

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 20, 2016

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:03PM, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Julius Stroud 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 and City Clerk, Kristal Dunn.

Mayor Wilson asked that there be an amendment made to the Agenda, by adding two issues and tabling the approval of the June 6th meeting. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to make an amendment to the Agenda and tabling the approval of the June 6th meeting till the following meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

GMA REVIEW AND UPDATE – PAM HELTON

Mrs. Helton from GMA came forward and stated that she was here to give the Mayor and Council an update on what GMA was doing. Mrs. Helton stated that GMA was excited about the Convention and that there were about 2,900 registered for convention, and that she was working with the Clerks Conference this year. Mrs. Helton stated that the Executive Director was challenging the staff at GMA to look outside the box. Mrs. Helton stated that a new service was the HR Member Services, there will be a membership fee to subscribe, there will be four (4) webinars a year and a four (1) day workshop, among other things. Mrs. Helton stated that there would be a new level for Elected Officials to earn more hours, with new classes. Mrs. Helton stated that if not new classes, maybe workshops. Mrs. Helton stated that GMA was in the process of putting new webinars on the website and tutorials for newly Elected Officials. Mrs. Helton stated that they had a suggestion to look at municipal courts and they had chosen a pilot city. Mrs. Helton stated that they were developing a survey because of the need for elected official to know more about courts, and that we needed to make sure we have up to date policies and are following them. Mrs. Helton stated that they were looking at; customer service, how is your city portrayed as a whole; work force development, high school students interested in Government; data tools, housing workforce, tax digest on website; looking at other ways to get information to City Officials. Mrs. Helton asked if Forsyth was still involved in Hometown Connection and Mrs. Hall stated that we have not in several years. Mr. Stroud asked if we utilized GMA like we should. Mrs. Hall stated that we use them for networking and learn a lot from them. Mrs. Helton thanked the Mayor and Council for letting her come and speak before them.

ESTABLISH PERMANENT MEETING DATE AND TIME

Mayor Wilson stated that the Council needed to decide what the permanent meeting date and time would be. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to keep the 1st and 3rd Monday at 6:00PM as the permanent meeting date and time. Seconded by Mr. Hewett. Mrs. Hall stated that we keep the 1st meeting of the year as the 1st Tuesday because of the Charter and make an ordinance change for the regular meeting. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to amend his previous

motion and also change the ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Hewett. Mr. Dodd stated that he would be glad to vote for the permanent meeting date be on Monday if he thought it was beneficial, but that he would not vote for it. Mr. Stroud stated that Mr. Ambrose from the County Commissioners was delighted the meeting was changed to Monday because they were able to attend the Cities meeting and the Council could attend the Counties meetings. Mayor Wilson called for the vote, the motion carried five (5) for and one (1) against, (voting in the affirmative were Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence; voting against was Dodd.)

APPOINT VOTING DELEGATE FOR GEORGIA PUBLIC WEB

Mrs. Hall stated that the Council had to appoint a voting delegate for Georgia Public Web and that in the past he had been Mr. Dodd. Mr. Hewett asked Mr. Dodd if he was comfortable being he delegate and Mr. Dodd stated no. Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Dodd as the voting delegate for Georgia Public Web. Seconded by Mr. Stroud. Mr. Stroud asked if it had to be a council member or could it be Mr. Randall. Mr. Dodd stated that the City had not been significantly involved in the past and Mrs. Hall stated that the Council needed to be more significantly involved. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

RAMAEL DAVIS REQUEST TO BLOCK PORTION OF KYNETTE STREET AND PARSON STREET AND REROUTE TRAFFIC FOR EVENT AT KYNETTE PARK ON JUNE 25 & 26

Mrs. Hall stated that this was for approval to block a portion of Kynette Street and Parsons street and reroute traffic for an event at Kynette Park on June 25th & 26th. Mr. Davis came forward and stated that they would be having a softball tournament and that this was the 7th year and that there would be free for the kids. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the closing of a portion of Kynette Street and Parsons Street on June 25 & 26. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$205,298.47

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 \$205,298.47. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried five (5) for and one (1) abstention, (voting in the affirmative were Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence; 1(one) abstention, Dodd)

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000

A. John R. Walker – payment request #1 raw water line work - \$31,897.44

Mrs. Hall stated that the connection was completed and water was flowing. Mrs. Hall stated that they working today and barely bumped the old line and it shattered. Mrs. Hall stated that the inside concrete had eroded away and it was probably just a matter of time before it shattered. Mrs. Hall stated that it was all out of the creek bed and suspended to the side of the bridge. Mr. Dodd asked what the total cost was and Mrs. Hall stated \$150 to \$155 thousand. Mr. King offered a motion to approve the invoice for John R Walker. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF STREET CLOSING IN FRONT OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ON JUNE 24, 25 & 26

Mr. Dodd stated that this was for the approval to close Morse Street in front of First Baptist Church for the Youth Choir 20th Reunion. Mr. Dodd stated that the Fellowship Hall was being renovated and the Church had put a tent in the parking lot. Mr. Dodd stated that they would be carrying food from the Church kitchen across the street to the tent. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the closing of Morse Street in front of First Baptist Church for June 24, 25 & 26. Seconded by Mr. Stroud the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY

Mrs. Hall stated that this agreement was for three (3) projects; Smith Collier Road, Sutton Road/Strickland Loop and Bunn Road/Gose Road and that the agreement was delivered to City Hall between 3:30 and 4:00. Mrs. Hall stated that it was a 50-year agreement and that if it is approved that it be on the contingent that Mr. Melton is able to review it. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to table the approval of the agreement until it is reviewed by Mr. Melton. Seconded by Mr. Stroud the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

REPORTS:

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Me. Melton stated that he would review the Intergovernmental Agreement with the County and he had nothing else to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson stated that he was glad the raw water line was completed.
- Mayor Wilson stated that the Mayor of Forsyth, Missouri came in for a visit. Mayor stated that we were the largest City in population out of the four (4) Forsyth's in the Country.
- Mayor Wilson stated that he thought the Pump Track Demo went great. Mayor stated that he, Councilman Stroud and Councilman Dodd came out, and that he and Councilman Stroud rode on the track. He thinks that the City should take the tax money and use it on recreation.
- Mayor Wilson stated that Blount Hill Reunion was this past weekend and that Councilman Stroud and himself were out there.
- Mayor Wilson stated that he presented a proclamation to Hattie Driskell who turned 100 years old.
- Mayor Wilson stated that he is looking for to GMA.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE

- Mr. Stroud stated that he went out for the Pump Track Demo and that he got on a bicycle and went around the track and that he even went down the water slide. Mr. Stroud thinks that we have gained some momentum. Mr. Goolsby stated that we talk about it and think it is time to put our money where our mouth is. Mr. Goolsby stated his recommendation would be to submit the request for the RFQ. Mrs. Hall stated that we had no idea how many would show up, but we had a lot of interest. Mr. Goolsby stated that we

need to bring the golf course into it, and that we could talk it to death. Mrs. Hall stated that the resource team did spend a lot of time out at the park. Mayor Wilson stated that we needed to keep it moving.

TRAIN MUSEUM

- Mr. Dodd stated that the resource team came to give their ideas and that the mini museum that Denise Collins and Don Daniels have is anxious to become a part of Forsyth and that he looks forward to the report from the resource team. Mr. Goolsby stated that the DDA would take it on as a project and that the DDA wants to assist. Mr. Dodd stated that it would be a good conduit for funding. Mr. Dodd stated that he was impressed with the Pump Track but was afraid to get on a bike. Mr. Dodd stated that we have a lot of irons in the fire. Mr. Hewett stated that some of those irons needed to get out of the fire. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to amend the agenda to allow Mrs. Khoury to go ahead and talk about the Main Street District Expansion. Seconded by Mr. Stroud the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

B. REVIEW OF MAIN STREET DISTRICT EXPANSION – LORAIN KHOURY

Mrs. Khoury came forward and stated that they were revisiting the plans and mission statement for Main Street. Mrs. Khoury stated that the yellow part on the map was being voted into the Main Street District and there would be new Economic Development. The red part of the map was the existing District, this was new territory to offer help economically. This has been sent into the State. Mr. Stroud asked who determines the yellow. Mrs. Khoury stated that Georgia Cities recommended areas that already had retail.

Mr. Don Daniel stated that he wanted to extend an invitation to everyone to come out and see the mini museum, just give himself or Denise Collins a call.

Mr. Stroud stated that he just wanted to clarify, because we talk a lot about what we want, that we need to get professional help and if we all know we want this, then let's do it. Mr. Goolsby stated that his only reservation is that we have a blue print, he would hate for us to put something in and then need to make changes. Mr. Goolsby is just ready for someone to do it.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

- Mr. Lawrence stated that everything was good.
- Mr. Hewett stated that there were very large dead debris piles on Powerhouse/Betsy Lynn and Mays Street.
- Mr. King asked for an update on the Chief of Police and Economic Development positions and the sidewalks. Mr. Hall stated that Mr. Rotondo had narrowed it down to seven (7) candidates to interview. Mrs. Hall stated that she was forming a committee that consisted of a member of the Clergy, someone from the Board of Education and a Councilmember. Mrs. Hall stated that they are completing the sidewalk on Jackson Street in front of the Farmers Market. Mr. King stated that he was satisfied with that.
- Mr. Goolsby stated that the sidewalks look really nice, but that he wanted to know what the intent with the sidewalks was, repair or replace. Mrs. Hall stated that that the intent is to repair what is in bad shape and going to the ones that really need a lot of work. Mayor Wilson stated that it might be good

to get a copy of the list from Mr. Randall. Mr. Hewett stated that it might be a good idea to put photos on an easel to show what is being repaired.

- Mr. Stroud stated that he wanted to give a shout out to Deborah Chambers from Jabbok Ministries for all the good work they have done. Mr. Stroud stated that the OAC (Older Americans Council/Monroe Senior Center) had their 90 – 100 Year Celebration. Mr. Stroud stated that the County gave a donation to OAC and that maybe the City could give a donation to the OAC.
- Mr. Dodd stated that he felt real good about this Council, City Manager and City Staff. Mr. Dodd stated that the City had a lot of opportunities and that he agrees with Councilman Goolsby in that government moves slow, but we do move. Mr. Dodd stated that there needs to be some way that the schools or youth groups can get involved with government. Mr. Dodd stated that we are not getting any younger and how do we get trained people interested. Mr. Dodd stated that he hoped GMA can come up with a program.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Walter Goodson came forward and stated that he was concerned about a business in Forsyth. He stated that it was a mechanic shop on Martin Luther King Drive. Mr. Goodson stated that he went to Warner Robins and the engine fell out of his car, he took it to this shop and had it fixed and it fell out. Mr. Goodson says that the group does repairs and the parts are not there. Mr. Goodson stated that you can't sue because the business doesn't own the property. Mr. Goodson stated that there needs to be an ordinance that protects the citizens and that he would love suggestions. Mr. Hewett asked Mr. Melton if there was someone in legal aid that they could get to come up to Forsyth. Mr. Goodson thank they Council for listening.

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER REPORT

SHORT TERM WORK PLAN UPDATE REVIEW – JONATHON CONNELL, REGIONAL COMMISSION

Mr. Johnathon Connell from the Regional Commission came forward to give/get a status on the Short-Term Work Program. Mr. Stroud asked how often the plan is looked at. Mr. Connell stated that they will look at it as often as you need, but it is good for five (5) years and you can amend as needed.

MILLAGE RATE

Mrs. Hall stated that we would like to have a Public Hearing by the end of August.

HAMLIN HILL NOTICE OF ALCOHOL POURING LICENSE REQUEST

Mrs. Hall stated that this was for a pouring license for wine tasting and beer and wine pouring. Mrs. Hall stated that they would like to have a Brew Pub, where growlers could be sold.

POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY CHANGE – REPORTING FOR DUTY

Mrs. Hall stated that this was a policy change that if someone calls in sick they need to call in three (3) hours before their shift. Mr. King stated that shift workers need to be relieved and thought that this was a good idea.

Mr. Hewett stated that he thought this was absurd and that they don't get up three (3) hours before they leave for work. Mr. King stated that you want as much time as possible to make sure the shift is covered. Mayor Wilson stated that anything could come up and you would have to set guidelines.

POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY ADDITION – RETIRING OFFICERS ACQUIRE SERVICE FIREARM, BADGE AND CALL NUMBER

Mrs. Hall stated that this policy would give any retiring officer the ability to acquire their service firearm, badge and call number. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the policy addition. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

YARD DEBRIS PICKUP

Mrs. Hall asked that we wait to discuss this topic at the next work session.

ADDITIONAL CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Flag – had flag made and hoped to be delivered today but unfortunately it was not; requested that it be made only with stipulation that it was received prior to GMA so we can be part of the parade of flags.
- Raw Water Line – tie in was done today; pipe in creek was in really bad shape; water is flowing thru new line.
- Harvey's plumbing continues to chase problems with the irrigation system on the square trying to locate the problem; Public Works continues to water the plants in the meantime.
- Gate should be installed at Kynette Park to prevent dirt bikes and 4-wheelers from riding on the ballfield.
- Work has begun on the Bunn Road water interconnect with Monroe County; contractor has a NTP for 7/11 but started early; GEFA will approve project in early August; have conference call with GEFA on Thursday.
- Copy of letter from engineer to contractor on the CDBG project was sent out to everyone; contractor has 10 days to resume work.
- Annual inspection completed last week on South Plant and received very good report.
- Finishing up annual Right-O-Way cuttings.
- Working with David Herndon on new fireworks laws and how to handle the temporary licensing for those vendors.
- Boom truck was down last week for alternator replacement.
- Wireless communications company has been in contact with me, Johnny Hodges, and Alvin Randall regarding erecting a pole on Johnston Street across from Robins Federal in the City Right -O-Way; have a conference call with them on Wednesday to determine exactly what they want to do; Wireless communication equipment is conditional in HB, Inst, and MI – this property is zoned Mixed Use.
- Economic Development interviews start tomorrow.
- Chief interviews being scheduled; Georgia Association Chief of Police recommended 7 for interviews and to establish a panel with representatives from BOE, Clergy, Elected Official, and City Manager. After much discussion Dexter King and Chris Hewett were appointed to the interview committee.

- Forsyth 1st step program met with 2nd business wanting to open and/or expand their business here; both will require some variances so they will need to go to Planning & Zoning then Council.
- Received plan document amendment from GMA for Elected Officials to receive retirement benefits while still serving; Mr. Melton has not reviewed; need approval to begin advertising for public hearing as GMA requires plan documents amendments to be approved as an ordinance.
- Kristal will present a rapid fire session during the GMA conference on Monday on the Monroe Leadership Project

ADJOURN

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Hewett 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 8:36PM.

Submitted by:

Kristal S. Dunn

City Clerk