

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 18, 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. Calloway 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 OCTOBER 4, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING

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

APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Mrs. Banks offered a motion to appoint Mrs. Laurie Kuckuck to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Calloway seconded the motion. Mrs. Banks stated that Mrs. Kuckuck has been interviewed and is willing to service on the commission. Mr. Lawrence asked if any additional members are needed and Mrs. Banks stated that one more is needed and asked that any potential members names be given to Mr. White. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR TIGER GRANT APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR STREETScape PHASE III

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the resolution with a 10% match and up to 5% in-kind match. Mrs. Banks seconded the motion. Mr. Dodd stated that the match would be a maximum of 15% with funding to be spread over the next 2 years. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF C.O.P.S. GRANT FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to accept the COPS Grant. Mr. Hansford seconded the motion. Mr. Wilson stated that the grant is to fund one new officers' salary and benefits for 3 years for \$149,733 and was effective September 1, 2011 and includes the

requirement to keep the officer for one year after the expiration of the grant. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR VARIANCE APPLICATION FROM A&S BUSINESS PROPERTY, LLC FOR 275 N. LEE STREET

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the variance application for A&S Business Property, LLC for 275 N. Lee Street. Mr. Melton reviewed the application stating that Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of the variance on September 19th; this first came before council on September 20th; was properly advertised in the September 28th, October 5th and October 12th issues of the Reporter; this variance relates to the setback requirements for front, rear, and Tradewinds Drive sides of the property; and the property is zoned HB which will not change. Mrs. Banks asked how this variance relates to the Corridor Overlay and Mr. Melton stated that was not an issue at Planning & Zoning. Mrs. Banks asked if this is only for the setbacks and not for the signage or materials and Mr. Melton agreed. Mr. Wilson asked for a timeframe. Mr. Lee Meriwether, engineer for the project, stated that it will take approximately one week to tear down the old building and at least 90 days to rebuild. Mr. Meriwether stated that the new building will have the convenience store plus two retail stores. Hearing no further comments for or against the variance application, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the setback variance as requested. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Banks stated that the property owner will now need to work with Design & Review for the building as we have the Corridor Overlay in place and need to make sure that it is followed.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ABATEMENT OF PUBLIC NUISANCE FOR 108 SHARP STREET – WILLIE AND MARY LOIS HARDY OWNERS

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the abatement of a public nuisance for 108 Sharp Street. Mr. Melton stated that this matter first came before council on September 20th; notice to property owner was mailed via certified mail to the address listed in the tax assessor's records and delivery was signed for on September 26th; and this matter was properly advertised in the September 28th, October 5th, and October 12th issues of the Reporter. Mayor Howard read a letter

received today via hand-delivery from Mr. Bob Harris, attorney for the property owner, requesting that the public hearing be postponed to allow the property owner time to demolish the structure on the property. Mrs. Banks asked if it is not proper procedure to allow additional time at the public nuisance public hearing and Mr. Melton state that has been customary procedure. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to allow the property owner 45 days to clean the property. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ABATEMENT OF PUBLIC NUISANCE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON BLOUNT STREET ON TAX MAPS AS F18 PARCEL 48 – MARY ANN WILLIS, ET AL

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the abatement of a public nuisance for the property on Blount Street shown on the tax maps as F18 Parcel 48 and owned by Mary Ann Willis Et Al. Mr. Melton stated that this matter first came before council on September 20th; notice to property owner was mailed via certified mail to the address listed in the tax assessor's records and to an address provided by a relative to the property owner and delivery was signed for on October 7th and 12th; and this matter was properly advertised in the September 28th, October 5th, and October 12th issues of the Reporter. Mr. White stated that the structure was torn down today. Mrs. Hall stated that the owners grandson came to City Hall today and reported that the structure has been torn down and they are in the process of hauling off the materials and will then put down hay until the family decides what to do with the property. Mrs. Willis' daughter came before council to report that she did not receive either of the notices and found out that the public hearing was being held when she went to the tax office to pay the property taxes. Mrs. Willis stated that she previously changed the address with the tax assessor's office. Mr. Melton stated that the address in the tax assessors' records is P O Box 414, Forsyth Ga. Mrs. Willis stated that address has not been her mailing address in a number of years and requested additional time to complete the demolition of the property. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to allow an additional 30 days to complete the demolition. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES

Mrs. Hall stated the general operating invoices for approval totals \$244,687.95 and the special fund invoices for approval totals \$82,543.90 for a grand total of \$327,231.85. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to approve the accounts payable invoices. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MR. DODD

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

- Reviewed the Landfill Methane Extraction project
- Mr. Alfred Gantt completed the addition of a handicap ramp at Johnston and Jackson Streets

MRS. BANKS

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

- Vacancy on Design & Review Board that must be filled by a member of the HPC Board; Mr. White to talk with the members of the HPC for a possible D&R Board member
- Housing Authority Board members also being reviewed by Mr. White
- Frank Vaughan volunteering time to work on city limits boundary
- Offered motion to allocate \$4,500 in the 2012 budget for pursuit of government agencies and recruitment if other entities agree to participate and contribute their portion on the project. Seconded by Mr. Calloway, the motion carried unanimously.

MR. CALLOWAY

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

- A meeting will be held to review the water issues of either rehab of Boxankle Plant or go in with county on their water plant. Mr. Calloway encouraged everyone to attend the meeting

MR. HANSFORD

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

- Telecommunications committee will meet as soon as the report is submitted from Mr. Faircloth
- Administrative committee will meet Thursday at 11:00 am

MR. WILSON

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

- Public Safety committee will meet November 1, 2011 at 3:30 pm

MR. LAWRENCE

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

- Kynette Park project is moving forward
- Parks/recreation committee will meet Thursday at 2:00 pm

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. White reported that the contractor on the Tradewinds sewer line project will be meeting with the DOT to determine how to retrieve a piece of equipment stuck in rock under the interstate. Mrs. Banks asked if the piece of equipment precludes them from working and Mr. White responded that the contractor is waiting on a decision from DOT before doing any additional work.

MAYOR HOWARD

Mayor Howard reviewed meeting attended in Monroe today where Mr. Bob Johnston, MEAG, gave an update on the 2012 budget and that gas powered generating plants are being studied due to lower cost of gas to fuel the plants.

Mayor Howard thanked Mr. Frank Vaughan for his work on the city limits boundary.

Mayor Howard reviewed the Get Into Energy Week and the career opportunities available through the GEICC program.

CITY CLERK REPORT

Mrs. Hall had nothing further to report.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

Mrs. Banks reminded everyone of the public forum October 24, 2011 at Aldermen Hall at 6:30 pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk