

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2016

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:02PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Lawrence gave the invocation.

OATH OF OFFICE

City Clerk Kristal Dunn asked Mr. Julius Stroud, III to stand and raise his right hand to take the oath of office in accordance with the New City Charter. Mrs. Dunn administered the Oath of Office.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting were Mayor Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, Dexter King, Chris Hewett and Melvin Lawrence. Also present were City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Manager, Janice Hall; City Clerk, Kristal Dunn.

CONSENT AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$184,335.04

Mayor Wilson read the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Hall read the Accounts Payable totals for each Department. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence. Mr. Stroud abstained due to his absence from the January 5, 2016 Council Meeting).

AGENDA ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

VIDEO PRESENTATION ON MARKETING – TIFFANY ANDREWS, FORSYTH/MONROE COUNTY CHAMBER AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mrs. Tiffany Andrews, Forsyth/Monroe County Chamber and Development Authority, came forward to present a video on Marketing that was put together by the Middle GA Economic Alliance to promote not only Forsyth/Monroe County but also the surrounding counties. Mrs. Andrews stated that the video was made to show what Forsyth/Monroe County has available. Mrs. Andrews stated that the video has gotten great feedback. After viewing the video, Mayor Wilson and Council thanked Mrs. Andrews and praised the work they put into the video.

TEMPORARY ALCOHOL PERMIT FOR SALE AND CONSUMPTION AT 475 HOLIDAY CIRCLE ON JANUARY 22, 2016 FOR THE ANNUAL CHAMBER MEETING- REQUESTED BY FORSTYH/MONROE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mrs. Hall stated that this is for the annual meeting for the Chamber of Commerce for Friday, January 22, 2016 for the annual chamber meeting requested by the Forsyth/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Hall stated that this is for sale and consumption. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the temporary alcohol permit for Forsyth/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried one unanimously, (voting in the affirmative for Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION AND INCUMBENCY AND SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE FOR THE MUNICIPAL COMPETITIVE TRUST WITH MEAG

Mrs. Hall stated this is a Resolution to change the signature requirements for the Municipal Competitive Trust with MEAG. Mrs. Hall stated the resolution will how that the Mayor and City Manager signatures will be required for all transactions with MEAG and MCT. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adopt the Resolution and Incumbency & Signature Certificate for the Municipal Competitive Trust with MEAG. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

APPROVAL FOR VOLUNTARY DEPOSITS INTO THE MUNICIPAL COMPETITIVE TRUST

Mrs. Hall stated that this was for the voluntary deposits into the Municipal Competitive Trust. Mrs. Hall recommended depositing the deposits into the Flexible Operating Account, Intermediate Extended Maturity Portfolio, due to a higher interest. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve for voluntary deposits into the Municipal Competitive Trust. Seconded by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Dodd asked if this would put in in the Competitive Trust directly. Mrs. Hall stated that it would, that it would not go against the bill. Mayor Wilson stated that it is our money and that if used, it should be repaid with interest. Mrs. Hall stated that we did not borrow from the Competitive Trust for the equipment on the fire truck like was originally planned, as there was sufficient funds in the general account to fund the purchase. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF TRAVEL REQUEST FOR GMA MAYORS DAY

Mrs. Hall stated that this was for the approval for travel to the GMA Mayor's Day, scheduled for January 22nd though January 25th. Mrs. Hall reviewed the maximum cost for elected officials to attend. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the Travel for Mayor and Council to GMA Mayor's Day. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF LIABILITY INSURANCE RENEWAL

Mrs. Hall stated that this was for the approval of the Liability Insurance renewal, which would expire on January 31, 2016. Mrs. Hall stated that McGinty-Gordon & Associates had come

back with two quotes, one from Selective and the other from Travelers. Mrs. Hall stated that Travelers came in with a lower quote and recommended that we renew with Travelers. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to renew with Travelers for the Liability Insurance renewal. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

ADDITIONAL CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Mayor Wilson stated that the Council had a good retreat, which included team building and then discussions. He stated that the Council decided to hire an Economic Development person, with the title of Project Manager for Economic Development.
- Mayor Wilson stated that we will begin taping the City Council meetings and posting them to the website and YouTube. Mayor Wilson stated that due to our current bandwidth live streaming was not possible at this time. Mayor Wilson also stated that there would be no cost to the City.
- Mr. Hewett offered a motion to move the City Council meeting from the 1st and 3rd Tuesday to the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00PM. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Stroud asked if the Council needed to do a test run and set an end date for the end of the second quarter, if it is now working we can go back to the original dates. Mr. Melton stated that would be a good idea, and that an ordinance to change the meeting date and time would be required if the change is to become permanent. Mr. Melton stated that if we decided to change the 1st meeting of the year from Tuesday to Monday, the Charter would need to be changed. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).
- Mr. Dodd and Mayor Wilson stated that we would be holding a quarter meeting/dinner with the County Commissioners and Board of Education; the Chamber will facilitate; the City will host the first meeting.
- Mayor Wilson stated that the work sessions will be incorporated into the second Council meeting of each month.
- Mr. Dodd offered a motion to appoint Steve Coleman as the City Surveyor. Seconded Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).
- Mr. Stroud offered a motion to start using the grapple truck to pick up debris in the City, effective immediately, at no additional charge to the citizen. Seconded by Mr. Hewett. There was a lengthy discussion regarding pickup, when it would be made and how much it would cost the city, what would be included in the city pickup. Mrs. Hall recommended dividing the City in half and do half of the City on one day and the other

half on another day. Mrs. Hall stated that we would have to talk with Advance Disposal to get them to adjust the City cost. Mr. Stroud stated that it would only be yard waste, to include limbs, leaves (bagged or piled), no couches or stoves. Mrs. Hall stated that debris would need to be brought out to the roadway. Mr. Goolsby suggested amending the motion to say that the City Manager would look at running the grapple truck twice a week to pick up yard debris. Mayor Wilson asked how it would affect the budget. Mr. Goolsby stated that maybe not twice a week to start. Mr. Dodd asked how much Advance Disposal charges us and that he would like to look at figures. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to table this issue until we have more info and are able to look at the figures. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

- Mr. Stroud asked if we could put a link on website to the video Mrs. Andrews presented tonight and Mrs. Hall stated she would ask Mrs. Andrews.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Wilson stated that even though it was not on the agenda he wanted to ask the Public if anyone would like to come forward and speak

- James Lyons – 865 Montpelier Road – Mr. Lyons stated that he was back to talk about the Private Lake and how it was not fair that the citizens could not fish at the lake. Mr. Stroud asked if this was the case where it was public water, but surrounded by private land. Mr. Melton reviewed the process and ordinance followed and adopted when the reservoir was built. Mr. Melton stated there is very specific wording in the agreements with the property owners regarding access to the reservoir and use of the reservoir. Mr. Lyons asked why the owners would need a permit. Mr. Melton stated that if someone is fishing they would need a permit and permits are only allowed for property owners, their family and their guest. Mr. Lyons asked what it would take for him to get a permit to fish there. Mr. Melton stated he would need to buy land. Mr. Stroud asked why citizens couldn't go out there. Mr. Melton stated that it is private property, with easement access for the City only. Mr. Lyons stated wasn't there easement for the City. Mr. Lyons asked when the Council would let him know something and wondered why the Mayor and Council didn't go out there and look for themselves. Mayor Wilson stated that they would go look at it.

PROJECT REPORT:

CITY MANAGER

- Mrs. Hall stated that the Regional Commission has developed a way to live stream and record council meetings; met with Nick Kouloungis today and they will purchase and

install a camera as part of our project agreement, setup the YouTube account, configure a laptop, and train Kristal and her on recording the meetings. We will only be able to record and upload for the time being due to slow bandwidth speed, but should be able to have the video up and running the next day. We will put the YouTube link on our website for citizens to pull the meetings and we will also archive the meeting videos on that sight. Mrs. Hall stated that she would like to give a huge Thank You to the Regional Commission for developing this and testing it on their meetings first to make sure that it works. We have all thought for years that this was beyond our reach due to cost restraints but from all appearances, this will work and will not be an added cost to the City.

- Mrs. Hall stated that GMA Mayors Day training is this weekend; some have classes on Friday and Saturday; luncheon on Sunday where Mr. Dodd will receive an award for training hours; dinner on Sunday with MEAG; reminded all to take their packets with them; also pay close attention to your emails as you should have received an email to download the material for the classes, as GMA will not be providing handouts.
- Mrs. Hall stated that the Police Department will be submitting changes to some of the Policies.
 - o Change to tattoo policy – change of language to allow certain tattoo’s that can be seen to be covered.
 - o Changes to Uniform Dress Code, Hair and Grooming – correction to spelling of one word and to make wearing of body armor mandatory rather than strongly recommending use. The wording of this policy made us ineligible to receive a 50/50 grant for body armor. If approve the change to the SOP, I would like to request approval to purchase 15 pieces of body armor – some are expiring, some never had vest, some are for new hires, and 4 are the pullover vest for the investigators that never had body armor. Regular vest are \$625 each, 11 would be \$6875 and pull over vests are \$175 each, 4 would be \$700. Total purchase would be \$7575. This is not budgeted but can use funds that were received for totaled vehicles to cover the cost. We will need to adjust that line item before the end of the year to cover the unbudgeted purchase. Major Harris stated that it would take approximately two (2) months for delivery. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to purchase and fit all police officers with vest. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

- Mrs. Hall stated that the Fire Department would also be making a request to change their SOP.
 - o Add to minimum hiring requirements that prior experience from another department may be considered.
 - o Change appointment approval with department, from approval of Personnel Administrator to City Manager and add additional consideration for time with another department.
- Mrs. Hall stated that the AMP program is in place and ready for citizens to sign up. Anyone interested can call and/or come in to meet Kristal or her. We want to make sure that those signing up completely understand what they are signing up for and how their bill will look in the future. Signing up for AMP will also make it possible for citizens to automatically pay their bill through their own bill pay program as they will then have a bill in the same amount each month. Mr. Dodd asked if draft would be available. Mrs. Hall stated not at this time. Mayor Wilson asked about the settle up, would be doing a re-average at the end of the year. Mrs. Hall stated that we would take the previous 12 months and average that. Mr. Hewett asked when the true up would happen. Mrs. Hall stated between May and June of the next year. Mayor Wilson stated that it was not appealing to him. Mr. Melton stated that we would need a true up at some point.
- Mrs. Hall stated that the required work at the old landfill was complete before the rains at the end of the year; we will not have to do some repair work before the EPD comes in to inspect; the EPD has been notified of delay due to the rain.
- Getting pricing from company to straighten the handrail on Main Street at A Cut Above.
- Work on flower beds beside City Hall is being done; removing the old/diseased rose bushes and shrubs and planting Forsythia plants and annuals.
- Lee Street Park is complete, we are just waiting on the last of the bench plaques to be installed and all work will be complete, including the bricks and benches purchased by the citizens. We can hold an opening and unveiling if Council would like.
- American Tank is already working on the water tanks; the Industrial Park tank has been painted and looks like a new tank, they will move to the cemetery tank next, they are also doing some repair work on the Bibb Mill tank.
- Utility Partners has moved out of the building on Highway 42 due to the deteriorating condition of the building; we will need to work on building or locating storage space for the records that were being kept at the building.

- Southeaster Wooden Pole Inspectors are performing their annual pole inspections.
- The old County Recreation building at Country Club Park has been demolished and material has been removed; thank you to the County for working with us on this project and Utility Partners volunteered to have the building demolished at no cost to the City. The County provided rollbacks to hold demo material and haul it off to the County Landfill, at no cost to the City.
- There are a couple of drainage issues that were caused by resurfacing that will be repaired as we schedule asphalt for other projects and ditches will be pulled as well. The main issues are Chambers, Lakeside and Abernathy.
- Verizon is installing fiber from railroad to the Cemetery Water Tank to service the antennae they will be installing; the Council approved them installing the antennas a couple of years back and they are just now getting the fiber installed.
- Hiring two (2) Public Works employees to concentrate on sidewalks and concrete work; will advertise within to see if anyone is interested then advertise to public; those interested will need to apply with Alvin.
- County is erecting the towers for the new radio system.
- With the recent purchase of 3 pickup trucks, we have taken several vehicles off the road and will put them on GovDeals to see if anyone would like to purchase them.
- Based upon discussion at the retreat, Mrs. Hall will be moving forward with advertising for a Police Chief; Eddie Harris was appointed as Interim until at least the end of January and that will be will be extended until a new Chief is hired; there has been a lot of interest within our Police Department and also locally with others in Law Enforcement.
- We will begin the process of getting all usable equipment out of Boxankle Plant and then moving forward with sealing or demolishing the building, due to continued vandalism of the building and equipment.
- The Eggs & Issues on February 3rd will feature local government; Mayor Wilson and Chairman Bilderback will speak; it begins at 7:30am at El Tajado Restaurant.
- Business Incentive – previously approved waiving tap fees for new businesses; would like to look at waive of annexation fee and zoning fee if needed for businesses to locate in the City; criteria should include limits for cost of the project and number of employees, business will bring; spoke with ECG and most cities absorb cost of building electric service to a new business, but this will require change to ordinance.

Mr. Goolsby asked if Mrs. Hall could give an update on the sink hole and lighting at the Rose Theater. Mrs. Hall stated that there had been no determination in who owns the storm drain and that there were no easements; there is a meeting tomorrow with Navicent Health to discuss. Mrs. Hall stated that for the lighting at the Rose Theater had been pushed to be included in Streetscape Phase III. Mr. Goolsby stated that he thought that some kind of mock up would be put up and if it was approved, the City would move forward to putting it in permanently.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence). The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Submitted by:

Kristal S. Dunn
City Clerk