

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 6, 2015

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION

In accordance with Section 2.301 of the City Charter, Janice Hall, City Clerk called the organizational meeting to order at 6:01PM. Miss Hall led the pledge of allegiance, Mayor Howard gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting were Mayor Howard, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, Eric Wilson, Jimmy Jones, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present were City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Clerk/Administrator, Janice Hall; and Administrative Assistant, Stacy Ladson. Mrs. Hall stated there were no newly elected officials and therefore no oaths to be given at the meeting. Mrs. Hall turned the meeting over to Mayor Howard to preside.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Mayor Howard nominated Councilman Jones as Mayor Pro-Tem; however, Mr. Jones respectfully declined stating he was not ready to take on the responsibility. Mr. Goolsby nominated Councilman Wilson. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Dodd and carried by five (5) votes in the affirmative (voting in the affirmative: Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Wilson).

ADOPTION OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to adopt the most recent version of Roberts Rules of Order as Council's meeting procedure. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED 2015 BUDGET

Mr. Melton stated this was the final hearing for the proposed 2015 budget; that the matter has been appropriately advertised; and could be adopted at tonight's meeting. Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the proposed 2015 budget. Hearing no comment, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2015 BUDGET

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adopt the resolution to adopt the 2015 budget as proposed and advertised. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2014 Council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried with five (5) voting in the affirmative (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson and Lawrence and one (1) abstention (Mr. Jones abstained as he was absent from the December 16th meeting).

2015 APPOINTMENTS OF PROFESSIONALS

Mrs. Hall presented the list of current department heads and professionals, recommending to keep the same ones for 2015. The only vacancy is the position of Elections Superintendent, which historically the City has named the person selected by the county to fulfill this position. Council can name an Elections Superintendent at a later date. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the presented list. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.

SET QUALIFYING FEES

Mrs. Hall stated qualifying fees are 3% of the annual salary of the office. Mayor's office – 3% of the annual salary of \$12,500 = \$375 and Council office – 3% of the annual salary of \$10,045 = \$301.35. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to set the qualifying fees as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoice totals for each department for a total of \$119,959.38 for general payables, and \$1,967.07 for SPLOST payables; for a grand total of \$121,926.45. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the invoices. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hall reviewed a purchase order requisition for repair of 1 of the 3 pumps at the sewer treatment plant at a cost of \$5,806. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the requisition. Seconded by Mr. Jones, the motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks/Recreation/Cemeteries Committee

- Mr. Dodd stated one member of the Tree Board had resigned and they were in need of someone fulfill the position.

Public Safety Committee

- Mr. Stroud stated he will be calling a Public Safety Committee meeting within the following weeks.

Public Affairs Committee

- Mr. Goolsby stated the Public Affairs Committee would be meeting before the next Council meeting to identify board appointment for 2015.

Administrative Committee

- Mr. Jones stated the Administrative Committee would also be meeting before the next Council meeting.

Public Works Committee

- Mr. Wilson called a Public Works Committee meeting for Thursday, January 8th at 8:30AM.

Public Utilities Committee

- Mr. Lawrence had nothing further to report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CITY CLERK REPORT

- Mrs. Hall stated Council would be hold two work sessions this month; January 13th at 5:30PM to discuss the Charter change with the Regional Commission and January 25th at a TBD time in Atlanta at the Mayor's Day Conference.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Mr. Melton thanked Council reappointing him as the City Attorney.
- Mr. Melton inquired as to the status of the South Interceptor Sewer line project. Mrs. Hall stated the project is completed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Howard stated the committee assignments will remain the same; noting the possible upcoming change to the City Charter.
- Mayor Howard presented the Law Enforcement Proclamation proclaiming January 9, 2015 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Mr. Goolsby noted the success of the Mayor's Ball held on December 21st and thanked Mayor Howard, Loraine Khoury and Stacy Ladson for their hard work to bring awareness to the Economic Development efforts of the City.
- Mr. Goolsby spoke in regards to the need for a city representative on the Monroe County Development Authority Board. There has been some questions lately concerning how representatives are picked and the County will be looking at developing a new procedure for the selection process.

- Mayor Howard thanked everyone who was able to attend the Mayor's Ball and noted Main Street was able to raise \$3,700 for economic development. Mayor Howard stated he hoped to bring in more money, but had hopes for next year's gala.
- Mr. Jones inquired on the status of the back entrance to the old recreation department. After much discussion, Mrs. Hall stated she would have a report at the next Council meeting.
- Mr. Jones also inquired on the status of the drain design in front of U-Save-It Pharmacy and Grits Café. Mrs. Hall stated she would contact the engineer for an update.
- Mayor Howard informed Council of a pothole on Ellis Lane and one on Railroad Ave.
- Mr. Stroud spoke in favor of developing a list of projects from 2014 and the statuses of each.
- Mr. Stroud inquired if the Council would be holding a retreat in 2015; Mayor Howard replied that he would be planning one for Council.
- Mr. Wilson stated after walking around the square on New Year's Eve, he believed Forsyth needed to host a celebration on that evening in the future. Mr. Wilson discussed Main Street taking on the project as an expansion of the concert series and maybe developing a "Forsythia Drop"

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Lyons – James Lyon, 865 Montpelier Street, addressed Council to inquire about the lighting being out under the bridge on North Lee Street. Mr. Lyons noted this was a safety hazard and believed it to be more pressing than the lights on the ramps of interstate 75. Mr. Lyons also spoke against the policy that city employees needing a work order before picking up trash on the side of the road. Mr. Lyons stated he understood the garbage pickup was now being contracted to a company, but if they don't pick it up and city employees see the garbage they should be able to take it away without obtaining a work order.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Jones offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:43PM.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Clerk