

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 6, 2014

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 6 PM, and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Howard gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting were Mayor John Howard, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, Jimmy Jones, Eric Wilson and Melvin Lawrence. Also present were City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Administrator, Thomas White; and City Clerk, Janice Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2014 council meeting as presented. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

AWARD BID FOR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS ON WEST MAIN STREET

Mr. White reviewed recommendation from Hofstadter & Associates, city engineer, to award bid for the Sanitary Sewer Project on West Main Street to Don Hall Construction. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to accept the recommendation of the city engineer and Mr. Stroud seconded the motion. Mr. Goolsby stated that the bid price is considerable higher than the original estimate provided by the engineer and Mr. White stated that the scope of work significantly changed due to DOT not allowing pilot trucks for the project which will require additional time, man power, and traffic control. Mr. Goolsby asked what would happen if the project is not done and Mr. White stated the EPD would fine the city. Mayor Howard stated that the project must be done due to the gravity of the problem. Mr. Wilson asked if the public utilities committee had reviewed the project and Mr. Lawrence stated that they have. Mr. White stated that traffic control is listed as \$95,000 in the bid. Mr. Stroud asked what the timeframe for completion of the project and Mr. White stated 120 days. Mr. White stated that the sewer line from the Library to the Legion Hall will be replaced and all new residential taps will be made. The motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL COMPETITIVE TRUST

Mr. White reviewed that the Municipal Competitive Trust (MCT) has six accounts and reviewed the recommendation from Mr. John Hewitt to transfer \$1.5 million from the Short-term Flex account to the Intermediate Restricted account within the MCT to earn higher interest. Mr. White reviewed information provided by Mr. Hewitt that the MCT is currently short \$700,000 per year to be fully funded in 2036. Mr. White stated the additional interest will reduce the shortage to \$300,000 per year. Mr. Dodd stated that the MCT is funded each year by the End Of Year Settlement from MEAG and Off-System Sales. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to transfer funds as recommended by Mr. Hewitt. Seconded by Mr. Jones, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

AWARD BID FOR PEST CONTROL/TERMITE SERVICES

Mr. White reviewed that only two (2) bids were received in response to the Request For Proposal. Mr. Jones stated that the administrative committee reviewed the bids and recommend awarding the bid to the low bidder which is Bizzy Bee Exterminators. Mr. Jones stated that Mr. White has reviewed all references provided by the company. Mr. Jones offered a motion to award the bid to Bizzy Bee Exterminators and Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion. Mr. Goolsby asked about the increase in cost and Mr. Jones stated that we currently only have termite service for some buildings and this contract will provide termite and pest control for all buildings. The motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT BALLOT FOR GMA DISTRICT 6 OFFICERS

Mr. Lawrence stated that only one ballot per city can be submitted and that he has submitted the ballot on behalf of Forsyth. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to accept the ballot submitted by Mr. Lawrence. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL TO CONTRACT CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF PLANTS AROUND THE SQUARE

Mr. Wilson reviewed the public works committee meeting where this contract was discussed; \$250 per month for maintenance of all planting beds around the square; public works does not have employee with expertise to do the care and maintenance of the plants; when

transitioned to private company for garbage pickup the public works department had 22 employees and now has ten positions with eight employees; and contract with firm to get start on the maintenance and possibly train staff to handle the maintenance in the future. Mr. Wilson offered a motion from the public works committee. Mr. Goolsby stated that council should go with the proposal and then hire one of the vacant positions to work with this firm to get trained to take over the maintenance. Mayor Howard stated that we need training for all public works employees. Mayor Howard stated that he has instructed Mr. White to get the two vacant positions in public works filled with skilled workers. Mr. Wilson stated that the committee discussed the need to hire someone with the aptitude to work with plants. Mr. Wilson stated this comes in form of a motion from the public works committee to contract with Design Install and Maintenance for the care and maintenance of plants around the square. Seconded by Mr. Jones, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY ALCOHOL PERMIT TO SALE ALCOHOL ON JUNE 21, 2014 AT GALLERY 51(51 W ADAMS STREET) FOR SAVE-A-PET FUND RAISER

Mrs. Hall reviewed the application from Save-A-Pet for a temporary alcohol permit for June 21 2014 fund raiser at 51 West Adams Street. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the permit request. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Dodd, Stroud, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Goolsby stated he is a member of the Save-A-Pet board).

UPDATE ON 491 EAST LAKE DRIVE

Major George Foster reviewed problems presented to code enforcement regarding 491 East Lake Drive including fence not permitted and eight dogs on the property. Major Foster stated that he met with property owner Mr. Mark Davis on February 17, 2014 to discuss dog issue and the fence issue was presented to city council. Major Foster stated that he met back with Mr. Davis and he only had three dogs, so he is not in compliance with that ordinance. Major Foster stated that Mr. Davis has been cited three times for code violations for the fence violations and was also mailed a letter advising of violations. Major Foster stated that Mr. Davis has since transferred the property his daughter but that transfer does not make the fence legal and he will contact her to make sure she is aware of the violations and need to remove the fence.

APPROVAL TO APPOINT ERIC BYRD TO HANDLE CEMETERY LOT SALES FOR MONROE HILLS AND CITY CEMETERY LOT SALES

Mr. Dodd stated that council previously appointed Mr. Mike King and Mr. James Freeman, Jr. as agents for the city to handle sell and transfer of cemetery lots. Mr. Dodd stated that Mr. King has advised him that he will not be able to fulfill his agreement and has resigned. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to appoint Mr. Eric Byrd as agent for city to handle transfer and sell of cemetery lots and Mr. Goolsby seconded the motion. Mr. White asked which cemetery Mr. Byrd would be responsible for and Mr. Dodd stated either agent can sell in any cemetery. The motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL TO ADD TELDRIC MIDDLEBROOKS TO TAKE-HOME VEHICLE APPROVED LIST

Police Chief Keith Corley addressed council and stated that he is having a hard time recruiting due to cost of dependent insurance, rate of pay, and lack of take home vehicles. Mr. Stroud stated that this was discussed in January and asked if the policy has been reviewed for possible amendments and Mr. White stated that policy changes require a motion from council. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to amend the take-home vehicle policy to allow sergeants and above have a take-home car if they live within 30 miles one-way of the city or in an adjoining county and Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Goolsby asked if the cost had been researched and if this would be detrimental to the police department budget. Chief Corley stated that officers that have cars assigned to them usually take better care of the vehicle so this should reduce vehicle maintenance cost. Mr. Goolsby asked if Mr. Middlebrooks was trained prior to coming to work for Forsyth and Chief Corley stated that he was and he loves this community but made a financial decision to leave. Mr. Dodd asked how many would be affected by this amendment and Chief Corley stated that all other sergeants currently live within Monroe County so they already take their vehicles home. Mayor Howard stated that take-home vehicle is a good recruiting tool. Mr. Lawrence asked if we have enough vehicles to accommodate this amendment and Chief Corley stated that he does. The motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoices for each department with a grand total for approval of \$481,173.36. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to pay the invoices as presented. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Dodd abstained due to invoices for Dodd Builders being in those for approval).

PO for purchase ammunition from Gulf States Distributors - \$7,142

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the purchase order for ammunition for the police department. Seconded by Mr. Jones, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

PO for milling and resurfacing area on Tift College Drive - \$7,800

Mr. White stated the milling and resurfacing of pot holes in the area of CVS from Patrol Road to the entrance to CVS on Tift College Drive approximately 185'. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the purchase order. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. White offered the following report:

Travel Request authorization – Mr. Goolsby has submitted a request to attend the GMA Bus Tour on May 14 and 15 for cost of \$225; Mr. Goolsby reviewed what will be covered and stated this is a good way to see successful cities and hear how they accomplished their goals; registration, meals, and lodging is included in the cost. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the travel request. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Engineering – Mr. Hofstadter has several options concerning water:

- 1) Begin negotiations for south waterline to tie into Monroe County waterline; Mr. Hofstadter recommends to tie onto Monroe County waterline for additional water if the city needs it; no cost estimate yet, just need approval to move forward with discussions; will tie to county line and pay county, as county is tied onto Macon Water Authority; Mr. Wilson offered a motion to move forward with discussion. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.

- 2) Begin discussions with Monroe County to supply water to county lines in northern part of county; requesting permission to being discussions/negotiations; will call for a meter in the area but no location has been discussed; Mr. White stated this would not affect our capacity;
- 3) Finalize Service Delivery Agreement with county; need to include Sutton Road and Smith Road projects in the city service area
- 4) Begin negotiation with Monroe County to upgrade Plant Camilla; this is a comprehensive study
- 5) Begin research for funding for all projects

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to move forward with discussions as requested by Mr. Hofstadter and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Mr. Goolsby stated that it should be publically noted that discussions regarding water, and city residents are #1 priority for council during these discussions; want to partner with the county, the city system is debt free and need to have a robust water system to attract industry. Mr. White stated that water is a stumbling block for companies looking at Forsyth and Monroe County. Mayor Howard stated that additional incentives are needed to help attract companies. The motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

CITY CLERK REPORT

Mrs. Hall offered the following report:

- Developing a newsletter to insert in the utility bills to provide information on events, how to get to city website and review of information available on the website, news from the departments, garbage pickup schedules, and holiday closings. The first issue should be ready for insertion in the June 1st utility bills.
- Citizen present tonight that tried to contact Mrs. Hall while she was out last couple of weeks to request permission to close Blount Street for a block party. Mrs. Hall apologized that the matter was not included on the agenda.
- Mr. Dodd asked Mrs. Hall for an update on her husband. Mrs. Hall thanked everyone for thoughts and prayers during her husband's recent hospitalization. Mrs. Hall stated that he has improved but still has a long way to go and requested continued prayers.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton reviewed Supreme Court decision stating that prayer during a council meeting has been blessed as acceptable.

Mr. Jones stated that new gun laws recently been enacted and need to address at security of city hall. Mr. Melton stated that no permit allows a gun to be carried into the courthouse and it is his opinion that this also applies to council chambers when the chambers are used for court. Mr. Wilson stated that there is a checkpoint for court so if that checkpoint is used for council, would that apply so that no gun would be permitted during council meetings. Mr. Wilson stated that officers should be authorized to use security wand at each council meeting for checkpoint for weapons. Mr. Stroud stated that visible signage is required and need to meet to define what a proper checkpoint constitutes. Chief Corley stated that the law does not go into effect until July 1 so there is time to review. Mr. Jones stated that information provided by GMA is very useful and needs to be shared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks/Recreation/Cemetery Committee

Mr. Dodd stated that a committee meeting was scheduled for this past Monday, but had to be cancelled and will be rescheduled. Mr. Dodd stated that he would like the committee to discuss a possible water feature at the Monroe County Recreation Complex. Mr. Dodd requested that council review the information provided in council packets regarding cemetery lot price increase for discussion at future meeting.

Public Safety Committee

Mr. Stroud stated next committee meeting will be May 14th at 9:00 am.

Public Affairs Committee

Mr. Goolsby reviewed the last Downtown Development Authority meeting – board is in the process of establishing an advisory committee and talking to those interested in servicing on the committee. Mr. Goolsby stated that the Chamber Board has appointed Mr. Bill Bazemore to evaluate all city and county boards (County Development Authority, City Downtown Development Authority, Chamber Board, etc.) to provide a study on duplication of services provided by the boards.

Administrative Committee

Mr. Jones reviewed ongoing issues reviewed during the May 2nd committee meeting.

Public Works Committee

Mr. Wilson stated that his thoughts and prayers are with the family of Mr. Robert King, city employee who suddenly passed away. Mr. Wilson reviewed recent committee meeting where committee requested that Mr. White develop options and cost for debris pickup to be presented at the June 2nd committee meeting. Mr. Wilson stated Advance Disposal will also be present for the committee meeting.

Public Utilities Committee

Mr. Lawrence stated that the Railroad Avenue project began on March 18 and should be complete by July 16; the city electric department will install the lighting next week; cable response to Flint Cable continues; and streets for 2014 LMIG are Hill Street, Chapman Street, and Sunset Terrace. Mr. Dodd asked about the utility pole that is in the roadway on Railroad Avenue and Mr. Lawrence stated that he is not aware of that. Mr. Dodd stated that the roadway was widened and the pole is in the asphalt and asked Mr. White to look into this and report back to council.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Howard called a work session for Monday, May 12th at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Howard stated that during Mr. Robert King's funeral today, remarks were made requesting the city to honor Mr. King for his 19 years of service and his lifetime of service to the community. Mayor Howard stated that he would like to name the ballfield at Kynette Park the Robert "Bud" King Ballfield. Mr. Lawrence stated that council has previously discussed naming the field for Mr. Scandrett and Mayor Howard stated that was never approved. Mr. Goolsby stated that ordinance was recently passed regarding naming streets and properties and Mr. Melton agreed that this was in the recent ordinance. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to name the ballfield at Kynette Park the Robert "Bud" King Ballfield and also have a nice flowerbed at the park in his honor. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Jones stated that we need to make sure that this does not violate the city ordinance and Mr. Stroud agreed that the motion should only be followed if it does not violate any city ordinance. Mr. White asked if the motion is not in compliance with the ordinance what happens and Mr. Melton stated that he needs to research the ordinance. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to table the matter to the next council meeting for clear guidance and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Mayor Howard stated that he wants to do within the law but wants this done. Mr. Stroud stated that there is a building at the park that could be

named for Mr. Scandrett. Mr. Goolsby asked which committee this would go to for review and Mayor Howard stated that this does not need to go to committee for review. Mr. Lawrence stated that council was previously in favor of naming the field after Mr. Scandrett. Mr. Lawrence stated that he is not trying to take anything from Mr. King, but previously discussed naming after someone else. The motion to table carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS – CITY COUNCIL

There was no additional council business to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – MAYOR HOWARD TO REVIEW RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Angela Douglas came before council to re, 279 Blount Street, came before council to request permission to close Blount Street from Zellner to Norvin on June 21 from noon to 8:00 pm for a block party. Ms. Douglas stated there should be approximately 250 people in attendance. Ms. Douglas stated the event is to honor elders in the community. Mr. White asked if any residents in the area are against the event and Ms. Douglas stated she has talked with everyone and they are all participating. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative was Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

Mr. James Green, 73 Blount Street, addressed council stating that he would like to know how job priorities are decided and asked if the pole relocation on Railroad Avenue is a priority. Mr. Green stated that he has been before council on several occasions trying to get the pole on his property moved without success due to Mr. White stating that it is not a priority and asked how many times he must make the request before the pole is relocated. Mr. Green stated that there is an open drain full of dirt on his property but Mr. White has stated that it is not important project. Mr. Goolsby stated that he thought the previous issues Mr. Green had addressed were taken care of and Mr. Green stated that the pole was moved but the guy wire is still there and blocking his property. Mr. Dodd stated that he also thought these issues were handled. Mr. White stated that the pole cannot be moved due to the guy wire is holding the pole in place and the engineer stated that it cannot be moved. Mr. Green stated that he wants the pole moved to the city right-of-way. Mr. Jones stated that the engineer should put it in writing why the pole cannot be moved along with the cost for the public works committee to review. Mr. Stroud

stated that the matter should be suspended for 30 days to get handled. Mr. Green stated that this should not have to have council approval. Mr. White reviewed meeting held one year ago in Mayor Howard's office regarding the pole issue and it was agreed by all that the pole would not be moved. Mr. Stroud requested that Mr. White coordinate a meeting between the engineer and Mr. Green to have issue resolved and questions answered. Mr. Green stated that the pole relocation and drainage issue need to be resolved.

Mr. Ronald Bearden, 441 Sunset Circle, addressed council regarding cost of Railroad avenue project. Mr. Bearden requested that council provide all cost associated with projects and not just the contractor cost. Mr. Bearden stated that too much cosmetic work has been done.

Ms. Douglas came back before council and stated that there would be a DJ and band at the block party and asked if she needed a permit. Mr. White stated that she did not as the event is planned to over at 8:00 pm.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk