

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 16, 2016

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Connie Ham 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 was not present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2nd Council Meeting with one correction. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

TIFFANY ANDREWS – PROJECT DISCUSSION/REVIEW

Mrs. Andrews came forward and stated that in 2014 they began efforts for redevelopment and revitalization for Tradewinds and Regency. Mrs. Andrews stated that the fruits of the efforts were being to pay off. Mrs. Andrews stated that a franchise owner that was looking at the redevelopment area and asked if the Development Authority could assist with the gap on the project. Mrs. Andrews feels that the request from the Development Authority beneficial to the community. Mrs. Andrews stated the owner would have to rid the property of debris. Mrs. Andrews stated that this was a \$1.1 million project, with a payroll \$320 thousand to \$380 thousand dollars, a sales tax of \$48 thousand to \$72 thousand dollars, 20 full time and 20 part time employees, utilities of \$4500 a month. Mrs. Andrews stated that the property will remain on tax rolls and the Development Authority only looking at because it is in a redevelopment area. Mrs. Andrews stated that there was a \$200 thousand dollar gap and would require a partner for the gap. The Development Authority is asking for the City and County to partner to take new money and reinvest over a four (4) to five (5) year time frame, and the owner would be required to produce sales tax paperwork. Mr. Goolsby asked if they needed approval tonight and it was stated that they need a motion to move forward. Mr. Stroud asked when the Tractor Supply employee number dropped was this the same case? Mrs. Andrews stated that the employee # would be part of the agreement to remain. Mrs. Andrews stated that they would repay new tax money at City portion not a 50/0 split. Mrs. Andrews stated they were ready to go. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the project. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

REQUEST FROM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR CONSUMPTION ONLY AT 475 HOLIDAY CIRCLE (CONVENTION CENTER) ON JULY 22ND, 2016

Mrs. Hall stated that this was a temporary permit for the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Andrews reviewed the Leadership Monroe Class project for a fundraiser. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the temporary

permit. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPOINTMENT TO MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Mayor Wilson reviewed the appointment and stated that the appointment did not need to be a nurse. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve Chris Hewett at the appointment to the Monroe County Board of Health. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF BALLOT FOR GMA'S DISTRICT 6 OFFICERS

Mrs. Hall stated that this was for approval of the ballot for GMA's District 6 Officers. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the ballot for GMA's District 6 Officers. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF DEED FROM FORSYTH-MONROE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR SIDEWALK AREA ON CHAMBERS STREET

Mr. Melton reviewed the deed from the Chamber, stating that this was the bank of America questioned strip of land on the north side which is adjacent to Chambers Street, and is 0.067 acres of land. Mr. Melton recommended the City accept the deed. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to accept the approval of the deed from Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber of Commerce. Seconded by Mr. King the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$177,044.55

Mrs. Hall read the Accounts Payable totals for each Department. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Invoices in the amount of \$177,044.55. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried 5(five) for and 1(one) abstention, (voting in the affirmative were Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence; 1(one) abstention, Dodd)

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000

A. Calibration Controls - \$6900 debris guards

Mrs. Hall stated that this invoice was for Calibration Controls for debris guards. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the invoice for Calibration Controls. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Mrs. Hall stated that the first thing needed to discuss is the Fireworks Law. Chief Herndon came forward and gave a brief overview of a few of the change to Chapter 10 of Title 25 as modified by HB727 on 3/25/16.
- Mrs. Hall stated that the Council needed to approve the additional work at raw water repair. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the work. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

- Mrs. Hall gave an update on the yard debris. Mrs. Hall stated that we did not deliver debris to the county due to the scales being down, so we extended out our 4(four) weeks to shadow Advance Disposal. Mr. Randall is working on a report to show what our cost was when we were shadowing them. Mrs. Hall stated that we were picking up everything that Advance Disposal does not pick up and that is not in accordance with your ordinance. After much discussion it was decided that at the next work session that one hour would be devoted to discussing solid waste and ordinance.
- Mrs. Hall stated that she has talked with the Department of Corrections about a shade structure at Kynette Park and that she has talked with the Tree Board about the two trees that they will be planting for shade to see what we can come up with for shade at Kynette Park.
- Cracks at the tennis courts had been fixed in anticipation of the Pump track tour.
- Ongoing problem with the irrigation problems on the square, it appears that the water is not running through the whole system. Until the problem is fixed the Public Works Department is watering the plants that were just planted.
- MainStreet has started livestreaming at certain events to get Forsyth's name out there and they started with the Farmer's Market. At the Department Head meeting, Mrs. Khoury reported that in that first week they had over 600 views.
- The County is charging the water line that is going to be Collier Road. We have asked them to fall back a little bit because they were using a lot of water.
- July 4th falls on the 1st Monday of July, so we will need to think about changing that date for the Council meeting.
- We have been looking at changing the fee schedule for renting the Legion Hall. When we first took that over, they were charging a \$50.00 deposit and if the people left it in good shape, they were getting their \$50.00 back, so basically they were renting it for free. We have had some people just in the few months that we have taken over the building that have not taken care of the building. Working really hard to work on the fee schedule. There are a lot of people who like to use the building for reunions and there used to be over 200 chairs. Right now we have 58 chairs and 8 tables and we need to look at placing some tables and chairs. There are some extensive repairs that need to be completed, including a new roof and the kitchen. We had to have some plumbing looked at in the bathrooms and kitchen and that has been repaired. Mr. Stroud asked if we could not rent anything after October and get the repairs done. Mrs. Hall stated that at this time we are using the same fee schedule we use for Kynette Park, \$75 refundable deposit and \$25 dollars a day. When we were looking at getting an estimate, we were told that we could wait until November or December to start repairs.
- We don't have anyone to do maintenance on the restrooms at County Club, Kynette Park or the Legion Hall. We don't have anyone that wants to climb an 18 foot ladder to change light bulbs. We have to call the Electric Department to change the bulbs. We will look at the budget to see if we can hire somebody or use someone that doesn't have a full day.

- The Regional Commission has accepted our request for Technical Assistant in researching obtaining a planning grant for the Train Museum. Mrs. Hall has meet with the Regional Commission and they are looking at putting a plan together for the cost of the Museum and some alternate locations, instead of the Depot. We hope to have that within a week or so, and then Mr. Dodd can call a meeting for the Ad Hoc committee.
- We are looking at some Departmental Policy changes to bring to you for approval. One is GCI has changed their laws and City Hall has had to get their own ORI number for background checks for people that have applied for Alcohol Permits, the Fire Department has had to get their own number for background checks. We will be attending class in August and we will need to write a separate policy for City Hall and the Fire Department. This will be completely different from SOP that the Police Department has because their histories are criminal and ours will be non-criminal. We are also looking at a firearm policy, Chief Harris has stated that several of the have talked about a need for a policy employees that retire, in weather they will get to keep their weapon, badge and call number. We have asked for Mr. Melton to look at that and write a policy to bring back to you for approval.
- Perdue has requested rezoning and annexation on property in the Industrial Park. It will be coming before you for a Public Hearing on June 6th. Both of the properties will be zoned Manufacturing Industrial and Agricultural processing is conditional in Manufacturing Industrial.
- The Police Chief position closed on Friday and Mrs. Hall has been working with Chief's Association and they are helping with the process in going through the applications and how we can go about setting up a group to review the applications. Mr. Rotondo is out of the country until the middle of next week and we will have a meeting when he gets back in. We received 27 applications and resumes for that position.
- The Economic Development position is opened until this Friday and so far we have 8 applications and resumes for that position.
- Just a couple of meetings to remind you about: Tuesday, May 24th is the MEAG Regional Summer meeting at the MEAG building, from 9:00 to 11:00. Lunch will be provided. Several of you said that you could not attend that meeting, so I will be attending. Tuesday, May 24th is Industrial Appreciation Day, yes that is on Election Day, but that is the only day they could get it scheduled. This will be held at Meadows Gun Club. Networking will start at 5:30, if you plan on shooting, please let Mrs. Andrews know as soon as possible as this is sponsored by the Development Authority. May 31st at 5:30 there will be a joint meeting with the City and County to discuss Economic Development. The meeting will be held at the County Conference Center. This is the follow up joint meeting where we wanted to discuss Economic Development. Mrs. Andrews has invited several Economic Development people from across the state that will be at the meeting. Saturday, June 4th is the first concert on the square, with the Conquest Show Band and the concert starts at 8:00. Sunday, July 3rd will be the Fireworks display at the County Recreation Complex on Hwy. 42. The fireworks start at 9:30, but we have always encouraged people to get there early and bring your lawn chair and picnic basket. There may be some food vendors there, but Mrs. Khoury has not nailed that down yet. Come early to get at good seat and the fireworks will start at 9:30.

- The sidewalk guy did start and they are trying to acclimate him. He will be starting on the sidewalk down to the Farmers Market within this next week.

MAYORS REPORT

- Mayor Wilson reported that he had seen on Facebook last night that “Only in Your State” Forsyth was ranked #3 for 15 Small Towns In Georgia Where Everyone Knows Your Name, behind Blairsville and Madison. The question that was posed was they wondered why Forsyth doesn’t have more people with its great location. Mayor Wilson talked with Representative Dickey today about the situation with the exit ramp lights in the City and he attended a meeting last week and that was the main topic of discussion to get the lights fixed. As you know, vandals came through 3 or 4 years ago and took the cables and we are looking at about a quarter of a million dollars in repairs and that is just to repair the existing setup. The way that it works is that the DOT put the lights in and the City is responsibility for the repairs. Mayor Wilson asked Representative Dickey if we can get some modern lights and get the DOT to install them and we will be responsible for the repairs. Mayor Wilson said that we have hire Judy Edge as the new Executive Assistant and her main job is to support Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Dunn and myself. Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Dunn get bogged down with stuff and they are moving a lot of this over to Mrs. Edge. Ralph Nix, the longtime Director of the Regional Commission, announced last week that he will be retiring.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

- Mr. Lawrence stated that he had nothing to report.
- Mr. Hewett stated that he had nothing to report.
- Mr. King asked if Mr. Dodd or Mrs. Hall could explain why Mr. Dodd abstained from voting for the approval of the Accounts Payable Invoices. Mrs. Hall stated that several years ago it was that if an individual was having a financial gain that they could not approve their own invoices. That the City can only spend \$800.00 with his business and he can’t approve his own invoices. Mr. Dodd stated that he will always abstain from approving invoices that are related to his business. Mrs. Hall stated that that is why we ask that if you a financial interest in a business or you may be doing business with that you let us know and if the City does business with them, we can let you know if there are any invoices in there you can abstain from approving.
- Mr. Goolsby stated that the event we had this past Saturday, the Save-A-Pet, Steak and Rib Cook Off went really well. They pre-sold about 75 tickets, but had about 300 people show up.
- Mr. Stroud that he would like to look at annexation of areas around city that receive city services.
- Mr. Dodd stated that the Save-A-Pet event seen to go really well.

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

PUBLIC COMMEN

- Don Daniel came forward and stated that he and Denise Collins wanted to than the Mayor and Council for the effort in working on getting the Train Museum in the City of Forsyth. Mr. Daniel stated as you are aware we had asked for a June 1st deadline, but under the circumstances we would be willing to extend the deadline as long as we see some progress being made. Mr. Dodd apologized for not

attending the meeting. Mr. Daniel thanked Mr. Dodd and stated that they have something coming up on June 7th, and that they have a lot of interest being expressed for the Train Museum and hope that they keep it on the front burner because it is all about Forsyth and Monroe County.

- Mr. John Ambrose came forward and stated that he would like to see the committees that were appointed in the joint meeting start working together. We look forward to get things going. Thank you for working with us.
- Mr. John Martin came forward and stated he wanted to thank the Council for letting him come in and sit in on the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. King offered a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:18PM. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence).

At 8:03PM, Council came out of Executive Session.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to accept the settlement agreement between the City of Forsyth, FCN, and GPW that was agreed upon at the April 21st, mediation; that the city release the \$250,000 escrow to FCN, and that the City borrow \$500,000 from the Competitive Trust to pay this settlement; and to instruct the city manager to structure terms for the repayment of the funds to the Competitive Trust and bring that back to council for approval. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

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 8:05PM.

Submitted by:

Kristal S. Dunn

City Clerk