

## **MINUTES**

### **FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**JANUARY 5, 2016**

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

City Clerk Kristal Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:05PM. Boy Scout Troop 101 of Forsyth led the Pledge of Allegiance. New Providence Baptist Church Pastor and Police Department Chaplain Brian Moore gave the invocation.

#### **OATH OF OFFICE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

City Clerk Kristal Dunn asked all current elected official to stand and raise their right hand to take the oath of office in accordance with the New City Charter. Mrs. Dunn administered the Oath of Office.

#### **OATH OF OFFICE – NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

##### **A. DEXTER KING – COUNCIL MEMBER**

Mrs. Dunn asked for Dexter King to come forward to take the Oath of Office. After taking the Oath of Office, Mrs. Dunn asked Mr. King to take his seat with the Council Members.

##### **B. ERIC WILSON – MAYOR**

Mrs. Dunn asked for Eric Wilson to come forward to take the Oath of Office. After taking the Oath of Office, Mrs. Dunn asked Mr. Wilson to take his seat as Mayor.

Mrs. Dunn turned the meeting over to Mayor Wilson for him to preside.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present for the meeting were Mayor Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Greg Goolsby, Dexter King, Chris Hewett and Melvin Lawrence. Also present were City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Manager, Janice Hall; City Clerk, Kristal Dunn. Councilmember Julius Stroud was absent; therefore all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes (Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

#### **COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

##### **APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEM**

Mayor Wilson opened the floor to take nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem. Mr. Lawrence nominated Mr. Dodd as the Mayor Pro-Tem. Hearing no further nominations Mayor Wilson closed the floor. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the nomination of Mr. Dodd as the new Mayor Pro-Tem. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence, with Mr. Dodd abstaining).

##### **ADOPTION OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES**

Mrs. Hall stated that we have previously adopted Robert Rules of Order and the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition is the most current. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adopt Roberts Rules of Order – 11<sup>th</sup>

Edition as the Parliamentary Procedures. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

#### **2016 AD-HOD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Mayor Wilson stated that he would like to make the following committee assignments.

##### **A. TRAIN MUSEUM COMMITTEE**

Melvin Lawrence, Mike Dodd, Greg Goolsby

##### **B. PARK/RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Julius Stroud, Chris Hewett, Dexter King

#### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR EXPIRED AND VACANT POSITIONS**

Mrs. Hall stated that there was one (1) opening on the Design & Review Board, due to an expired term and that the person had asked not to be reappointed and there are two reappointments, Mr. Jimmy Webb and Mr. Silas Peed. Mrs. Hall stated that there was a vacant position on the Planning & Zoning Board, due to the resignation of Jo Anna Banks, and that George Emani from The Brokery had requested to be appointed to serve. Mrs. Hall stated that there were two reappointments on the Downtown Development Authority board, Mr. Ralph Ogletree and the position for the Council representative. Mrs. Hall stated that there were two reappointments on the Convention & Visitors Bureau Board, Ms. Helen Walker for the Restaurant sector and Ms. Angie Ellis for the Retail sector. Mrs. Hall stated that the appointment for the Chamber of Commerce and the Monroe County Health Board was previously held by the Mayor. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the reappointments and new appointments for the Boards. Seconded by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Goolsby stated that he had served on the DDA and CVB Board as the Council representative for two (2) years. Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Dodd, both stated that they thought Mr. Goolsby was doing a good job and wished for him to remain on the Boards. Mayor Wilson said that he would agree to serve on the Chamber of Commerce and Monroe County Health Boards. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

#### **2016 APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONALS**

Mrs. Hall read the list of Department Heads and Professionals for Appointment for 2016. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the appointments. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. King asked what the process would be for hiring a Chief of Police. Mrs. Hall stated that she had that item on the agenda for the Council Retreat and reviewed the process would be to advertise and that she would hire someone to fill the position of Chief. Mr. Dodd asked if we had any options for the Election Superintendent. Mrs. Hall stated that the only one qualified to serve was Donna Robins at this time. Mr. Lawrence asked that if we could to look at hiring for the Police Chief from within. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

#### **SET QUALIFYING FEES**

Mrs. Hall stated that we needed to set qualifying fees even though we did not have an election this year. Mrs. Hall stated that it would be 3% of the annual salary for both Mayor's office and Council office (Mayor's office – 3% of annual salary \$12,500.00 is \$375.00 and Council office – 3% of annual salary \$10,045.00 is \$301.35). Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the qualifying fees. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

#### **ADOPTION OF RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU (CVB) FOR HOTEL TAX**

Mrs. Hall stated that this was the agreement between the City and the CVB, where the CVB will receive 40% of the Monthly Hotel/Motel tax that is received from the City. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the renewal agreement with the CVB for Hotel Tax. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2015 Council Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

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

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoice totals for each department for a total of \$174,120.96 for general payables, none for Seized or SPLOST/GRANT payables; for a grand total of \$174,120.96. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to pay the Accounts Payable Invoices. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett, and Lawrence).

#### **APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000**

##### **A. CALIBRATION & CONTROLS – REPAIRS TO BELT PRESS - \$10,745**

Mrs. Hall stated that this requisition was for repairs to the belt press and that CC&A were the only contractors to submit a bid. Mrs. Hall stated that a new belt press could run anywhere from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Mr. Dodd asked how good the repair would be, meaning would it last. Mayor Wilson asked about the warranty on the work. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the requisition for the repair on the belt press. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

#### **APPOINTMENT OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR GMA MAYOR'S DAY**

Mrs. Hall stated that the Council needs to appoint a voting delegate for GMA Mayor's Day. Mr. Lawrence stated that he was interested in being the delegate. Mr. Lawrence stated that he liked representing the City of Forsyth. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Lawrence at the voting delegate for GMA Mayor's Day. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion

carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King and Hewett, with Mr. Lawrence abstaining).

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR A VARIANCE REQUEST FROM WANDA LUCEAR TO ALLOW THE REPLACEMENT OF A DESTROYED MOBILE HOME IN R-3 DISTRICT – TAX MAP F2 PARCEL 7 – 541 WEST MAIN STREET**

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing. Mr. Melon stated that this had been properly advertised for tonight for a public hearing. Mr. Melton stated that Ms. Lucear's mobile home was destroyed by fire in an R-3 district and would need a variance to be replaced. Ms. Thombly came forward and stated that Cynthia Thrash, sister of Wanda Lucear was here to speak on Ms. Lucear's behalf. Mrs. Thrash stated that Ms. Lucear was on a limited income and only wanted to replace what she had lost. Mrs. Thrash stated that the land would be cleared off and replace the mobile home with another. Mrs. Thrash stated that Ms. Lucear's mobility would not allow her to get up steps and that was why she was not there tonight. Mr. Hewett asked how long Ms. Lucear had been there. Mrs. Thrash stated 30+ years. Mr. Goolsby asked if anything came from Planning & Zoning. Ms. Thombly stated that the only stipulation was that only Ms. Lucear would live there and it would be for her use only. Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the variance request for Wanda Lucear to replace mobile home that was destroyed by fire with the stipulation that the variance is for her only and if she is no longer there the variance ceases to exist. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR A VARIANCE REQUEST FROM SHRAD AMRIT AND BRAN HOSPITALITY FORSYTH, INC., WITH REGARD TO THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES FOR A PROPOSED HOTEL – TAX MAP 44 PARCEL 24 – 547 SOUTH FRONTAGE ROAD**

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing. Mr. Melton stated that this had been to Planning & Zoning and had been properly advertised for tonight for a public hearing. Mr. Melton stated that the Council had already approved the abandoning & disposing of Beverly Street, this was a variance for parking space. Mr. Shannon representing Bran Hospitality came forward and stated that they wanted to make the parking space 10 ft. around the building and the rest would be 9 ft. Mr. Shannon stated that there would be 182 spaces for 187 rooms. Mr. Lawrence asked how many handicapped spaces there would be. Mr. Shannon stated that there would be 6. Mr. Wilson closed the public hearing. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the variance request from Shrad Amrit and Bran Hospitality Forsyth, Inc. Seconded by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Goolsby asked about the GA Power Easement. Mr. Shannon stated that the Georgia Transmission Corp. was working with Bran Hospitality. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

## **REPORTS**

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

- Mrs. Hall stated that the required work at the old landfill was completed before the dead line, but the EPD had not made their inspection and with all the rain the EPD would be coming out to inspect after we made some additional repairs from water damage.
- Mrs. Hall stated the Bluetick Mercantile has submitted an alcohol license application. This will be advertised and come back before Council for a public hearing.
- Mrs. Hall stated we are trying to determine who has ownership of the storm drain at Navicent Health.

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

Mr. Melton thanked Council for his reappointment. Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Wilson stated that he was thankful, humbled and honored to be able to serve the City of Forsyth. Mayor Wilson stated that he thought there were great things ahead of us. Mayor Wilson thanked the Citizens of Forsyth, his family and friends for their support.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mr. Dodd wished everyone a Happy New Year and look forward to their ability to move the City forward in the New Year. Mr. Lawrence congratulated the newly Elected Officials and thanked Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Dunn for the new name plaques. Mr. King thanked the citizens of Forsyth, and stated that he was a public servant here to serve the City and he was ready to go to work. Mr. Hewett asked about limbs and trash. Mrs. Hall thanked Troop 101 for leading the Pledge. Mayor Wilson stated that he would like to get different pastors from the City to do the invocation at each meeting.

### **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

No further business to report.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence). The meeting adjourned at 6:46PM.

Submitted by:  
Kristal S. Dunn  
City Clerk