

## **MINUTES**

### **FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

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

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 6:00PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Councilmember Eric Wilson gave the invocation.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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; and Executive Assistant, Kristal Dunn. City Clerk/Interim Administrator, Janice Hall was unable to attend the meeting.

#### **COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

##### **PROCLAMATION FOR FBLA**

No action was taken, due to the proclamation was already given to the FBLA and Mrs. Sanders last week.

##### **GALLERY 51 REQUEST TO CLOSE A PORTION OF PHELPS STREET ON SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015**

Mayor Howard presented an application for permit from Celia Heningman/Gallery 51. The permit is for a wedding on the Saturday night of the Forsythia Festival. Mrs. Hall is working with the Forsythia committee to make sure that this does not cause any problems for the Forsythia. Mr. Wilson offered a motion that the permit be approved. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

##### **APPROVAL OF SITE ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR VERIZON**

Mr. Melton presented a Site Access Agreement for Verizon. The Agreement would allow Verizon to install antennas on the water tower in the city cemetery. Mr. Melton stated that this was a tentative agreement on the lease. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion that the Agreement be approved. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

##### **APPROVAL OF TRAVEL REQUEST**

Mayor Howard presented a travel authorization request for approval for the Mayor's travel to the GMA training class on Housing Solutions for Cities Mobile Workshop in Hawkinsville, GA on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lawrence offered a motion that the request be approved.

Seconded by Mr. Wilson. Mr. Stroud stated that he would be attending an Economic Development class and need approval for that also. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to amend the previous motion to include Mr. Stroud's request for travel to the Economic Development Training, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

#### **APPROVAL OF STREET CLOSURES FOR MAINSTREET EVENTS**

Mayor Howard presented a list of events for Main Street events that will require street closings for approval. Ms. Ladson stated that a few events had been added to the list along with the Summer Concerts. Mr. Goolsby made a motion that the street closures be approved. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

#### **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES**

Mrs. Dunn reviewed invoice totals for each department for a total of \$239,846.35 for general payables, \$630.21 for Seized and \$12,552.62 for SPLOST/GRANT payables; for a grand total of \$253,029.18. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the invoices. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

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

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

- **NOTIFICATION OF BEER, WINE, ALCOHOL POURING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR PRINCE FOOD GROUP/CHEERS TAVERN FOR 479 HOLIDAY CIRCLE – APPLICANT LAQUANTA PRINCE** - notification of application received; it will be advertised and come back for public hearing at the 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting in March.
- **NOTIFICATION OF VARIANCE REQUEST AND CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST FOR 57 LOBLOLLY COURT – OWNER DARRELL WATSON** – currently advertising for public hearing during the 1<sup>st</sup> council meeting in March.

##### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

- Mr. Melton stated that the advertisement from Rep. Dickey about the charter was in the paper last week and this week.

##### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- Mr. Dodd thanked the Electric Department on the work they did at the old Rec field, in getting the post and cable put up.

#### **Public Safety Committee**

- Mr. Stroud stated that there would be a Public Safety Committee meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00PM.

#### **Public Relations Committee**

- Mr. Goolsby stated that he attended the Country Club Board meeting last week and that they would like to talk about parking area where the old pool is located and drive area. Mr. Goolsby also stated that there would be a Public Relations Committee meeting February 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM to discuss the CVB and office space.

#### **Administrative Committee**

- Mr. Jones had nothing further to report.

#### **Public Works Committee**

- Mr. Wilson stated that there would be a Public Works meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00PM.

#### **Public Utilities Committee**

- Mr. Lawrence wanted to thank Mrs. Dunn for keeping the Council members informed with the weekly Department meeting minutes.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Howard stated that he wanted to recognize that there were issues with the garbage pickup and that it was being looked into.

### **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**

- Mr. Goolsby stated that he wanted to recognize Mr. John Ambrose, who is one of the new County Commissioners.
- Mr. Dodd reminded everyone that Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> was Arbor Day and that the celebration would be at Park Circle at 2:00PM.
- Mr. Stroud discussed the Economic Development outlook. The Mayor and Mr. Lawrence agreed, that we need to keep doing what we are doing and stay on track. The Mayor stated that they don't expect much growth out of Monroe County.
- Mr. Jones suggested that we have a work session to review the current ordinances to see what needs changing, then send them to the Regional Commission. The Mayor stated that we may want to look at outside input from the Planning & Zoning and Design & Review Boards.

- Mr. Goolsby stated that the Committees and Ad Hoc Committees will change the current form of committees. Mayor Howard stated that he was excited about having a great year.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Mr. John Ambrose, County Commissioner, stated that he just wanted to come by and introduce himself. He hoped that the Commissioners and Council could come together and sit down and work some things out. Mr. Ambrose stated that he hoped that we could work together on a water authority.
- The Mayor wanted to commend the police officer that comes to every Council meeting, and stands out front every meeting to protect us.

**ADJOURN**

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Wilson offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:36PM.

Submitted by:

Kristal Dunn, Executive Assistant