

MINUTES

DECEMBER 4, 2012

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting was Mayor John 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 NOVEMBER 5th AND NOVEMBER 13th

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the minutes from November 5, 2012 and November 13, 2012 as written. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence)..

POLICE DEPARTMENT STATE CERTIFICATION PRESENTATION

Forsyth Chief of Police, Keith Corley, reviewed with council the police departments goal to become State Certified and how hard they worked to succeed. Bob Sanderson, Forsyth Certification Manager, reviewed with Mr. s the process to obtain State Certification. Sergeant Bill Kirkendall, Hinesville Police Department Accreditation Manager, presented Chief Corley with the State Certification, stating the onsite visit with the Forsyth Police Department was one of the best he had ever participated. Sandy Talley, Pooler Police Department and Secretary of Accreditation Managers, presented Officer Sanderson with the certification plaque, stating she too was impressed with the police department. Only 100 of 750 departments are currently certified in the State of Georgia. To maintain certification the police department will have to participate in the process each year.

CURTIS REEVES

Mr. Reeves came before council to request the outcome of their last meeting. Mayor Howard stated that Mr. Pat Wright had no recollection of the conversation. Mayor Howard stated that an person who wishes to remain anonymous, has stated that the city did tell Mr. Reeves to do the work. Mr. Melton reviewed with council the past events: Barbara Zellner settled with the city and released the city of all damages at the property with payment of settlement and installation of back flow prevention valve which the city paid to install. Mr. Reeves stated that he understood the city was settled with Mrs. Zellner, but his bill was submitted before the settlement and the settlement has nothing to do with his work. Mr. Reeves

stated that he found the problem and presented it to the city. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to refer this matter to the finance committee for further review. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence).

PURCHASE OF EXCESS POWER

Mr. White stated that MEAG determined on peak days the city will be short on required power. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the agreement with the City of Monroe to purchase excess power. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence)..

PUBLIC HEARING – ABATEMENT – MILLEDGE CIRCLE PROPERTY

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the abatement of the property. Mr. Melton stated this first came before council on October 16, 2012; an abatement notice had been sent to the owner, Mr. Wallace Rutland, on October 16, 2012; this was properly advertised the abatement on November 7, November 14, November 21, and November 28 issues of the Reporter. Mr. Rutland came before council and apologized for the condition of the property and stated that he has started tearing down the building but ask for a little more time. Mr. Rutland explained that he needed some way to dispose of the material such as a dumpster, but was open to other suggestions. Mr. Calloway suggested talking to the fire department about a burning the building. Mr. Rutland asked for an additional 120 days to have property completely cleared. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the additional 120 days. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence)..

PUBLIC HEARING – ABATEMENT – 228 OLD WATERWORKS ROAD PROPERTY

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the abatement of the property. Mr. Melton stated the property is located at 228 Old Waterworks Road; an abatement notice had been mailed to the property owner, Robert Lee Morgan, on October 16, 2012 and Mr. Morgan has acknowledged receipt of the notice; and this was properly advertised in the November 7, November 14, November 21, and November 28 issues of the Reporter. Mr. Morgan stated that he is working to clear the property, but needs more time. Mrs. Betty Singleton who is also helping to clear the property informed the council that through clean up

they discovered the structure had more than one roof that needed to be removed. Currently, Mr. Morgan is using a dumpster to remove the debris. Mr. Carter informed the council Mr. Morgan was given 120 days to clear property in May 2012, but little progress had been made. Mr. Wilson suggested that if the extension is granted, that a report should be required from Mr. Carter in 60 days. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to grant Mr. Morgan 180 days to clear property, with a 60-day report on status of the clean up by Mr. Carter. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence)..

PUBLIC HEARING – ABATEMENT – 281 PINKNEY CIRCLE PROPERTY

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the abatement of the property. Mr. Melton stated the property is located at 281 Pinkney Circle; an abatement notice was mailed to the property owner, Robert Lee Pittman, on October 16, 2012; this was properly advertised in the November 7, November 14, November 21, and November 28 issues of the Reporter. Mr. Carter reported that building had been inspected and was noted as a total loss. Mr. Pittman indicated to Mr. Carter in a phone conversation that he would be pleased if the city would remove the structure and place a lien on the property. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Hansford offered a motion to have the city remove the structure and to place a lien on the property. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence).

PUBLIC HEARING – ABATEMENT – 66 JONES STREET PROPERTY

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the abatement of the property. Mr. Melton stated the property is located at 66 Jones Street property; this first came before council on October 16' 2012 and an abatement notice had been sent to the owner, Diversified Capital, on the same day; this was property advertised in the November 7, November 14, November 21 and November 28 issues of the Reporter. Mr. Otis Ingram, owner of Diversified Capital, came before council and stated that he received notice about the condition of the structure last May and feels bad that the work has not been completed. Mr. Ingram explained to the council that he was working on some of his other properties and was leaving the one at 66 Jones Street to be completed last because it was in worse condition than the others. Mr. Ingram

expected to have the other properties completed in a shorter timeframe. Mr. Ingram also stated although the outer appearance gives a false impression of the condition of the house as the tin roof has protected the integrity of the inside of the house. However, Mr. Ingram stated that it will cost approximately \$50,000 and 3 months to complete the renovations. Due to this cost, Mr. Ingram stated he will need to tear down the structure. Mr. Ingram ask that he be given 120 days starting after the first on the year to demolish the house while keeping what material can be reused. Mrs. Banks stated that she has been talking with Mr. Ingram for over 3 years about his properties and challenged Mr. Ingram as a major property owner in the city to paint and keep up his properties. Mr. Ingram reviewed the maintenance schedule for his properties. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to grant Mr. Ingram until April 30, 2013 to clear property. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence)..

670 JULIETTE ROAD

Mr. Carter stated the owners of the property at 670 Juliette Road have applied for demolition permit and should begin clearing the structure as soon as they obtain a dumpster. The owner should have the property cleared in 120 days. Mr. Carter will provide an update in 60 days.

PUBLIC HEARING – CITY CODE AMENDMENT – SECTIONS 2-7 AND 2-8

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the adoption of the ordinance. Mr. Melton stated this first came before council on November 5, 2012; has been properly advertised in the November 21 and November 28 issues of the Reporter; and if adopted will become effective immediately unless stated otherwise in the motion. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to adopt the amendments to Sections 2-7 and 2-8 of the City Code. Mr. Hansford seconded the motion. Mr. White pointed out an error on page 5 and page 10 and Mr. Melton stated that those typographical errors will be corrected tomorrow if the amendments are adopted. Mr. Dodd asked how this will effect the Ethics Ordinance already in place and Mr. Melton stated that the ethics portion of this ordinance pertains to the purchasing. Mr. Dodd stated that he wants to make sure that there is not a conflict between this ordinance and the existing Ethics Ordinance. Mr. Dodd asked if this creates law and Mr. Melton stated that it does and any violation of this ordinance would be a

violation of law and oath of office. There was a lengthy discussion as to whether this should be a policy with the ordinance only referring to the policy rather than making the full purchasing policy a purchasing ordinance. Mr. Melton stated that the vote on November 5th was to advertise to change the city ordinance and Mr. White approved the draft of this ordinance. Mayor Howard stated that it is currently an ordinance and this is just an amendment to that ordinance. Mrs. Banks stated that most purchases are approved in the budget and the department heads are very mindful of what they are spending. Mrs. Banks offered a motion to amend her motion to adopt the ordinance with an effective date of January 1, 2013. Mr. Hansford seconded the amended motion. The motion carried with five (5) votes for (Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence) and one (1) vote against (Dodd).

ELECTRIC CITIES FY2014

Mr. White reported the ECG needs an estimate of what the city will subscribe to for their FY2014, effective July 2013. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the non-binding intent form with Electric Cities FY2014. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence).

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Mrs. Hall reviewed the purchase orders for approval total \$73,659.99. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the purchase orders. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence).

Mrs. Hall reviewed the recurrent invoices for approval total \$231,808.99. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the recurrent invoices. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Lawrence

- thanked everyone for sponsoring 12 children to participate in the Georgia Sports Alliance; the event will be held December 22, 2012
- reported the committee was moving forward with playground equipment for Kynette Park. The equipment is being purchased with SPLOST dollars
- commend the Chamber of Commerce on a great Holiday Parade

Mr. Wilson

- offered congratulations to the Forsyth Police Department stating the state certification is a great distinction for both the police department and the city

Mr. Hansford

- announced there will be an Administrative Committee meeting Thursday at 11:00AM
- reminded council a retreat needs to be scheduled by the year's end – Mr. White will put together some dates

Mr. Calloway

- Mr. Calloway offered a motion to move the council meetings up to 6:00PM. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence).
- Mr. Calloway offered a motion to give employees with 20 years or more 4 weeks of vacation time. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence)..
- there will be a Public Utilities Committee meeting December 10th at 8:30AM to open RFP for water/wastewater operations management

Mr. Banks

- announced the “How to Start a Business” brochures are now available
- needs Gaming Ordinance information back from staff
- Regional Commission is working on alcohol ordinance amendments

Mr. Dodd

- announced there will be a Public Works Committee meeting December 10th at 9:00AM to open RFPs for solid waste

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. White reviewed the information from MEAG regarding the voluntary deposits into the Municipal Competitive Trust. Mr. White stated that MEAG has added the new accounts for deposits to be made into and asked that council let him know if they want to participate. Mr. White stated that the credits for the Trust for 2013 will be \$818,412 or 68,201 per month.

Mr. White recommended the following Christmas bonus amounts: \$300 to all full-time employees who have worked a year or more; \$150 to full-time employees who have worked less than a year; and \$100 to part-time employees. Mr. Calloway offered a motion to approve the

Christmas Bonus recommendation amounts. Seconded by Mr. Hansford, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Banks, Calloway, Hansford, Wilson, and Lawrence).

CITY CLERK REPORT

Mrs. Hall reviewed the information received from Mr. Richard Russell, McGinty Gordon, for the worker's compensation renewal through GMA. Mrs. Hall stated that the resolution is not due until December 28th so council can review the information and this will be placed on the December 18th agenda for approval.

Mrs. Hall asked for clarification on the effective date for the additional week of vacation and Mr. Calloway stated it will be effective for calendar year 2013.

Mrs. Hall asked for clarification as to when the Christmas bonus checks should be ready and by general consensus council agreed that the bonus checks should be ready as soon as possible.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Howard reported that is currently working on the budget for next year.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Mr. Fred Dungan asked that the hole in Sunset Terrace be repaired. The road was cut in midsummer to repair water lines, but the hole is still in the road.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:15PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk