

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 17, 2015

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 6:05PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Howard asked Rev. Watson to give 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; City Clerk/Interim Administrator, Janice Hall; and Executive Assistant, Kristal Dunn.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2015 Council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson and Lawrence).

APPROVAL TO CLOSE KIMBALL STREET FROM ADAMS STREET TO JOHNSTON STREET FROM 5PM TO 9PM ON MARCH 21, 2015 FOR THE PAW SPA YAPPY HOUR

Mrs. Hall recommended approval for the closing of Kimball Street from Adams Street to Johnston Street from 5PM to 9PM on March 21, 2015 for the Paw Spa Yappy Hour. Mrs. Hall stated that The Anvil Room will be partnering with The Paw Spa on Saturday, March 21st to offer a promotional event for The Paw Spa. The event is called Yappy Hour and will provide an opportunity for dog owners to bring their dogs on a leash to the patio of The Anvil Room for a social event. Having the road closed will allow for more space for the attendees to socialize and walk their dogs during the event. Mr. Stroud asked if they would be providing clean up and Mrs. Hall stated that they will be responsible for closing off the street and cleanup. Mr. Lawrence offered a motion that to approve the closing of Kimball Street from Adams Street to Johnston Street from 5PM to 9PM on March 21, 2015 for The Paw Spa Yappy Hour. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

PUBLIC HEARING – HPC DISTRICT MAP

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to table the public hearing on the HPS District Map due to issues with the letters that went out to the property owners. Mr. Goolsby recommended there be a work session to include the property owners on April 21st. Mr. Goolsby stated that there was a hang up on the design guidelines, and the ordinance was adopted in 2004. Seconded by Mr. Jones, who recommended having an abbreviated Council meeting and then holding a work session. Mr. Melton stated that he also recommended a work session on the issue. Mrs. Hall stated that a packet would be going out to all the owners with additional information, Mrs. Hall recommended that it be tabled indefinitely to allow time for public comments. The motion carried unanimously to table the HPC District Map public hearing. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to make an amendment to the agenda for Public Comments on the HPC Map. Seconded by Mr. Stroud the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

PUBLIC COMMENTS – HPC District Map

- Mr. John Ambrose came before the Council representing the Masonic Lodge. Mr. Ambrose stated that the building was built in 1977 and should not be included in the historic district.
- Mr. Jay Patterson came before the council and asked what time the work session would be held. Mayor Howard stated it would be at 5:00PM, April 21st.
- Mr. Jimmy Pace – 333 West Main St – came before the council and stated that this was his 4th time coming before the Council on this matter. Mr. Pace stated that the guidelines had not passed in the Ordinance, that they must be approved separately. Mr. Pace stated that an explanation is needed of the map. Mr. Pace stated that the largest section of land was excluded, and that on Main and Johnston streets was the back side of buildings.

Mr. Goolsby stated that it was troubling that the Ordinance from 2004 set up the HPC and the HPC set up the guidelines. Mr. Goolsby stated that it was very cumbersome as to how it was addressed. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the floor for public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING – BEER/WINE/LIQUOR POURING APPLICATION FOR LAQUANTA PRINCE, OWNER CHEERS TAVERN – 479 HOLIDAY CIRCLE

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the beer/wine/liquor pouring license for LaQuanta Prince, Owner Cheers Tavern. Mr. Bobby Melton reviewed the beer/wine/liquor pouring application received for the LaQuanta Prince, stating this

application appears to be in order; it was advertised on March 4th & March 11th in the Reporter; favorable fingerprint report; ready for consideration and public comment. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Wilson offered a motion that the license be approved. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

PUBLIC HEARING – DARRELL WATSON FOR VARIANCES ON A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A DETACHED ACCESSORY APARTMENT AT 57 LOBLOLLY COURT – R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONING-MAP 53B PARCEL 19A

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the Variance and Conditional Use Permit to allow a detached accessory apartment at 57 Loblolly Court. Mr. Bobby Melton stated that it was advertised on February 25th, March 4th & March 11th in the Reporter and is ready for consideration and public comment. Mr. Watson stated that the sole purpose for the apartment was for his 86 year old mother-in-law, to have a residence to be able to maintain her independence, but be close to the family. Mr. Wilson asked the size of the home, and Mr. Watson stated that it was 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, at approximately 1400 square feet, and that it would have a consistent look with the existing structure. Mr. Stroud asked if Mr. Watson were to sell in the future would it be sold as one unit and not separately. Mr. Goolsby stated he had concerns and wanted to make sure the city was protected. Mr. Melton stated that the motion must include any conditions; i.e. based on design presented. Mr. Melton asked that an email from Mr. Tommy Vaughn be read by Mrs. Hall. Mr. Vaughn was not present for the Council meeting, but wanted the email he sent be read. Mrs. Hall read Mr. Vaughn's email. The email stated that Mr. Vaughn was against the variance and the Homeowners Association covenant did not allow for any separate structure. Mr. Jones asked if there was a covenant for the subdivision. Mr. Melton stated that that was a separate issue; that the City can approve, but that Mr. Watson may still need approval from the Homeowner Association. Mr. Goolsby asked if the City could approve against the covenants'. Mr. Melton stated that is contractual between the home owner and the Homeowners Association. Mr. Watson stated that there was no existing Homeowners Association for the subdivision. Mr. Melton stated that is a private matter not a public matter. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Stroud offered a motion that the variance and conditional use permit be approved, as it was presented in the plans, and to use the same language that was used in the minutes from the Planning & Zoning meeting. The motion that was approved in the Planning & Zoning meeting

read, “that the structure not be rented or otherwise used as anything other than a guest house as defined in the zoning ordinance”. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Howard pointed out that the letter to property owners stated the time for the Public Hearing was for 7:00PM. Mayor Howard requested a motion to allow for public comments at 7:00PM from those present for the HPC Map Public Hearing. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to amend the agenda to discuss the HPC Map. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

- Mr. Bill Bazemore came before the Council and asked if he needed to get on the agenda for the work session. Mrs. Hall stated that if their property is in the proposed district that will be getting a packet in the mail. Mrs. Hall stated that we would use addresses from deed records, tax records and utilities to mail the packets.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the floor for public comments.

RECOMMENDATION FROM PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE – APPROVAL TO AMEND BASE SEWER CONSUMPTION

Mrs. Hall stated that the water base consumption is 2,000 gallons and sewer base consumption is 1,000 gallons. Mrs. Hall reviewed that customers using less than 2,000 gallons of water would receive a bill showing sewer cost higher than water cost due to the difference in the base consumption. Mr. Lawrence offered as recommendation from the Public Utilities Committee to raise the base sewer consumption rate to 2,000 gallons. The motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

RECOMMENDATION FROM PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE – APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO ANNUAL ELECTRIC CITIES INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPANT CONTRACT

Mr. Lawrence offered as a recommendation from the Public Utilities Committee to amend the annual Electric Cities Intergovernmental Participant Contract. Mrs. Hall stated that the annual contract was usually just a guess of member hours for the upcoming year. Mrs. Hall stated that Electric Cities wanted to change the contract to be for a rolling 5 years. The motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

RECOMMENDATION FROM PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE – APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF AERATORS FOR SEWER TREATMENT PLANTS

Mr. Lawrence offered as a recommendation from the Public Utilities Committee to approve the purchase of aerators for the sewer treatment plants. Mrs. Hall stated that there are three aerators down at the water treatment plant; 1 was repairable and 2 could not be repaired. The cost for the 2 new aerators are \$27,160, using SPLOST funds. Mr. Goolsby asked if this had been budgeted. Mrs. Hall stated this has been worked on for over a year and the RFP had been done in September 2014. Mr. Jones stated that if the bad aerators go out, the plant will go down and we could receive EPD fines. The motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

TRAVEL REQUEST

Mrs. Hall presented the Travel request for the GMA Conference in Savannah for approval. Mrs. Hall stated that the request could be approved at the Federal per diem or it could be approved at the lowest hotel rate and then difference would be the responsibility of the person traveling. Mr. Wilson stated that we need to discuss this further. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to look at the travel policy and discuss the travel request. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence). Mayor Howard suggested this be added to the work session on April 7th, to review the travel policy.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICE

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoice totals for each department for a total of \$282,001.64 for general payables, \$630.23 for Seized and \$41,704.96 for SPLOST/GRANT payables; for a grand total of \$324,336.83. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the invoices. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CITY CLERK REPORT

- Public hearing for May 5th for beer/wine/liquor license for Mr. Taylor at 50 Lovers Lane.
- Invitation was received by the County for a Monroe County Community Leaders Social for Thursday, March 26th at 6:00PM. Per County there is no agenda, this is just a social gathering.

- Work Session with MEAG for April 7th at 9:00AM, we will also discuss the travel policy.
- Meeting at Alderman Hall on April 2nd at 6:00PM, with the County, City of Forsyth, and City of Culloden to discuss the consolidation report from the Regional Commission.
- Mrs. Hall asked for an Executive Session for personnel matters.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Mr. Melton stated that the Superior County Judge denied the appeal of a former employee, and upheld the termination.
- CLEC license cancellation approved by the Public Services Commission on March 5th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks/Recreation/Cemeteries Committee

- Mr. Dodd had nothing further to report.

Public Safety Committee

- Mr. Stroud had nothing further to report.

Public Relations Committee

- Mr. Goolsby stated that the Public Relations Committee would be having a meeting with the Chamber Executive Board on March 19th at Alderman Hall.
- Mr. Goolsby recommends we go into Executive Session to discuss purchasing property.

Administrative Committee

- Mr. Jones had nothing further to report.

Public Works Committee

- Mr. Wilson had nothing further to report.

Public Utilities Committee

- Mr. Lawrence had nothing further to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Howard had nothing further to report.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Mr. Lawrence stated that GMA would like for Forsyth to host the Training Board again, on April 23rd.

- Mr. Jones stated that the grapple truck had been picked up two weeks ago and that they drove it instead of hauling to the repair place. Mr. Wilson inquired if we would receive a rebate for driving it, instead of being hauled. Mrs. Hall stated that she would check into it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mr. Earl Friedborn & Mr. John Ambrose came before council representing the Lodge at N Jackson Street & Adams Street. Mr. Friedborn stated that they had a water problem that needed to be addressed. The side walk was worked on in front of the Presbyterian Church, but work stopped before the sidewalk in front of the Lodge was fixed. Mrs. Hall stated that she would look into the issue.
- Mr. Goolsby offered a motion that we move into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel matters and land acquisition, lease and disposal. Seconded by Mr. Jones, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

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 8:10PM.

Submitted by:

Kristal Dunn, Executive Assistant