

## **MINUTES**

### **FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 2, 2014**

#### **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INVOCATION**

Mayor Pro-Tem, Melvin Lawrence, called the meeting to order at 6:00PM, and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Wilson gave the invocation.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present for the meeting were Mayor Pro-Tem Melvin Lawrence, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, Jimmy Jones, and Eric Wilson. Also present were City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Clerk/Administrator, Janice Hall; and Administrative Assistant, Stacy Ladson. Mayor Howard was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, Mayor Pro-Tem Lawrence presided over the meeting. All unanimous votes will be five (5) votes for (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, and Wilson).

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

##### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 19, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2014 council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

##### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 21, 2014 JOINT MEETING**

Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2014 joint meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried with four (4) voting in the affirmative and one (1) abstention. (Mr. Wilson abstained as he was unable to attend the joint meeting).

##### **3. PAT WRIGHT – REVIEW OF EMERGENCY REPAIR WORK AT BLOUNT HILL LIFT STATION**

Mr. Pat Wright, Utility Partners, informed Council of an emergency issue at the Blount Hill lift station that took place over the weekend. Mr. Wright stated each lift station is checked once a day, seven days a week. The Blount Hill lift station's discharge line came lose and in order to fix the problem the entire station will have to be lifted off the ground and then replaced. Mr. Wright stated the station was installed in 1983 and was already in need of some upgrading due to its age. This station is one of three on the five-year plan. Mr. Wright stated a goblin pump was rented to bypass the problem which has temporarily corrected the problem. Mr. Wright stated that the pump will need to be replaced with the Flight Pump. Mrs. Hall stated she had discussed the situation with Mr. Hofstadter, the City Engineer, and he recommends replacing the pump. He estimated the cost to be between \$100,000 - \$150,000. Mr. Wright stated if Council chose to repair the current pump, rather than

replacing it, the cost would be no more than \$20,000, however the repair would only hold for a few years. Mr. Jones inquired to the availability of the funds, noting he would hate to spend \$20,000 only to find out they should have spent \$150,000. Mrs. Hall stated the funds were available in SPLOST. Mrs. Hall stated that Mr. Hofstadter will provide Council with a proposal and hopes the city will be able to reimburse itself from a future bond for all water and sewer upgrades. Mr. Wright stated because this was an emergency fix, he is not sure of the cost of renting the pump, but would have that information to Mrs. Hall by lunch on Wednesday. Mrs. Hall stated because this is a situation that needs to be taken care of quickly, Council could approve the repair or replacement with a “not to exceed”. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to replace the lift station pump at a cost not to exceed \$150,000. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

**4. NOTIFICATION OF VARIANCE HEARING FOR ROCKING CHAIR RANCH – JULIETTE ROAD – 053 048 – CURRENTLY ZONED PLANNED URBAN DEVELOPMENT (PUD) – REQUEST TO GRAZE LIVESTOCK**

Mr. Melton reviewed the variance application to graze cattle on a property zoned Planned Urban Development. The variance has been before the Planning and Zoning committee and they recommend approval of the variance request. Mr. Melton stated the advertisements will go out shortly and the public hearing will fall on the first meeting of October. This variance will just allow livestock to graze on the property and will not change the zoning. Mr. Goolsby offered to approve the advertising of the variance. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

**5. CATERING LICENSE FOR THE ANVIL ROOM BY JONAH’S ON JOHNSTON FOR VARIOUS EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER**

Mrs. Hall reviewed the catering licenses requested by Mr. Barker for various activities throughout September and October for the Anvil Room. This license will allow Jonah’s on Johnston to cater beer, wine, and liquor at the Anvil Room. Mrs. Hall stated that the application submitted to the State by Mr. Barker was returned to him due to the manner in which the application was submitted and he is having to start the State approval process over. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the catering license for the Anvil Room by Jonah’s on Johnston for various activities in September and October. Seconded by, Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

## **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL ITEMS:**

### **CITY CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mrs. Hall offered the following report:

- Amy Boyer, the City Solicitor, is reviewing the changes to the fire ordinance.
- The City was awarded a CDBG Block Grant in the amount of \$500,000. The check presentation will be in Savannah on Friday. Mr. Goolsby offered to drive to Savannah at his own expense to accept the check presentation
- The computers have been ordered
- Working to schedule economic development training for city council
- Eggs and Issues will be held on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hall asks if any Council Member is interested in attending to please let her know.
- Forsyth Main Street's last summer concert is Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> on the Square. The Fabulous Boomers Band will begin at 8:00PM.

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

Mr. Melton reported he had received the Non Exclusive Easement agreement from the Department of Corrections for the Railroad Avenue project. Mr. Melton recommended approval of the easement and that council authorize Mayor Howard and Mrs. Hall to execute the document. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the Non Exclusive Easement agreement from the DOC. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Parks/Recreation/Cemeteries Committee**

Mr. Dodd had nothing further to report.

#### **Public Safety Committee**

Mr. Stroud stated the Public Safety Committee will meet on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 9AM to discuss a new fire station to be shared with the County.

Mr. Stroud offered a recommendation from the Public Safety Committee, to amend the Fire Department's promotion policy by adding:

- a) require EMT certification prior to being promoted to Sargent and receive a \$1 per hour pay increase; and
- b) add a Firefighter 2 (FF2) position with a \$1 per hour pay increase, as a preparatory for the position of Sargent

The recommendation was unanimously approved.

### **Public Affairs Committee**

Mr. Goolsby stated he was waiting to receive some ordinances back from Mr. Melton's office before scheduling a Public Affairs Committee meeting.

Mr. Goolsby stated the Downtown Development Authority had met to discuss the Chamber's proposal. Mr. Dodd was also in attendance and there was some good discussion on how to move forward. Mr. Goolsby asked to add the proposal discussion to the work session on Monday with the Regional Commission in order to vote at the September 16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and respond by the September 17<sup>th</sup> deadline. Mr. Dodd stated he didn't believe Council should wait until the day of the deadline to respond. Mr. Wilson suggested the work session be a called meeting instead; therefore allowing members to vote. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to change the work session to a Called Meeting to be held Monday, September 8, 2014 at 9:00AM. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Administrative Committee**

Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Wilson for handling the Administrative Committee meeting in his absence. The next meeting will be immediately following the meeting with the Regional Commission on Monday.

### **Public Works Committee**

Mr. Wilson stated the Public Works Committee on today at 4PM.

Mr. Wilson offered a recommendation from the Public Works Committee, to award Atkins the contract for procuring easements for the Streetscape Phase III project. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson offered a motion, as recommended by the Public Works Committee, to preapprove Mr. Jimmy Lawson's request for a curb cut for future development, pending DOT specifications, to his property on Railroad Avenue. Seconded by Mr. Jones, the motion carried unanimously.

The next Public Works Committee meeting will be October 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM.

### **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.

### **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**

There was no additional Council business at this meeting.

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

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a. **Fred Dungan** – Mr. Dungan, 440 Sunset Terrace, thanked Council for the paving of his portion of Sunset Terrace; addressed the need for a drop box in City Hall for bill payments; and showed concern for approving to spend up to \$150,000 based on an estimate from an engineer before seeing the proposal.

**ADJOURN**

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:57PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk