

## **MINUTES**

### **FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 4, 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, Eric Wilson, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present were City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Clerk/Administrator, Janice Hall; and Administrative Assistant, Stacy Ladson.

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

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

##### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2014 Council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING TO ENACT A NEW FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION CODE**

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the adoption of the Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance. Mr. Melton stated the ordinance first came before Council on October 7, 2014 and had been advertised the appropriate amount of time. Chief Herndon highlighted the bigger changes, noting he had been working on the ordinance for 2 years and was excited to bring the City up to date. The biggest change to the code will be the enforcement of fire codes and the ability to cite violations. Mr. Stroud commended Chief Herndon for his hard work. Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the fire prevention and protection code. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **CARL HOFSTADTER – ENGINEERING REPORT**

Mr. Lawrence offered a recommendation from the Public Utilities Committee to authorize the City Engineer to proceed with obtaining the permit to dredge the city reservoir at a cost not to exceed \$20,000 to be paid from SPLOST funds. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence offered a recommendation from the Public Utilities Committee to authorize the City Engineer to proceed with the design engineering for the south interconnection to the county water line at Bunn Road. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **TRAVEL APPROVAL FOR GMA MAYOR'S DAY**

Mrs. Hall stated she had receive 2 travel expense request for the GMA Mayor's Day Conference. Both Mr. Wilson and Mr. Dodd's expense reports were for \$1,202.60 for a total for \$2,405.20. Mr.

Stroud offered a motion to approve the travel expenses. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT PAYABLE**

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoice totals for each department for a total of \$72,282.91 for general payables and \$829.67 for SPLOST payables; for a grand total of \$73,112.58. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the invoices for payment. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hall reviewed a requisition to replace 35 Class 5 Poles and 40 Class 3 Poles totaling \$6,030 including freight. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the requisition. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

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

#### **EXTENSION TO AGREEMENT WITH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS FOR CABLE/INTERNET PAYMENTS**

Mrs. Hall stated the agreement with Public Service Communications for cable/internet payments was for 90 days and expired on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The company was hoping to have a store front located in Forsyth, but does not have one at this time. They would like to extend the agreement on a month to month basis. Mrs. Hall stated that PSC removed all of their equipment from inventory last week so that part of the agreement has been satisfied and is no longer required. The tower escrow account is almost finalized and Mrs. Hall should have more information soon.

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

- City Hall will be closed at least the morning of November 12<sup>th</sup> for the software update; all computer hardware changes have been completed
- City Hall will close at noon on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving Holidays and reopen on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>; Garbage pickup for those regularly picked up on Thursday will be picked up on Friday and those regularly picked up on Friday will be picked up on Saturday.
- The Forsyth Main Street will hold the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> beginning with local shops remaining open after 5:00PM to allow for shopping; "A Charlie Brown Christmas" movie will begin at the Rose at 6:00PM; and then the tree lighting and events will begin at 6:00PM. All events are free, open to the public, and will take place on Johnston Street on the Square. A photographer will be available in the Rose to take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus and pictures will be available for purchase. When Main Street requested the street closing, they requested Jackson to be close, but wish to change the closing to Johnston Street. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to close Johnston Street on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

- The Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber of Commerce 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Hometown Holidays Parade will take place on December 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00PM. Once again this year the parade will begin at the BOE parking lot and end at Ingles. This year's theme is "Celebrations of Christmas Past". For additional information contact the Chamber at 478-994-9239.
- Georgia State Patrol ribbon cutting for their new building will be November 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM
- The Forsythia Festival Committee would like to request the use of the Annex during the festival for the art exhibit.
- 3 bids were received for rood repair; polyurethane foam over existing \$26,700; remove existing roof, replace decking, insulate, and 15 year warranty \$89,000 or \$50,000; recommend Roof Core for \$50,000. The repair will be paid from general funds as the City received a \$204,000 insurance premium check and a \$130,000 reimbursement from GEMA for the ice storm. Mr. Wilson stated he remembered Council agreeing to set \$100,000 from the cable sell for the roof repair and therefore offered a motion to move \$100,000 for the Competitive Trust for the repair of the roof. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Goolsby stated he believed if the money was in the general fund, they should use it first; then if it is needed later in the year the money be taken from the Competitive Trust. Mrs. Hall stated she agreed to use the funds in the general fund first, but if the money was needed later to take it from the trust. Mr. Wilson withdrew his motion. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to award Roof Core the contract and use the money in the general fund, then if any extra were needed or it was needed at a later date in the year to move up to \$100,000 from the Competitive Trust. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.
- The incentive package discussed at a prior council meeting cannot be based upon the electric provider being the City of Forsyth. The territorial rights act adopted in the early 1970's outlines which provider serves which area, except for certain customer choice loads. It has yet to be determined if this is a customer choice load, but looks favorable that it will overlap of easement area. The incentive package has not yet been offered to the prospect and was only discussed and approved by City Council so that the County Development Authority, Board of Education, and County Commissioners could make a decision as to what they would offer as well. When the incentives are discussed with the prospect, we will make it clear that these incentives are not based upon the City being the electric provider. The mission statement for the incentive package state that the City of Forsyth offers this incentive package, along with the additional incentives offered by the County Commissioners, Board of Education, and County Development Authority to open the Benson Ham Corridor for future development.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee reports offered.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Howard had nothing further to report at this time.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

There was no additional business to discuss.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. James Lyons – 33 Sharp Street approached Council to inquire why the City did not have a concrete finisher in the public works department to do the concrete work. Mayor Howard informed Mr. Lyons the Council was looking in to hiring one as well as reviewing the structure and leadership of the department.

**ADJOURN:**

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion was carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:33PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk