

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 21, 2014

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Present for the meeting were Mayor Howard, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, Jimmy Jones, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present were City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Clerk/Administrator, Janice Hall; and Administrative Assistant, Stacy Ladson.

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

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2014 Council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the October 16, 2014 Called Council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jones, the motion carried unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE SHORT-TERM WORK PROGRAM

Greg Boike, Middle Georgia Regional Commission, reviewed the amendments to the short-term work program between the City and the RC. The amendments were in reference to their work on changing the City Charter, codes, and ordinances. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the amendments. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

3. ACKNOWLEDGE POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH CDBG

Mrs. Hall stated that during a meeting with DCA, it was discovered that Mr. Lawrence's wife owns property in the area of the area for the CDBG water project. Mr. Melton has advised Mr. Lawrence to abstain from voting on the project in the future. Mr. Melton will also write a letting to DCA acknowledging the potential conflict of interest. Council members discussed their thoughts on annexing the property into the city limits. Mr. Melton stated council should first survey the residents, then determine which annexation process to follow.

4. APPROVAL OF FCC NOTIFICATION FOR SPECTRUM MANAGER LEASE AND SPECTRUM LEASE AGREEMENT

Mrs. Hall stated the lease agreement was for the installation of the water meter software. Installation will begin November 11th and should take approximately 2 weeks to complete. Mr.

Jones offered a motion to approve the lease agreement. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #3 FOR SOUTH PLANET INTERCEPTOR SEWER LINE - \$6,300

At a previous council meeting, Council approved to re-grade the easement area to divert water from a residence's property, at the cost of \$2,300, to eliminate an erosion problem caused by the project. Mrs. Hall stated the additional cost will be for engineering and to satisfy NPDES requirements. The total cost of the project will be approximately \$6,300. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the change. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

6. RECOMMENDATION FROM PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE TO AMEND POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY TO ADD SECTION 1.63 – VIEVU BODY WORN CAMERA POLICY; AND SECTION 1.62, III, G – USE OF DEPARTMENT COMPUTERS/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Chief Corley reviewed the two (2) proposed departmental policy amendments. The first policy is to put in writing a policy that has been in effect for over a year regarding the VieVu Body Cameras that all of the officers are wearing. The second policy is to amend Section 1.62 to add #G regarding the recording of conversations and/or meetings within the department. Mr. Stroud offered the approval of both policies as a recommendation from the public safety committee. The recommendation carried unanimously.

7. ACCEPT RETIREMENT OF KAREN PITMAN; APPOINT BENSON HAM AS MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE; APPOINT BUCK WILDER AS PRO-TEM HAC VICE

Mrs. Hall recommended that council accept Karen Pitman's retirement as City Judge, appoint Mr. Benson Ham as the Municipal Court Judge, and appoint Magistrate Judge Buck Wilder as the Pro-Tem Hac Vice to hear first appearances. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

8. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO WATER AGREEMENT WITH MONROE COUNTY

Mrs. Hall stated the City currently has a contract to sell Monroe County water, and the amendment is for the City to purchase water from the County at the same rate, which is currently \$3.28 per thousand gallons. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve agreement. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

9. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH UTILITY SOLUTIONS OF AMERICA FOR WATER METER INSTALLATIONS FOR ROUTES 22 AND 24

Mrs. Hall reviewed the contract submitted by Utility Solutions of America (USA) and stated that Mr. Melton has reviewed the contract and recommended amending the contract to include a Hold Harmless and Act of God clause. USA has approved the amendments. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the contract. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

10. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoice totals for each department for a total of \$215,968.09 for general payables, \$629.79 for seized payables, \$1,154.62 for federal, and \$497,233.95 for SPLOST payables; for a grand total of \$714,986.45. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the invoices. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hall reviewed a purchase order for the lift station upgrade from PMC Maintenance in the amount of \$6,577.33. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the purchase order. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

11. CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CITY CLERK REPORT

- Mrs. Hall stated the initial RFQ quote to repair the roof of City Hall was \$50,000, with another \$50,000 estimated to repair the structure once the roof is removed. At the time the RFQ was given, the cash was not available. Mrs. Hall stated the building was now in dire need and she was concerned with safety. Mrs. Hall asked council to move the funds from the Municipal Competitive Trust (MCT) to repair the structure and roof of City Hall. Mrs. Hall noted she was aware this was not an ideal situation, but the repairs are urgent. Mr. Goolsby stated he understood urgency, but was not in favor of taking it from the MCT. Mrs. Hall stated when the cable sold she requested council to set aside \$100,000 for the repairs, but they decided to put all the funds in the MCT and if needed, they would vote to take it out. Mr. Lawrence stated Mrs. Hall should first look at the department budgets to get the money. Mayor Howard stated he believed the departments had given all they could. After lengthy debate on the matter, Council asked Mrs. Hall to see if any more funds could come from department budgets, if grant money was available, or use of the \$50,000 in escrow for the sale of the tower. Mrs. Hall stated she would try to come up with the funds rather than take them from the Municipal Competitive Trust and would report back soon.

- Mrs. Hall stated that council asked at the last council meeting if the engineer work can go toward the City match for the CDBG grant. Mrs. Hall stated that DCA has confirmed that the engineering can go toward the city match. Mrs. Hall stated that the city match is \$50,000 and the engineering is \$50,400. Mrs. Hall stated that the engineer is also providing in-kind work of \$8,000 toward the project for the preliminary engineering.
- Mrs. Hall reminded Council of the need to meet with the Regional Commission to discuss the changes to the Charter. Mayor Howard stated that he would get with Mrs. Hall and call a meeting for next week.

12. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton stated he will send out the CVB legislation draft tomorrow and asked all council members to review the document. Mr. Jones stated he wanted this to be included on the agenda for the called council meeting or work session with the Regional Commission when discussing the Charter.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Utilities Committee

Mr. Lawrence stated the Public Utilities Committee is will be meeting the 1st week of November and ask the City Engineer to be attendance.

Mr. Lawrence also stated he would have a report at the next Council meeting in regards to the lighting on I-75.

Administrative Committee

Mr. Jones had nothing further to report.

Public Affairs Committee

Mr. Goolsby stated Mrs. Tiffany Andrews would be presenting the City's incentive package to the Development Authority and the Commissioners.

Public Safety Committee

Mr. Stroud stated the Public Safety Committee met on October 15th and discussed a PTSD class, organized by Monroe on the Move, that will be offered to Public Safety employees.

Mr. Stroud also informed Council the police department will have an officer graduating mandate in December.

Parks/Recreation/Cemeteries Committee

Mr. Dodd had nothing further to report.

14. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

15. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made at the meeting.

ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, Mr. Jones offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:58PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk