

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 5, 2014

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 6:00PM, and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Goolsby gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting were Mayor John Howard, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Greg Goolsby, Jimmy Jones, Eric Wilson, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present were City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Clerk/Administrator, Janice Hall; and Administrative Assistant, Stacy Ladson.

Councilman Julius Stroud was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes (Dodd, Jones, Goolsby, Wilson, and Lawrence).

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2014 CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2014 called council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 22, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2014 council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 1, 2014 CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2014 council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST TO THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ORDINANCE WORK RELATED TO DILAPIDATED AND DERELICT BUILDINGS

Mrs. Hall stated Council had previously passed an ordinance completed by the Regional Commission related to derelict buildings. The Regional Commission working on a project with Mrs. Tiffany Andrews and Mrs. Loraine Khoury which require changes to the ordinance. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve technical assistance request to the Regional Commission for ordinance work related to dilapidated and derelict buildings. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoice totals for each department for a total of \$328,144.37 for general payables, 629.99 for seized payables, and \$19,467.16 for SPLOST payables; for a grand total of \$348,241.52. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the invoices. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hall reviewed a purchase order to HD Waterworks Supply in the amount of \$14,248.00 for the software package to enable the new meters to be read by City Hall. Mrs. Hall stated a RFQ will be posted in the upcoming week for the installation of the new water meters. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the purchase order for the new software package and it was seconded by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Goolsby inquired what the software was to be used for and why the city would need it now if they already have some of the new meters in place. Mrs. Hall explained she believed the software was an update so they meters could be read directly by the Incode System at City Hall, rather than by the meter readers laptop which then is sent to an additional program before being sent to Incode. Mrs. Hall stated she was not completely sure about this bridge, but would find out. Mr. Wilson withdrew his motion. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to table the approval of the purchase order in the amount of \$14,248.00 to HD Waterworks Supply until the next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jones, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hall reviewed a purchase order in the amount of 12,564.00 to replace two influent pumps. Mrs. Hall explained that one pump could work with just some repairs, but it would need replacing in the near future. The other was purchased three months ago and has failed completely and is only working through the help of a generator. Mrs. Hall informed council the city will receive a \$6,273.34 credit from PMC to their account, but because that has not been posted yet the invoice is for the full \$12,564.00. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the purchase order for 2 replacement pumps and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Mr. Jones asked if all pumps were active and if the pump that needed repairs could be repaired and stored as a backup. Mrs. Hall will check into the cost of repairing the pump and storing it as a backup. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hall reviewed payment to Kite Cable in the amount of \$28,165.72. Mrs. Hall stated \$8,165.72 was for corrections to pole violation, while the other \$20,000 was a part of the agreement contract with Mr. Wade Kite. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve payment to Kite Cable. Seconded by Mr. Jones, the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

CITY CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mrs. Hall thanked everyone for their continued support of her and her family during a difficult time as well as thanked council for entrusting in her as the Interim City Administrator. Mrs. Hall has since met with the Regional Commission to discuss ongoing projects and will have more to report on that at a later date. Mrs. Hall then asked council to go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss pending litigation and personnel.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton had nothing to report at this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks/Recreation/Cemeteries Committee

Mr. Dodd began by giving a summary of the Parks, Recreation, and Cemeteries committee meeting that was held on Monday. The committee discussed forms and pricing for lot sales as well as recording this information; the overall plan for demolition, making the demolition of the old recreation office building and filling of the swimming pool first priority. Mr. Dodd commended the Street Department in their effort to clean the graffiti and the disrepair of the playground equipment at the City Park.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion that when the 2015 budget is prepared an ad valorem tax millage rate of at or near zero be applied, with the goal of eliminating all city ad valorem taxes with the 2016 budget and the motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson. Mayor Howard asked Mrs. Hall if this would be possible. Mrs. Hall stated with the terminology stating "at or near zero," this could be done. Mr. Wilson spoke in favor of the motion stating having no ad valorem tax in Forsyth would make the city more appealing to citizens and businesses. With all council members speaking in favor of the elimination of the tax, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to transfer \$900,000.00 of the \$1.2 Million the City received for the sale of the Forsyth Cable System be placed in the Municipal Competitive Trust account to offset the Plant Vogtle expansion purchase; the motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson. Mr. Jones stated he was first planning to meet with the Administrative committee on Friday morning to review the budget with the accountant and to determine why the city has a cash flow problem during the summer months. Mayor Howard asked Mr. Jones to also look into a contingency fund. Mr. Wilson reminded council there were other items needing to be taken care of as well such as the roof at City Hall and the back bathroom. Mrs. Hall stated she would like to discuss all the numbers with council before anything was decided. Mayor Howard asked if they could do that at the next council meeting or would the work session be better. Mrs. Hall requested a work

session. Mr. Dodd stated his motion was intended to ensure the money was not put into the general fund and spent. Mr. Jones asked if the money could be parked into an account within the trust. Mrs. Hall stated it could be. Mr. Dodd amended his motion to transfer the funds into the Municipal Competitive Trust Flex Fund. Mr. Wilson seconded the amendment and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Hall stated should could have some numbers together for Mr. Jones' Administrative Committee meeting on Friday. Mr. Wilson agreed to discuss the money before making any decisions noting the city would only receive this money one time.

Public Affairs Committee

Mr. Goolsby informed council he would be holding a committee meeting on Friday at 8AM. He has a large agenda planned and encouraged everyone to come. On the agenda is the discussion of an incentive package to entice new development to Forsyth.

Administrative Committee

Mr. Jones informed the administrative committee would be meeting Friday morning at 9AM following the Public Affairs meeting.

Public Works Committee

Mr. Wilson stated the Public Works Committee will meeting on September 2nd at 4PM.

Mr. Wilson offered motion to engage the Regional Commission with technical assistance to draft charter revisions to direct the city to a City Manager form of government. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goolsby. Mrs. Hall stated she had spoken with the Regional Commission and they would like to meet with council prior to making any revisions. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Utilities Committee

Mr. Lawrence stated the Public Utilities Committee will meet on August 11th at 10AM. He encouraged everyone attend as the committee is working with the county on several water projects.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Howard asked the Utilities Committee to review the utility ordinance regarding elderly on a fixed income. Mayor Howard also spoke in favor of the city becoming an enterprise city that was able to stand alone and fund itself. Mayor Howard informed council that while he was attending the Regional Mayor's Meeting and was proud to note the Forsyth Police Department was one of 97 cities with an accredited police department. He believes this should be taken advantage of in order to attract new officers. The city also needs more retail business.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

There was no additional council business.

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

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. **James Lyons** – Mr. James Lyons, 865 Montpelier Road, came before council with concerns regarding the city reservoir. Mr. Lyons wanted to know how a house was allowed on the reservoir. Mr. Melton stated the house was there before the reservoir was built, and that there is a buffer between the reservoir and house. Mr. Lyons also inquired as to the city purchasing the land rather than it being donated as he believed earlier. Mr. Melton stated that some of the land at the reservoir was purchased, some donated, and that information is available at the courthouse. Mr. Lyons stated he was concerned that he was not allowed to fish at the reservoir, but had seen others out there. Mr. Melton stated the ordinance allowed for adjacent property owners to be at the reservoir.
- b. **Ronald Bearden** – Mr. Ronald Bearden, 441 Sunset Terrace, came before council to inquire about the lighting at the on and off ramp of I-75. Mr. Bearden commended the city for moving forward with selling the cable and tax reduction, but was concerned about the lighting. Mr. Bearden just wants an answer as to what will be done. Mr. Bearden also inquired to the investigation at 22 West Main Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation and personnel. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourn into executive session at 6:53PM.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 7:17PM.

ADJOURN

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk