

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 21, 2016

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:02PM and led the pledge of allegiance. Elder Dee Hagan of Sharon Baptist Church gave the invocation.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the minutes from the March 7th Council Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, King, Hewett and Lawrence. Mr. Goolsby abstained due to his absence from the meeting on March 7, 2016.)

RECOGNITION OF ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT – NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

Johnny Hodges, Supervisor for the Electric Department came forward and stated that the Electric Department had received a Certificate of Excellence in Reliability from the America Public Power Association. The American Public Power Association tracks all outages and the City of Forsyth had achieved excellence in reliability by significantly outperforming the electric industry national average as reported by the Energy Information Administration. Mr. Hodges stated that April 18th was National Lineman Day. Mr. Hodges introduced members of the Electric Department that were present at the meeting, Mike Batchelor, Jake Meadows and Bob Teston. Mayor and Council thanked the Electric Department for all that they do.

PUBLIC HEARING – APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE FROM KAMAL AZAR AGENT FOR WEST MONROE INVESTMENTS LLC AT 161 MLK JR DRIVE

Mr. Hewett offered a motion for the Mayor Pro-Tem, Mike Dodd preside over item #3, due to Mayor Wilson having a conflict, due to MedPro having a signed contract with the Birthing Center that will reside at 161 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. Seconded by Mr. King, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.) Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Dodd read the Notice of Public Hearing. Mr. Melton stated that this was a Variance Application for the Birth Center at 161 MLK, Jr. Drive. Mr. Melton stated that there was no zoning change. Mr. Melton stated that it had been advertised in the Monroe County Reporter on March 2nd, 9th and 16th. Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Dodd opened the floor for the Public Hearing. Mr. Stroud asked what the purpose of the Birthing Center was. Mr. Azar came forward and stated that recently there had been a movement to not go to a sterile hospital to have a baby and that more pregnant women were looking for a place more residential in-nature, more like a at home birth. Mr. Azar stated that the Birthing Center would have Doctors and licensed Mid-wives but not a Ob-Gyn. Mr. King asked if it was just over night or a twenty-four (24) hour operation. Mr. Lawrence stated

that it would probably be up to the Doctor. Mr. Azar stated that the Birthing Center were very regulated. Mr. Hewett asked if there were any drawings yet. Mr. Azar stated not at this time, but that the building would have a residential look, and make you feel like you are at home. Mr. Dodd stated that this was not a rezoning but for a variance. Mr. Dodd stated that his daughter-in-law was a Primary Care Physician that he knew she was performing more water births. Mr. Dodd closed the Public Hearing. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the Application for Variance for Mr. Azar. Seconded by Mr. King, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

ANNOUNCE ADVERTISEMENT OF BERR & WINE PACKAGE LICENSE FOR HENRY LEE HAMLIN – HAMLIN HILLS 447 DAMES FERRY ROAD

Mrs. Hall stated that this will be advertised for the second (2nd) meeting in April.

DREIKA MOORE – BLOUNT HILL FAMILY CELEBRATION REQUEST TO CLOSE PORTIONS OF BLOUNT STREET AND REQUEST FOR ELECTRIC PANEL FOR EVENT

Ms. Moore came forward and stated that this was for the Blount Hill Family & Friends Day on June 18th, from 12:00PM until 9:00PM. Mr. Stroud stated that the Blount Hill area has been proactive in keeping the community clean and that to his knowledge that were no incidents the last time this was held. Mr. Stroud stated that the Blount Hill area takes care of their elderly and wanted to thank Ms. Moore for all that they do. Ms. Moore stated that they have a Wellness Day, the 2nd Saturday of the Month, where they get the elderly and other residence out and walk. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the permit for the Blount Hill Family & Friends Day, including closing portion of Blount Street and the electric Panel for the event. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY/MAINSTREET FOR LEADERSHIP MONROE PROJECT – KRISTAL DUNN

Mrs. Kristal Dunn from Leadership Monroe came forward and asked the Mayor and Council to approve a partnership between the City/MainStreet and Leadership Monroe for their project of an all-abilities playground. Mrs. Dunn explained that this would allow for the Leadership Monroe Class to apply for grants using MainStreet's 501c3. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the partnership between the City/MainStreet and Leadership Monroe. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF ACCOUTNS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$199,739.26

Mrs. Hall read the Accounts Payable totals for each Department. Mr. Dodd abstained from the vote due to some invoices belonging to Dodd Builder Supply. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Invoices in the amount of \$199,739.26. Seconded by Mr. King, the motion carried 5-0 with 1 abstention, (voting in the affirmative were Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett, Lawrence and with Dodd abstaining.)

WORK SESSION

CITY MANAGER REPORT

DEBRIS PICKUP DISCUSSION – ADVANCED DISPOSAL PROPOSAL – JAROD LOVETT

Mr. Lovett came forward and stated that the original agreement was made in 2013, with the rate being \$13.75. Mr. Lovett stated that Advance Disposal would be interested in buying the Grapple truck. Mr. Lovett stated that he could offer to the City four (4) options. 1) all-inclusive rate of \$16.80/home which would include unlimited yard waste, 2) \$10.80/home with no yard waste, 3) keep going like we are now, or 4) freezing the CPI rates year three (3) through April of year five (5). Mayor Wilson asked if he could do a \$10.80/home, no yard waste and free the CPI rate. Mr. Lovett stated no, he could not do that. Mr. Dodd stated that he was not in favor of selling the grapple truck. Mayor Wilson stated that the Council wanted to start talking/negotiating. Mr. Lovett stated not to compare apples and oranges, and that this method is working, but he will do whatever the Council wants. Mr. Goolsby stated that there has been a lot of problems with yard waste. Mr. Goolsby asked what would be the rate if we (the City) took over the yard waste. Mrs. Hall stated that there would be no increase to the customer and that we would pick up two (2) days a week. Mrs. Hall also stated that there seemed to be a discrepancy with the number of active residential customers. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to table the discussion until we get more info. Seconded by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Goolsby stated he would like to see what the bottom number would be if we took back the yard waste. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF 2015 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET TRANSFERS

Mrs. Hall stated that this was for the approval of 2015 Departmental Budget Transfers. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the budget transfers. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

PROJECT UPDATE/REVIEW

- Mrs. Hall stated that the contract with Utility Partners was signed in 2012 for 4 years with inclusion of 1 year extensions, called for annual increase equal to Atlanta Metro CPI, basic language of contract covers running of water and wastewater system, this contract included labor for road cuts & restoration of street/sidewalk damaged by repair of water/waste system; items Up staff provides over and above contract – replace broken/inoperable water meters, submit all (not just water and sewer) GDOT permit application which are typically submitted by engineer at cost of approximately \$1500 each, assist with all pavement and sidewalk repairs, even if not associated with water/waste issue, provide for inspections on projects above what engineering provides, provide input on plan review, attend all pre-con meetings and provide input as needed, provide manpower & assistance when EOC is pen, respond to most city emergencies (including large fires, downed trees, large electrical outages, provide manpower & equipment as needed in all cases. Mrs. Hall requested that the City provide for 1 year extension on this contract and would like to amend the contract to either have flat % increase or CPI with a imout as of 1 year extensions,.

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- **REPORTS:**

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Information was included in the packet regarding the MEAG CEO Roundtable meetings-please let us know if you would like to attend one of the meetings.
- The Ribbon Cutting for the Forsythia Festival will be tomorrow, March 8th, during Business 2 Business at Connie Ham Realty; networking from 5:30PM to 7:00PM, with the ribbon cutting at 6:00PM.
- Forsythia Festival will be this weekend, March 12th & 13th; Faith Fest is Saturday night at First Baptist Church; they are trying something new with kid's corner this year-wrist bands for \$15.00 for all day, you can still pay individually if you want to; still have opening for corn hole tournament teams – see Lindsey at Chamber for information.
- The DDA meeting has been canceled for March 8th and there will be a called meeting for March 15th at 5:30PM at Aldermen Hall.
- Utility Partners is draining Bibb Mill tank today in preparation for American Tank to do maintenance on the tank Wednesday.
- Congratulations are in order for Jannie Thombley – she received her certification last week at conference for Level 1 Code Enforcement Certification.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- There will be a clean-up day on April 16th, 9:00AM – 12:00PM.
- Wednesday at 8:30 there will be a meeting with community members to keep Forsyth beautiful.
- Will be on Magic 100, once a month to discuss the community.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recreation AD HOC Committee

- Mr. Stroud stated that a meeting would be held March 28th.

Train Museum AD HOC Committee

- Still waiting on a called meeting of the Historical Society Board for Mrs. Hall to make a presentation to them regarding the Train Museum.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mr. Lawrence stated that the St. Luke Church appreciated the tree that was put on James Street.
- Mr. Stroud asked about the gateways to the city and about the over grown shrubs on I75. Mrs. Hall stated that these areas belonged to the State, and that we have approached the State about them cleaning up these areas and they replied that they would be glad to allow the city to do the cleanup. Mrs. Hall stated that we do not have the employees or the equipment to do it.
- Mr. Stroud asked about Budget Billing. Mrs. Hall stated that there has been a lot of interest in it but only 2 or 3 have signed up so far.

- Mayor Wilson stated that Chief Harris has been scheduling time at all the apartment complexes to have meetings with the residents.
- Mr. Hewett asked about dead limbs, trees at park near the pool.
- Mr. Dodd asked if we had nail down the policy on yard waste. Mrs. Hall asked that they bring proposals to the work session.
- Mr. King asked if Forsyth was a City of Ethics. Mayor Wilson stated that yes we were and that we reapply every four years.
- Mr. Stroud stated that we need to work on youth initiatives like the Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Hewett stated that we needed to get the youth organizations involved in City Government. Mr. Stroud stated that Marcy Sanders from the High School would be a good resource that she had great ideas about the youth and the City.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – (MAYOR WILSON TO REVIEW RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Commissioner Ambrose came forward to thank the Mayor and Council for changing their meetings so that they could attend each other's meeting. Commissioner Ambrose stated that he looked forward to working together.
- Ronald Bearden – 441 Sunset Circle – Mr. Bearden asked if there was a pot hole, how long would it take to fix it, 30 days? Mr. Bearden stated that the sidewalks are terrible and nothing had been done. Mr. Bearden stated that he know that the lights on the highway had been contributed to vandalism and that if he used the new application that he feels it would be a blemish on the city, because it will not get fixed. Mayor Wilson stated that we were in the process of hiring a concrete person that will be dedicated to fixing the sidewalks. Mrs. Hall stated that we had to re-advertise for a concrete finisher and once we had a person in place we would need to have a plan to fix the sidewalks. Mr. Bearden stated he knows that will be a very costly deal. Mr. Bearden stated that he was not going to be a pain, but that he was going to be around.
- James Lyons – 865 Montpelier Road – Mr. Lyons asked how the City could bring the citizens into the 21st century if the City was not even in the 21st century. Mr. Lyons asked for a determination on allowing people to fish at the City reservoir. Mr. Melton stated that a letter concerning the Todd Creek Reservoir had been sent to Mr. Lyons attorney and that he would need to contact his attorney for the information. Mr. Lyons stated that the house is sitting on the Reservoir with no barrier. Mr. Lyons also stated that the septic tank was not where it should be.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, King, Hewett and Lawrence). The meeting adjourned at 7:05PM.

Submitted by:

Kristal S. Dunn
City Clerk