

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 20, 2014

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, 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.

All unanimous votes will be six votes for (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence).

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2014 council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA TO APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR PLANT VOGTLE

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to amend the agenda to allow Mr. Paul Warfel, MEAG representative, to review the resolution for Plant Vogtle for approval. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Lawrence read portion of letter from MEAG requesting that all cities approve the Resolution. Mr. Warfel stated that the Resolution was provided to all cities to authorize the mayor to execute all documents required for the restructuring of the loan for the Plant Vogtle expansion. Mr. Warfel stated that the final form of the resolution should be ready in the next 2 to 3 weeks. Mr. Stroud requested that Mr. Warfel give a quick review of the project. Mr. Warfel stated that in 2008 each city passed a 50-year contract financing for Plant Vogtle; since that time, MEAG has been approached by Federal Government for financing but this would require restructuring of the documents; Forsyth has 6 megawatts in Plant Vogtle after 20 years; and restructuring is estimated to save hundreds of millions of dollars overall for the project. Mr. Warfel stated that exact savings to each city will not be known until closing and Forsyth will see fewer saving due to no financing commitment until after 20 years. Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to accept the agreement and Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Mr. Melton stated that the motion should be for approval to accept the Resolution not the agreement.

Mr. Lawrence restated the motion to accept the Resolution for Plant Vogtle 3 & 4. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT VOTING DELEGATE FOR GMA CONFERENCE

Mr. Wilson nominated Mr. Lawrence as voting delegate for the GMA conference. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, and Wilson) and one (1) abstention (Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF EVENT PERMIT REQUESTING TO CLOSE JACKSON STREET FROM MAIN TO KING AND JOHNSTON STREET FROM LEE TO JACKSON ON OCTOBER 11, 2014 FOR LEADERSHIP MONROE PUBLIC SAFETY DAY EVENT

Mr. White stated that the 2014 Monroe Leadership Class has requested several street closings for an event and called on Mr. Mike Corrigan, member of the class, to address council. Mr. Corrigan passed out information regarding the event and street closings they are requesting for the Public Safety Day event to be held on October 11, 2014. Mr. Corrigan stated that the event will include a 5K run at GPSTC, festival on the square from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm to mirror the Forsythia Festival to include vendors, kids activities, and educational booths. Mr. Corrigan stated that they are requesting street closings and barricades, and water and electricity from the city. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the street closings as requested and Mr. Stroud seconded the motion. Mr. Dodd asked if the businesses affected by the street closings have been contacted and Mr. Corrigan stated that they hope to be closed and everything cleaned up by 4:30 pm. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Wilson asked if a separate motion is needed to provide the remainder of the requests and Mayor Howard stated that closing the streets shows support of the project and we will do what needs to be done.

NAMING OF KYNETTE BALLFIELD – TABLED AT LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Howard stated that he has received several phone calls regarding the issue of naming the ballfield at Kynette Park after Mr. Robert King and that nothing ever came of the request to name the field after Mr. Scandrett. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to name the softball field at Kynette Park the Robert “Bud” King Softball Field at Kynette Park with signage installed. Mayor Howard stated that this is just to approve advertising the name change and a second is needed to move forward with discussion. The motion died for the lack of a second. Mr. White recommended that the matter be sent to committee for review. Mayor Howard stated that he did not feel this matter needed to be reviewed by the committee. Mr. Stroud stated that Mr. King did a lot for the area, he cut the grass on the field on his own, lined the field, and many

other things. Mr. Lawrence stated that Mr. King was a remarkable person, but must go by the Charter and Codes. Mr. Lawrence stated that people have also called him since this was brought up; the park was constructed in the early 1960's; and this needs to be fully discussed before a decision is made. Mayor Howard stated that there is nothing in the ordinances regarding naming a field after someone and agreed with Mr. Lawrence that we must do the right thing. Mayor Howard suggested that everyone is here tonight so the matter can be fully discussed now. Mr. Stroud asked when any of the council members had been at Kynette Park; the park is unkempt and the needs to be restored, the playground is great but the field grass has not been cut. Mr. Stroud stated that if this field is not named after Mr. King, then an alternative field should be found to name after him. Mayor Howard read an email from Mr. Melton regarding naming places after people. Mayor Howard stated that a second does not mean you are in favor of something; it just opens the matter up for discussion. Mr. Goolsby stated that the consideration prior to this makes it hard to move forward tonight, especially with promises made in the past; need to move forward to committee for compromise. Mr. Jones stated that he supports the motion but does not see a problem with the matter going before committee for review. Mr. Jones stated that he played ball with Mr. King and that he also received phone calls from citizens supporting the prior promise to name the field after Mr. Scandrett. Mayor Howard stated that he just wants to make sure that the matter comes back to council if it is sent to committee for review. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to refer the matter to the parks/recreation/cemetery committee for review. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Dodd, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson, and Lawrence) and one (1) against (Stroud). Mr. Dodd stated that he will call a committee meeting as soon as possible.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CITY OF FORSYTH AND MONROE COUNTY FOR WATER LINE EXTENSIONS

Mr. Larry Evans, Monroe County Commissioner, addressed council regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between city and county for water line extensions. Mr. Evans stated that he previously presented a proposal where the city would own the lines but that cannot be done due to county having bonds on the line; cost of pipe for water lines increased in May; Collier Road line will end at Orchard Ridge with 31 residents, Sutton Road has 49 residents, and Strickland Loop has 33 residents; county will bear all cost of the projects; city and county engineers have met and reviewed the plans for the project; and city and county have lost industrial companies due to no water availability. Mr. White stated that he has discussed the

MOU with Mr. Hofstadter and he recommends not approving the MOU until he can meet with the committee to review the overall plan, as this is just a small piece of the plan. Mr. Melton asked if all questions about previous agreements have been resolved with this MOU and Mr. Evans stated that they have, as county will retain ownership of lines. Mr. Melton asked if a formal agreement will be written with all details included and Mr. Evans stated that it would. Mr. Goolsby asked if the city would purchase the meters and Mr. Evans stated these would be city customers and county would purchase and install the meters. Mr. Wilson asked to clarify that the Collier Road customers would be county customers, the Sutton Road customers would be city customers, and Mr. Evans agreed. Mr. Evans stated that the county would like to leave the door open for the county to loop the line at Smith and Johnstonville roads for county lines. Mayor Howard requested that a committee meeting be scheduled this week. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to refer the MOU to committee for review. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES

Mrs. Hall stated that no invoices from general accounts will be presented for payment due to low cash flow. Mrs. Hall reviewed SPLOST invoices for approval as \$303,035.80. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the invoices for payment. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.

a. Purchase Order for Argos Ready Mix for Railroad Ave Project - \$15,000

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the purchase order. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jones asked if this work was included in the original scope of work and Mr. White stated that this is for the DOC sidewalk and was included in the original plan.

b. PO for Aqua Summit to replace particle counters at RWTP - \$10,540

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the purchase order. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. White offered the following report:

- Requested permission to purchase the radio system from SPLOST funds for \$139,296 and \$3,460. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the purchase. Seconded by Mr.

Stroud, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Dodd commended Chief Herndon for due diligence in getting good pricing for the city.

CITY CLERK REPORT

Mrs. Hall offered the following report:

- There will be a called Planning & Zoning meeting next week for a rezoning request received from Mr. Otis Ingram.
- Notification of beer/wine alcohol package license for Soheli Batliwale at 37 South Jackson Street – Public hearing will be June 3, 2014

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton stated that the street naming ordinance was adopted and prior to that, a request for renaming a portion of Harris Street was made and deferred until the ordinance was adopted. Mr. Melton stated that he needs to know if council intends to move forward with the request as it was submitted. Mayor Howard stated that in interest of fairness, should move forward as it was stated that only waiting on new ordinance to be in place. Mr. Melton stated that the person that made the request should be contacted by the city to make him aware of the new requirements. Mr. Lawrence stated that Mr. White should send a letter and Mr. Stroud requested regular updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Utilities Committee

Mr. Lawrence stated that he will call a meeting soon to meet with the city engineer.

Public Works Committee

Mr. Wilson stated that the next committee meeting will be on June 2nd at 8:00 am to review grapple truck pickup policy and Advance Disposal will be present for the meeting for clarification on what is included in the contract

Administrative Committee

Mr. Jones stated committee continues to hold interviews for city attorney position.

Public Relations Committee

Mr. Goolsby reported on the Heart & Soul bus tour he and Ms. Stacy Ladson recently participated in with GMA. Mr. Goolsby stated that it was overwhelming to see what other cities are doing with their downtowns and how the cities and counties work in harmony to get projects done

Public Safety Committee

Mr. Stroud reviewed May 14th committee meeting which focused on hiring process for police department, nailing down financing for two police cars, and staffing of police department

Parks/Recreation/Cemetery

Mr. Dodd stated that a committee meeting will be called soon.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Howard stated that he has received an email from Mr. Jim Faircloth requesting a committee meeting as soon as possible with the committee members only being invited into an executive session

Mayor Howard stated that he wants a conclusion on the ballfield naming issue.

Mayor Howard stated that he would like to review the contract from MEAG.

Mayor Howard requested new evaluations from each council member on Mr. White by May 31st.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS – CITY COUNCIL

Mr. White stated that he has not received any travel request forms for the GMA Convention in June.

Mr. Lawrence stated that there will be a meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 am at the MEAG building and he will bring greetings from the city.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – (MAYOR HOWARD TO REVIEW RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

MAGGIE JACKSON

Ms. Jackson was not present for the meeting.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Albert Mays, 179 Milledge Circle, asked where we stand with the cable system and Mayor Howard stated that we do not have an answer yet. Mr. Mays stated that the woman that lives on Kynette Street next to the basketball court has requested that a water fountain be installed at the courts for the players to use rather than knocking on her door for water. Mr. Mays stated that a sign is also needed stating that the park closes at 10 pm and the lights should go out at 10 pm. Mr. Mays requested increased police patrol in the park. Mr. Mays stated that the restrooms are not open and now that school is out, the restrooms should be open for use. Mayor Howard asked Mr. White to work on the

requests from Mr. Mays. Mr. Stroud stated that he will talk with Chief Corley to increase patrols.

Mr. James Lyons, 865 Montpelier Road, stated that he is glad that council wants to do the right thing; received notice on grievance that he submitted on city administrator; council not doing anything to correct the wrong being done. Mr. Lyons stated that Mr. Jones stated during campaign that he would do the right thing but has not. Mr. Lyons stated that Mr. Lawrence has been on council long enough to know what needs to be done. Mr. Lyons stated that council needs to act and he will get a petition to get council out of office one by one.

Mr. Ronald Bearden, 441 Sunset Terrace, thanked Mayor and council for allowing him to speak at the work session. Mr. Bearden stated that he made a mistake in the totals that he presented at the last council meeting; the total for the Railroad Avenue project that he should have presented was \$638,713.40. Mr. Bearden stated that a meeting is being scheduled between him and the city engineer.

Mr. James Lyons addressed council again and asked Mayor Howard to take the investigation from the sheriff's office and give it to an outside agency. Mayor Howard stated that he has received correspondence from the sheriff's office stating that information should be coming soon. Mayor Howard stated that the investigation was supposed to be about him so he has not spoken out about the investigation.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk