

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 05, 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. Melton to give the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting were Mayor Howard, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, Jimmy Wilson, 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. Wilson offered a motion to approve the minutes from the April 7th and April 21st, 2015 Council meetings. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson and Lawrence).

TIFFANY ANDREWS – OPPORTUNITY ZONE

Mrs. Andrews reviewed the new Opportunity Zone that was applied for 2 years ago for Regency Inn and Tradewinds. Mrs. Andrews came before the council to ask for approval to transfer the incentives approved for a hotel site on Benson Ham Road last year, to a new location for the hotel. The owner is requesting to change to a new location and for the tax freeze to go from 3 years to 5 years. Mrs. Hall asked that since Mrs. Andrews was here that the incentives needed to be looked at in general. Mrs. Andrews stated that the City and County need to look at how we need to move forward, need to look at new areas and decided do we offer to just specific sites or just these two hotels who have asked for the Incentive. Mayor Howard stated that if we only offer to these two hotels, we open up a precedence. Mr. Wilson asked what the initial offer was made to Hampton Inn. Mrs. Andrews stated that it was for 3 years to freeze property taxes for all development growth. Mr. Jones offered a motion to grant a 3yr tax freeze at current tax for both hotels, Mr. Stroud. Mr. Wilson asked if tax is lowered does tax remain at current. Mr. Jones amended his motion to state to freeze at current rate or lower. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Jones, Wilson and Lawrence). Mayor Howard set up an Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Mr. Wilson, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Stroud to look into the incentive package for hotels. Mr. Stroud declined the nomination and

stated that since Mr. Goolsby has already been working on it, he would feel better if Mr. Goolsby was appointed. Mayor Howard appointed Mr. Goolsby to the Ad Hoc Committee.

APPOINT VOTING DELEGATE FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING DURING GMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SAVANNAH

Mrs. Hall stated that the Council needed to appoint a voting delegate for the annual business meeting which would be held on Sunday, June 28th, at 3:30 PM in Savannah. Mrs. Hall stated that Mr. Lawrence was the delegate last year. Mr. Wilson offered a motion to appoint Mr. Lawrence as the voting delegate during the annual business meeting at the GMA annual conference in Savannah. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR TWO WORK DETAILS FOR THEIR FY 2016

Mrs. Hall stated that this was the renewal agreement with Georgia Department of Corrections for two work details for their FY 2016(July 2015-June 2016). Mrs. Hall stated that the renewal was for \$39,500.00 per year for two details. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the renewal agreement with Georgia Department of Corrections for their FY 2016. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence). Mr. Jones asked if the details were used to the fullest extent. Mayor Howard stated no, but we could, especially if they are utilized the right way. Mrs. Hall stated that they work four (4) ten (10) hour days, and work through Steve Jones. Mr. Jones asked Mrs. Hall her opinion of the detail crew and Mrs. Hall stated that she believed it was a good investment, as long as it is properly managed.

RECOMMENDATION FROM PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR AMENDMENTS TO SELECTION PROCESS, PROMOTIONAL PROCESS, CORPORAL POSITION AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POICIES IN THE POLICE DEPARMENTAL SOP

Mr. Stroud stated that during the Public Safety Committee meeting, Chief Corley wanted to tighten up some of the policies. Mr. Stroud stated that Chief Corley wanted the policy that mentions nepotism to reflect the policy at City Hall and at this time it does not. Mr. Stroud made a recommendation to accept the changes that Chief Corley brought to the Public Safety Committee meeting. The recommendation was approved unanimous (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoice totals for each department for a total of \$92,248.30 for general payables, none for SEIZED and none for SPLOST/GRANT payables; for a grand total of \$92,248.30. 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 CLERK/CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Two travel invoices for approval for Mr. Dodd and Mr. Wilson for the MEAG convection in July in the amount of \$1457.00 and \$795.00. Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the travel invoices. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence). Mr. Lawrence asked what the deadline was, and Mrs. Hall stated that it is June 19th. Mr. Goolsby asked if others were considering going and Mr. Stroud, Mr. Lawrence and Mayor Howard stated that yes they were going. Mr. Goolsby stated that he understood why the Mayor and Manager would attend as they deal with the electric issues, but he did not understand why 5 to 6 people would attend. Mr. Stroud stated that he learned a tremendous amount last year; especially important information about Plant Vogtle he did not know and believes that they all should attend. Mayor Howard stated that he always attends, especially because it is our largest revenue contract. Mr. Wilson stated that he hasn't been in 3 years but thinks it is very beneficial. Mr. Jones stated that he thinks it is a personal choice for each person, but thinks that the Mayor and City Manager needs to attend; but that he is just cautious of using city funds to travel to meetings. Mr. Wilson stated that he has never been questioned as to why he attends training and believes all see the value in officials attending training. Mr. Wilson stated that he is also an advocate on training for departments as well.
- PINTUKUMAR PATEL – LIQUOR STORE BUSINESS LICENSE APPLICATION ADVERTISEMENT - Mrs. Hall stated that this was a notification change in ownership of a liquor store. Mr. Goolsby asked if there was anything we could do about the trailer that was next to the liquor store. Mr. Melton stated that it was presented as being used as storage. Mrs. Hall stated that she would talk with Mr. Patel.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Public Safety Committee – Discussion regarding purchase and finance of ladder truck
For Fire Department**

- Mr. Stroud stated that during the Public Safety meeting last week that the citizens should be happy with the training that both the Fire Department and Police Department are going through. Mr. Stroud stated that there was a huge need for a ladder truck. Chief Herndon stated that a demo truck from a trade show was available for purchase. Mr. Goolsby stated that the city needed to talk with the Department of Corrections, and get some buy in from them. Mrs. Hall reviewed the SPLOST referendum and bonding stating that the only projects bonded for the 2014 SPLOST were the water/sewer projects. Mrs. Hall reviewed the proceeds of the tax and the expense of the bond stating that we are currently receiving approximately \$43,000 per month and the bond payment is \$40,200 per month. Mrs. Hall stated that unless the SPLOST proceeds increase there will be no SPLOST money for the additional projects in the referendum. Mrs. Hall reviewed the need for an electric bucket truck at \$170,000; chassis for the fire rescue truck at \$46,000; patrol cars at \$45,000 each and need a minimum of 3; pickup trucks at \$20,000 and need a minimum of 3; water tank maintenance at \$100,000; and remodel of city hall starting at \$200,000. Mrs. Hall recommended setting up a separate bank account and transferring \$5400 per month into that account to pay the annual payment of \$65,000 for the ladder truck; purchase the chassis for the fire rescue truck and three (3) patrol cars from the SPLOST funds available at this time; and the bucket truck, three (3) pickup trucks and the equipment for the new ladder truck from the Competitive Trust. After much discussion, a motion was offered by Mr. Wilson to accept the recommendations from Mrs. Hall concerning the ladder truck, chasis and 3 police cars. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. After more discuss a motion was offered by Mr. Stroud for Mrs. Hall to return with a resolution spelling out borrowing money from MCT, interest rate & time frame. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence).

Public Relations Committee

- Mr. Goolsby stated that the DDA has called a meeting for Monday prior to the next council meeting, to recommend members for the CVB board which will be the DDA board and 2 additional members along with terms.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Howard stated that everyone could go out to the gov.georgia.gov website to see the pictures from the signing with the Governor. Mayor Howard stated that the City control its own destiny with the Charter and the CVB. Mr. Wilson thanked the Mayor for his vision, he thinks it will work out well, as long as they allow the City Manager to run day to day operations. Mr. Stroud stated that it is a new age and he is exited. Mr. Lawrence stated that it is well over due.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Mr. Lawrence stated that during the GMA training board meeting on April 23rd that he was informed that GMA was offering new 3 and 6 hours courses and that newly elected officials that had been out of office for 4 years or better will be required to take the newly elected classes. Mr. Lawrence stated that this was the second time that Forsyth has hosted the meeting and that it went really well.
- Mr. Stroud stated that the pool area at the City Park needed to be filled in. Mrs. Hall stated that an RFP has been submitted. Mr. Stroud stated that something useful need to be done over there, and that the citizens deserved something nice.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Mr. William Calloway** of 205 Solomon Street, came before council asking about limbs being left on the side of the road that were not being picked up, and the cost of the new service with the grapple truck. Mrs. Hall stated that she would go by Mr. Calloway's property and look, but that Advanced Disposal should be picking the debris up. Mr. Calloway also discussed the needs of the youth in Forsyth. Mr. Calloway thinks the city needs to provide some kind of distraction for the youth, plus it would keep them out of trouble.
- **Mr. James Lyons** came before council asking about going fishing at the reservoir. Mayor Howard stated that we would need to look at the contract with the proper owners. Mr. Lyons stated that he hoped the Mayor and Council could correct the problem, because it was not fair. Mr. Jones asked if Mr. Melton could review the contract and give us an opinion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 7:55 PM. Mayor Howard called the meeting back into open session at 8:45 PM.

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to appoint Mrs. Hall as the 1st City Manager with an annual salary of \$85,000 and a \$300 monthly vehicle allowance. Seconded by Mr. Jones, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Wilson, Jones and Lawrence). Mrs. Hall thanked the Mayor and Council for the offer and appreciated their confidence. Mr. Lawrence stated that Mrs. Hall was the first female and the first City Manager. Mr. Stroud stated that Mrs. Hall earned it.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Submitted by:

Janice Hall
City Manager