

## **MINUTES**

### **FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**JUNE 17, 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. Mr. Wilson 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.

#### **COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS:**

##### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 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.

##### **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES**

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoice totals for each department for a total of \$249,411.83 for general payables and \$2,824.47 for SPLOST payables. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the invoices. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL ITEMS:**

##### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. White offered the following report:

- Contract for prison details with Burruss Correctional Facility is up for renewal as the prison has a July 1 – June 30 fiscal year. Mr. Jones offered a motion to renew the contract. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Goolsby asked if the cost is \$39,500 per detail or total and Mr. White stated that the total cost for two details is \$39,500.
- Reviewed each outstanding code enforcement case, stating that citizens are complaining that it takes too long for issues to be resolved or that they are not receiving status updates on their complaints. Mr. Goolsby stated that he has spoken with DOC Commissioner Owens and he has stated that the prison crews can tear down homes and Mr. White stated that these are on private property so the prison crews cannot tear them down. Mayor Howard stated that the list of code violations continue to grow and does not include any properties on the square. Mayor Howard stated that a fully staffed police department so that the code enforcement can be attended to properly and timely.

Mr. Stroud stated that we need to look at other cities to see how they have code enforcement structured and Mayor Howard stated that this is why he moved code enforcement to the police department.

### **CITY CLERK REPORT**

Mrs. Hall offered the following report:

- Notification of commemorative naming of a portion of Harris Street to “Paul James Historical Block” – public hearing will be held at second council meeting in July
- 2013 audit may require an extension but should be complete no later than end of July if not submitted by end of June
- Requested council attending GMA conference this weekend talk with GMA officials of problems regarding the retirement and inability to obtain information from the prior retirement company. Mrs. Hall stated that she has several former employees that are now eligible for retirement that cannot get retirement started due to GMA not having the prior data on termed vested employees. Mr. Jones instructed Mr. White to handle this promptly and report back to council. Mr. Dodd stated that this has been an ongoing problem since moving the retirement from GebCorp (supported by county agencies) to GMEBS (supported by city agencies).

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Public Utilities Committee**

Mr. Lawrence offered the following report:

- The Regional Commission meets the second Thursday of each month; reviewed projects that the RC is working on for Forsyth
- Provided status report of all utility projects; meeting will be held on June 19<sup>th</sup> with Monroe County Commissioners to discuss water projects
- Mr. John Hewitt is reviewing the contracts for Plant Vogtle 3 & 4 for recommendation to council

#### **Public Works Committee**

Mr. Wilson offered the following report:

- Next committee meeting will be Monday June 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am
- Mayor Howard stated that a survey is included in the utility bill newsletter regarding the garbage service

### **Administrative Committee**

Mr. Jones offered the following report:

- Waiting on information back from Mr. White and Regional Commission before calling a committee meeting
- Looking at monthly recurring payments for bill payments rather than waiting on checks to be written, signed, and mailed; will review procedure at a committee meeting; Mr. Goolsby stated that the MEAG bill is the one that keeps us in cash flow problems and if we pay a slight service charge on MEAG bill could pay all other bills on time

### **Public Affairs Committee**

Mr. Goolsby offered the following report:

- Chamber Study Group is gathering information for presentation to elected officials and will hold a committee meeting to review issue prior to presenting to council
- He and Mrs. Hall will be attending training seminar on hotel tax collections next week

### **Public Safety Committee**

Mr. Stroud offered the following report:

- Moving forward with radio system
- Looking at PTSD to make sure we have procedures in place in the event an employee needs assistance
- One officer is attending mandate
- Requested an update from Mr. White on the fire ordinance that has been on hold for couple of years and Mr. White stated that he has received it back from the Regional Commission and will meet with the fire chief to review it before taking to committee
- Mayor Howard asked for an update on the purchase of patrol cars and Mr. Stroud stated purchase is not a dire need and will hold off purchase until later on in the year

### **Parks/Recreation/Cemetery Committee**

Mr. Dodd offered the following report:

- Next committee meeting will be Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Howard had nothing further to report.

### **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Mr. Jones requested an update as to when the final group of attorneys will come back before city council for final interviews. Mr. Wilson stated that the top four finalist need to be made public and notify the remainder of those that submitted proposals. Mr. White stated that he would put a list together of the top four and notify those not

moving forward.

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

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Scott Bogulski, 390 Sunset Terrace, came before council stating that his name was on the list of those code enforcement issues presented by Mr. White and the complaint received by the city was in retaliation to a complaint received against 410 Sunset Terrace that he did not make. Mr. Bogulski stated that 410 Sunset Terrace has tractor-trailers in the front yard that run 24 hours a day but the complaint was unfounded as being a violation. Mr. Bogulski asked if the city is overlooking tractor-trailers, why are they going after him for having a swing set six feet to close to the front yard. Mr. Bogulski requested that council look into why the complaint regarding the tractor-trailers was unfounded.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk