENCE

Mr. Lawrence offered the following report from the parks, recreation, and cemetery committees:

- Reviewed the training class he attended at the GMA Conference
- An auto show will be held at Kynette Park on July 9th and 10th; all future events will be handled by Mrs. Khoury

CITY CLERK REPORT

Mrs. Hall reminded everyone of the Hotel Tax Class being held on July 13th at Aldermen Hall from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. Mrs. Hall stated this class is being held using customer service hours paid monthly to Electric Cities of Georgia.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton reviewed the attorney training held during the GMA conference and stated that a full report has been mailed to Mrs. Hall.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Mr. Hansford stated that the next council meeting will be July 19th and mayor and council will be attending the MEAG Conference in Amelia Island that week. Mr. Hansford offered a motion to cancel the July 19, 2011 City Council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 7:45 pm.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back in open session at 8:45 pm and with no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk