

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 20, 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. 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 Administrator, Thomas White; City Attorney, Bobby Melton; and City Clerk, Janice Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2011 council meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF CITY SOLICITOR

Mr. Hansford offered a motion to appoint Mrs. Amy Boyer as City Solicitor for the Municipal Court. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CITY VEHICLE POLICY

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the city vehicle policy. Mr. Hansford seconded the motion. Mr. White stated that there is one change on page 4 to add that city council must approve all additions or changes. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH MORELAND ALTABELLI ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR ENGINEERING WORK FOR THE KYNETTE PARK LAND & WATER CONSERVATION GRANT

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the agreement with Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc. for engineering work at Kynette Park on the Land & Water Conservation Grant. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Dodd asked if the total cost will be \$6,000 and Mr. Lawrence stated that is the maximum amount the State will allow on this grant.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO CITY CODE CHAPTER 16 – POLICE ORDINANCE

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of amendments to City Code Chapter 16, Police Ordinance. Mr. Melton reviewed that this was first brought before council on August 16, 2011 and advertised in the September 7th and 14th issues of the Reporter. Mrs. Banks stated this ordinance was drafted by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission and reviewed by the public safety committee. Hearing no further comments for or against the adoption

of the ordinance amendments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the amendments to Chapter 16 Police Ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS

Mayor Howard read the proclamation naming September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES

Mrs. Hall stated the general operating invoices for approval totals \$265,081.81 and the SPLOST invoices for approval totals \$5,269.15 for a grand total of \$270,350.96. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the accounts payable invoices. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MR. DODD

Mr. Dodd offered the following report for the public works committee:

- Banner arms for Streetscape I & II were not included in the original order for the pedestrian lights. JHC has submitted a Change Order for a reduction of \$5,690 for the cost of the banner arms. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the Change Order for the credit for the banner arms. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.
- A meeting will be called next week for Streetscape Phase III.

MRS. BANKS

Mrs. Banks offered the following report for the public affairs committee:

- Mrs. Hall is doing research on the hotel/motel tax program being offered by GMA.
- Committee rejected all bids on the pest control and will be sending out a new RFP.

Mr. Carter, Zoning Officer, reported on the following zoning issues:

- o 275 N. Lee Street – Planning & Zoning voted to recommend approval of a variance to setback requirements. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to advertise the variance. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Melton stated the public hearing will be held at the second meeting in October.
- o 108 Sharp Street – no response has been received from the property owner. Mr. Carter asked that council move forward with declaring the property as a public nuisance. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to move forward with declaring the property a public nuisance. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Calloway asked the owner would be given 30 days to respond and Mr. Melton agreed that they would.

- Blount Street - property adjacent to 73 Blount Street – no response has been received from the property owner. Mr. Carter asked that council move forward with declaring the property as a public nuisance. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to move forward with declaring the property a public nuisance. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Melton stated that the property in question is listed on the tax maps as F18 048.
- Mr. Carter stated that Allan Crotts, owner of the strip mall property adjacent to the old Wal-mart building is considering selling a parcel within the strip mall property. Mr. Carter stated this is just for information for council.

MR. CALLOWAY

Mr. Calloway had no report from the public utilities committee.

MR. HANSFORD

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

- Working on several policies for review by the administrative committee.
- Reviewed meeting held with Mr. Jim Faircloth and offered a motion from the telecommunications committee to contract with Mr. Faircloth for an appraisal on the cable system. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Mr. Melton reviewed that the contract is with JKF Media for value of system only for a total cost of \$3,600 plus expenses with a 25% retainer and balance due at conclusion. The out of pocket expenses are not to exceed \$500. Mr. Melton stated that no timeframe is listed in the contract. Mr. Hansford stated that a meeting was held with Paul Williams last week and this contract does not eliminate Mr. Williams' services. Mr. White stated that Mr. Williams does a lot of work behind the scenes that staff could not do. Mrs. Banks stated that the value of the system is needed. Mr. Dodd asked where the money would come from to pay for Mr. Faircloths' services and Mr. Hansford stated not sure which line item the fee will come from. The motion carried unanimously.

MR. WILSON

Mr. Wilson had no report from the public safety committee.

MR. LAWRENCE

Mr. Lawrence offered the following report from the parks/recreation/cemetery committee:

- Kynette Park project is underway.
- Committee meeting is scheduled for September 28th at 11:00 am.

- Reviewed Land Bank class attended and will be reviewing the information with Mr. Carter.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. White reviewed the costing obtained at council request for the hybrid vehicles at \$24,000 for a Toyota Prius, and Ford hybrids are \$28,000. Mr. White stated that these are estimates only and final cost would be received when an order is placed. Mr. White stated that he would like to use these vehicles in the meter reading department to increase gas mileage. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to enable the funding and asked who would decide on the model of vehicle ordered and what the delivery time would be. Mrs. Banks asked if Steve Butler would be able to work on these vehicles and Mr. White stated the vehicles would come with a 10-year warranty. Mayor Howard stated that we could possibly get additional funding from DOT for additional vehicles. The motion failed for the lack of a second.

CITY CLERK REPORT

Mrs. Hall had nothing further to report.

CITY ATTORNEY

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Mr. Dodd 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 7:50 pm.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 8:10 pm.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to rescind the August 2, 2011 motion regarding the designation of department heads. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Mr. Lawrence asked that the motion be restated and Mr. Dodd restated his motion. The motion failed with two (2) votes for (Dodd and Wilson) and four (4) votes against (Banks, Calloway, Hansford, and Lawrence).

Mr. Antwain Pitman came before council stating that he hit a pot hole on Lovers Lane and the city insurance company has denied his claim. Mr. Pitman stated that he brought everything to City Hall including a police report and pictures. Mr. Pitman stated that it took a long time for the insurance company to get in touch with him and they said that the City was not responsible as they were not aware of the pot hole. Mr. Pitman stated that he previously worked for the City and knew the pot hole was there. Mr. Pitman asked if something else could be done to cover the cost of his tire replacement and Mayor Howard stated that the City is not in the habit of paying when the insurance company denies a claim. Mr. Calloway stated that Mr. Pitman called him and asked him what to do and he referred him

to Mr. Randall. Mr. Pitman stated that the tire cost \$600. Mr. Wilson asked that copies of the report and pictures be made for council and Mr. Pitman stated that he would get copies.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk