

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 07, 2015

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order at 6:00PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Howard asked Mr. Wilson to give the invocation.

ROLL CALL

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/Interim Administrator, Janice Hall; and Executive Assistant, Kristal Dunn. Councilmember Jimmy Wilson was absent.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2015 Council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson and Lawrence).

RIGHT OF WAY MOWING AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – GATEWAY GRANT.

Mrs. Khoury presented the mowing & maintenance agreement for approval. Mrs. Khoury stated that the mowing and maintenance would be done by either the City, Department of Corrections or an independent landscaping company. Mr. Goolsby inquired if the project had been bid out yet and Mrs. Khoury stated that it had not yet, that the agreement had to be signed first. Mrs. Khoury stated that if the maintenance was not signed, there would be no Grant money. Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the right of way mowing and maintenance agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones and Lawrence).

VERIZON WIRELESS WATER TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT

Mrs. Hall recommended that the lease agreement for Verizon Wireless Water Tower be approved. Mrs. Hall stated that Nextel previously had antennas on the water tower and that Verizon would like to take over that space. Mr. David Kirk and Ms. Michelle Grover were present representing Verizon Wireless. Ms. Grover stated that there would be 6 antennas on the water tower. Ms. Grover stated that this would allow for better service and better data. Ms. Grover and Mr. Kirk stated that the renewal would be automatic and that there were no termination rights. Mr.

Dodd offered a motion to approve the lease agreement with Verizon Wireless. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones and Lawrence).

PUBLIC HEARING – VARIANCE REQUEST FOR SETBACK REQUIREMENTS AT 133 HAROLD G PARKWAY – F54 009M – OWNER ROBIN CHANDLER

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the variance for setback requirements at 133 Harold G Parkway. Mr. Bobby Melton stated the property is zoned MI and been advertised on March 18th, March 25th and April 1st in the Reporter and is ready for consideration and public comment. Mr. Melton stated that the Planning & Zoning Board had recommended approval of both sides and rear variance, but had denied the front request. Mr. Chandler stated that the property would be very well landscaped. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the variance based on the Planning & Zoning Board recommendation of an eastside setback of 10' a westside setback of 30' and a rear setback of 30', also the denial front setback request of 20' must remain at 40'. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson and Lawrence).

PUBLIC HEARING - VARIANCE REQUEST FOR HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR 4 STORY BUILDING AT INTERSECTION OF GRANT AND BEVERLY STREETS – F44 024 – OWNERS GRANT APARTMENTS, LLC AND SHRAD AMRIT (FOR BRAN HOSPITALITY FORSYTH, INC)

Mayor Howard opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the variance for height requirement for a 4 story building at the intersection of Grant and Beverly Streets. Mr. Bobby Melton stated that this was a height variance request for a 4 story hotel. Mr. Melton stated that it had been advertised on March 18th, March 25th and April 1st in the Reporter and is ready for consideration and public comment. Mrs. Kathy Rowland from R & R Real Estate agency was present for any questions and stated that the parties in question were looking for approval for a 4 story hotel. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Howard closed the public hearing. Mr. Wilson offered a motion that the variance be approved. Seconded by Mr. Dodd. The motion was amended for the application to read exactly 4 stories. The motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson and Lawrence).

AUTHORIZATION FOR INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO NEGOTIATE CONSTRUCTION EASEMENTS FOR 11 PROPERTIES FOR STREETScape PHASE III

Mrs. Hall asked for authorization to negotiate construction easements for 11 properties for Streetscape Phase III. Mrs. Hall stated that meetings were in the process of being scheduled with the property owners. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the authorization. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF PICKUP TRUCK FOR ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Hall asked for approval on the Municipal Finance Agreement for the purchase of pickup truck for the Electric Department. Mrs. Hall stated that the total price was \$19,704.00, with four (4) annual payments of \$5,513.41. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the finance agreement for the purchase of the pickup truck. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson and Lawrence).

AUTHORIZATION FOR DEPOSIT OF MEAG 2014 YEAR END SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Mrs. Hall recommended depositing the 2014 Year End Settlement in the Flexible Intermediate Fund. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the deposit of the Year End Settlement. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson and Lawrence).

AUTORIZATION FOR DEPOSIT OF 2014 YEAREND SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

Mrs. Hall recommended depositing 2014 the Year End Telecommunications Settlement in the Flexible Intermediate Fund. Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the deposit of the Year End Settlement. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF TRAVEL REQUEST

Mrs. Hall asked for approval of Travel Request for the Mayor and Council to the GMA Conference from June 26th through June 28th, to exceed federal per diem for hotel. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the Travel Request to exceed federal per diem for hotel. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES AND PURCHASE ORDERS

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoice totals for each department for a total of \$242,329.15 for general payables and \$38,057.31 for SPLOST/GRANT payables; for a grand total of \$280,386.46. Mr.

Dodd offered a motion to approve the invoices. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, 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.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL ITEMS:

CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CITY CLERK REPORT

- Advance Disposal will be picking up Household Garbage on Wednesday and Thursday. They will pick up Yard Debris on Friday and continue to pick up Recyclables on Tuesday.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Mr. Melton stated that we would be receiving validation on MEAG Bonds, which was previously approved by council and final documents will need to be signed by Mayor Howard.

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 to discuss the move of the Chamber from the Welcome Center, and to begin setup of the CVB.

Administrative Committee

- Mr. Jones had nothing further to report.

Public Works Committee

- Mr. Wilson stated that the Grapple truck had been put back on the road after repairs. Mr. Wilson brought a recommendation from the Public Works Committee to offer a yard debris pickup for \$25.00/trip. There will be a prepay deadline to apply for the pick up by Friday for Monday pickup. The recommendation passed unanimously.
- Mr. Wilson stated that the next meeting for the Public Works Committee would be April 21st at 3:30 PM, to meet with the property owners on the Square to discuss garbage/dumpster, we will also discuss the square lighting on Johnston Street.

Public Utilities Committee

- Mr. Lawrence had nothing further to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Howard stated that he had an interview with WMAZ this morning on the consolidation. Mayor Howard stated that we were still waiting on the Governor's signature for the Charter and CVB.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Mr. Wilson stated that the Council had previously made the motion for Janice Hall to be the Interim City Administrator and until the end of April. Mr. Wilson made a motion to extend this appointment to the end of October and to transition to Interim Manager, when the Charter is enacted by the Governor's signature. Seconded, by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).
- 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. James Lyons came before council asking about the water shed, and the stipulation on the property, of no fishing. Mr. Lyons wants to go fishing on the reservoir. Mr. Melton stated that the property is still being used for public use. Mr. Lyons stated that the tax payers paid for it. Mr. Melton stated that it is a limited access for drinking source; and the adjoining property owners are allowed access to the reservoir, and it is not opened to the general public. Mr. Stroud stated we would need to get the map to study. Mayor Howard

stated that it was only public as being a public water source. Mr. Lyons stated that it was just a private lake for the property owners, and he will be getting up a petition.

- Mr. Shrad Amrit came before the council asking about the tax incentive for hotels. Mr. Goolsby stated that he would need to talk with Tiffany Andrews at the Chamber and she would be able to walk him through it.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:05PM.

Submitted by:

Janice Hall

City Clerk/Interim City Administrator