

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 19, 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. Dodd 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 Clerk/Administrator, Janice Hall; and Administrative Assistant, Stacy Ladson.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2014 council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

2. REQUEST TO CLOSE HARRIS STREET FOR RIBBON CUTTING FOR COMMEMORATIVE PAUL JAMES PLACE – AUGUST 30, 2014 – ROSEMARY WALKER

Mr. Stroud stated he had spoken with Mrs. Rosemary Walker concerning the closing of Harris Street on August 30, 2014. The celebration is scheduled to be the hours of 5:00PM – 8:00PM and is to include food, a ribbon cutting, and other fun activities for the public to enjoy. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve closing Harris Street on August 30, 2014 from 3:00PM-8:00PM. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF INCENTIVE PACKAGE FOR NEW BUSINESSES

Council members reviewed an incentive packet brochure presented by the Downtown Development Authority. Mrs. Hall stated this was a draft, most incentives listed in the brochure were already being offered by the state, but to review the back portion that relates directly to Forsyth. The brochure had been review by the Public Affairs Committee and they recommend Council pass these incentives. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the incentive package. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE IN REGARDS TO NAMING, RENAMING, OR OTHER DESIGNATION OF CITY PROPERTY

The Public Affairs Committee recommends advertising an ordinance change to Chapter 21 Article V of the City Ordinances, to develop a process and fee structure for naming or

renaming city property. Mrs. Hall stated there is currently not an application fee in place for individuals requesting this type of change. The permit fee would go to cover the cost of the change; then if needed the requester would pay additional fees or be given a refund when the true cost was determined. The committee is still working on a cost estimate. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to advertise an ordinance in regards to naming, renaming, or other designation of city property. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE AMENDMENTS TO THE UTILITIES ORDINANCE

Mrs. Hall reviewed the proposed amendments to the Utilities Ordinance. Mr. Jones offered a motion to advertisement the purposed amendments to the Utilities Ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO CITY PERSONNEL MANUAL IN REGARD TO HOLIDAY PAY

Mr. Jones reviewed the current policy in regards to Holiday Pay for fulltime employees employed with the City less than six months. The Administrative Committee recommends amending the policy to state all fulltime employees that work on a holiday gets paid accordingly as set by the City Policy. All other probationary period policies would stay the same. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the amendments to the City Personnel Manual in regards to Holiday Pay. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

7. APPOINTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Mr. Goolsby stated the Public Affairs recommends appointing Ralph Bass, Percelle Kelley, and Hal Clarke to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). The HPC has been inactive for a few years and Mr. Goolsby is hoping to revive the group. Mr. Goolsby offered motion to approve the appointments to the HPC. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

8. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoice totals for each department for a total of \$317,035.13 for general payables, \$630.49 for seized payables, and \$214,367.90 for SPLOST payables; for a grand total of \$532,033.52. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the invoices. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hall reviewed the 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. Mr. Lawrence requested that in the future all information be included within bids when delivered to council. Mr. Jones clarified that all information was originally provided by HD Supply, but for some reason was left out when the information was delivered to council. Mr. Dodd

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

Mrs. Hall reviewed the purchase order for 38 computers and licensing of Office 2013 in the amount of \$28,930.92. The City is currently running computers with the Windows XP operating system and therefore have no choice in upgrading. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the purchase of 38 computers and Microsoft Office licenses. Seconded by Mr. Jones, the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

CITY CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mrs. Hall stated the RFPs for Payroll Services and Water Meter Installation had gone out for advertisement and are posted on the website. The Administrative Assistant position is also being advertised.

Mrs. Hall requested to add Atkins to the Public Works Committee meeting agenda and the request was approved by Chairman Wilson.

Mrs. Hall stated that she is working with GMA to set up a Hometown Connection meeting with the State Representatives and Legislatures after Council meets with the Regional Commission to discuss their ideas for a change in government.

The 2015 millage rate will need to be turned by the end of September. Mrs. Hall request Council meet with the Department Heads for a roundtable discussion concerning cuts in each department over the last couple of years and how that has affected the departments. This meeting will determine what can be omitted from the budget and what items need to remain; therefore determining the appropriate millage rate.

Mrs. Hall is currently working with the billing software company to discuss budget billing.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report at this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Utilities Committee

Mr. Lawrence stated the Public Utilities Committee is engaging other entities and gathering bids for the I-75 lighting repairs. The committee will be holding a meeting soon.

Public Works Committee

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

Administrative Committee

Mr. Jones stated the Administrative Committee will meet on Friday morning at 9AM.

Public Affairs Committee

Mr. Goolsby showed enthusiasm for the approval of the incentive program to entice perspective businesses.

Mr. Goolsby informed Council the Public Affairs Committee is working on a few ordinances that were not previously addressed and hoped to have those to them shortly.

Public Safety Committee

Mr. Stroud stated the Public Safety Committee will meet on September 9th at 9AM to discuss personnel and budget.

Parks/Recreation/Cemeteries Committee

Mr. Dodd stated the Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Committee will meet on September 2nd at 3PM.

Mr. Dodd discussed his vacation to Madison, Wisconsin and the skateboard park in the area. The skateboard portion is only the size of a tennis court, something he thought Forsyth could also implement.

Mr. Dodd inquired about the progress of tearing down the old Recreation Department office building and swimming pool. Mrs. Hall stated she is looking to verify if the asbestos abatement of the building had ever been carried out. The swimming pool can be disposed of when the appropriate equipment is located.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Howard stated he will be working with Mrs. Hall to determine a date and time for the roundtable discussion, the meeting with the Regional Commission, and the Hometown Connection.

Mayor Howard has recently engage Mr. Todd Tolbert on the possibilities for a 457b Retirement Plan for city employees.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Mr. Stroud stated Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Lee would be at the Administrative Committee meeting on Friday to discuss Monroe on the Move, a City and County healthcare initiative for a healthier workforce.

Mr. Goolsby stated elected officials are part-time employees that work for the common betterment of the community and in doing so sometimes have to put themselves in uncomfortable meeting situations. Mr. Goolsby pleaded to the press to also take a step out of their comfort zones to get better results. Mr. Goolsby stated after the work session on August 18th to discuss reorganization efforts, an article was printed in the paper that can be seen as negative. Mr. Goolsby stated the session was for Council to talk and to discuss what needed to be done to move

Forsyth forward, something he saw as a positive. Mr. Jones agreed with Goolsby by stating at least the Council is willing to talk; noting just because something like this had not been done before, did not make it a negative.

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

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. **Maggie Jackson** – Ms. Jackson, 110 Sharp Street, addressed several member of council regarding individual concerns; requested a meeting with Mayor Howard and Mr. Melton; and requested that Mr. Lawrence not report or ask her any questions regarding trash on Sharp Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Jones offered a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourn into executive session at 6:48PM.

Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 7:30PM.

Mr. Jones offered a motion to extend Mr. Bobby Melton's current contract at the current rate less the monthly retainer. Seconded by Mr. Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:33PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk