

## **MINUTES**

### **FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL CALLED MEETING**

**OCTOBER 17, 2013**

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Present for the meeting was Mayor John Howard, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Jo Anna Banks, Eric Wilson, and Melvin Lawrence, which constituted a quorum of the city council. Also present was City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Administrator, Thomas White; and City Clerk, Janice Hall.

#### **DISCUSSION OF LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX AND APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF DISTRIBUTION**

Mayor Howard stated that he has spoken with Commissioners Patsy Miller and Joe Proctor and both are open to additional discussions. Mayor Howard stated that he contacted Mrs. Anita Cauthen to ask if the commissioners were willing to call a meeting today to discuss the LOST but he has not heard back from her. Mr. Melton stated that the LOST is in litigation and could be discussed in executive session. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and to include Mr. Mike Dillon, County Attorney, in the executive session. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Banks, Wilson, and Lawrence). Council adjourned into executive session at 9:05 am.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 9:50 am. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to recess until 1:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Banks, Wilson, and Lawrence). The meeting was in recess from 9:50 am until 1:00 pm.

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to reconvene the meeting in open session at 1:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting was called back to order by Mayor Howard.

Mayor Howard stated that he has spoken with Commission Chairman Mike Bilderback and he will try to make it to the meeting and he was also trying to contact the commissioners to see if they were willing to call an emergency meeting. Chairman

Bilderback arrived at the meeting shortly after Mayor Howard called the meeting to order. Chairman Bilderback stated that he was not able to get a meeting together with the commissioners due to the short timeframe. Chairman Bilderback stated the he and Mayor Howard have had discussions regarding a joint water venture. Chairman Bilderback stated that he and Commissioner Evans want to work with the city and they are willing to help make up the loss to the city for the reduction in the percentage of the LOST to the city. Mr. Wilson asked if Mr. Evans would be willing to commit \$100,000 per year on city road improvements and Mr. Bilderback stated that he could not speak for Mr. Evans. There was a lengthy discussion regarding projects the city and county could work on together and the need to update the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) Plan. (Mayor Howard had to step out of the meeting and Mr. Wilson presided over the meeting while the mayor was out of the room.) Mr. Bilderback reviewed the county contract with the Macon Water Authority for all of south Monroe County. (Mayor Howard returned to the meeting and presided over the remainder of the meeting.) Mrs. Banks stated that if the city signs the LOST agreement, then the SDS should immediately be reviewed and double taxation of Forsyth residents addressed and removed where instances are found. Mr. Bilderback stated that he has been a proponent of this for years and agrees that this needs to be addressed.

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Seconded by Mrs. Banks, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Banks, Wilson, and Lawrence). Council adjourned into executive session at 1:20 pm.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 2:00 pm. Mr. Dodd offered a motion for the city to sign the Certificate of Distribution for the LOST and adopt the Resolution for the Distribution with the City receiving 22.5%, Culloden receiving 2.4%, and the County receiving 75.10%. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Mr. Dodd stated there is a commitment from County Chairman Bilderback to contribute \$100,000 to the city for road improvements and \$25,000 for city expenses. Mayor Howard stated that Mr. Carl Hofstadter is working diligently on an agreement with

Georgia Power to pull water from Lake Juliette. Mr. Wilson stated that the city and county must work together. The motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Banks, Wilson, and Lawrence).

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk