

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 2, 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, 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2014 Council meeting and Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion. Mr. Wilson stated that the minutes should be amended to reflect that Mr. Lawrence travel request was approved and not Mr. Wilson as his travel request was approved at the previous meeting. Mr. Stroud amended his motion to include the amendment by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO RETAIN GALLOWAY & LYNDALL, LLP TO REPRESENT THE CITY IN THE SURRENDER OF THE COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERIM CERTIFICATE L-095

Mr. Melton recommended to Council to contract with Galloway & Lyndall, LLP out of Griffin to handle the surrender the telecommunications certificate. Mr. Jones inquired as to whether the surrender could not be handled by Mr. Melton, as he is the City Attorney. Mr. Melton stated he recommended Galloway and Lyndall because they have extensive experience with telecommunications and they could speed the process along. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve Galloway and Lyndall, LLP to represent the City in the surrender of the Competitive Local Exchange Telecommunications Interim Certificate. Seconded by Mr. Jones, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoice totals for each department for a total of \$60,260.75 for general payables, and \$67,397.57 for SPLOST payables; for a grand total of \$127,685.32. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the invoices. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CITY CLERK REPORT

- Mrs. Hall stated she was waiting on the draft of the City Charter from the Regional Commission before scheduling the next meeting.
- City Hall will be closed for 3-4 hours on December 10th for the software update.
- The Hometown Holidays parade will be this Thursday, December 4th at 7:00PM.
- Economic Development Training with Electrical Cities of Georgia is scheduled for December 8th in Atlanta.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks/Recreation/Cemeteries Committee

- Mr. Dodd inquired as to who owned the old field at the City Park; the City or County. Some neighbors of the property have complained of illegal activity taking place after dark and they would like a fence erected. Council members discussed uses for the property if the City is the owner. Mr. Melton will research to determine who is responsible for the property.

Public Safety Committee

- Mr. Stroud stated the Public Safety Committee met November 24th to review 2014. The year ended on a positive note with both the Fire Department and Police Department looking to increase training and technology.

Public Affairs Committee

- Mr. Goolsby stated the Downtown Development Authority had approved the Legislation and Bylaws for the City CVB.
- Mr. Goolsby asked to go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss property acquisition.

Public Works

- Mr. Wilson, with recommendation from the Public Works Committee, offered a motion to remove the garbage fee for vacant homes after they have been vacant for 3 months with no plans to occupy for 12 months with the property owner signing an agreement; the agreement will include the statement that no one will live in the home for at least 12 months and that if someone moves in during this 12 month period, the garbage fee for the time will be added to the utility bill; if garbage or yard debris is

placed out at the property, the agreement will be nullified and the matter turned over to code enforcement. The motion carried with five (5) votes in the affirmative (voting in the affirmative were Mr. Stroud, Mr. Goolsby, Mr. Jones, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Dodd).

Administrative Committee

- Mr. Jones stated the Administrative Committee had not been meeting due to the 2015 budget still being established. The committee will begin meeting in January to discuss the implementations of recommendations from the Sheriff's Department, after the investigation earlier this year.

Public Utilities Committee

- Mr. Lawrence stated the utilities are looking very good for the year 2014 and that most projects have been complete.
- Mr. Lawrence stated he is working on the lighting of the interstate ramps, however the project will be very expensive.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- The Mayor reviewed some of the 2014 accomplishments.
- Mayor Howard encourage all Council members to attend the Mayor's Winter Wonderland Ball on December 21st at Gallery 51. The ball will benefit Forsyth Main Street for the development of a small revolving loan fund. Festivities include music and entertainment provided by AJ the DJ, catering by Ooh La La catering, a silent auction, and cash bar. Tickets are \$50.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Mr. Stroud stated he has been in contact with Vydia Patel concerning a Literacy program that will provide books for children and foster parent involvement with reading and asked Mayor Howard to make contact with her.
- Mr. Stroud stated now that the City is making changes to the City Charter, this may also be a good time to changing the seal. Mr. Goolsby agreed noting Main Street has taken on branding for the City in their 2015 work plan.
- Mr. Jones offered a motion to extend bonuses to all City employees in the following amounts: \$100 for regular part-time employees, \$150 for full-time employees who have been employed less than one year, and \$300 for full-time employees with more than one year of employment with the City. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made at the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss property acquisition. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously and Council adjourned into executive session at 6:37PM.

ADJOURN

Hearing no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk