

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 06, 2016

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Boy Scout Troop 101 of Forsyth led the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Dennis T. Harris 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Hall asked that the Agenda be amended to change the Accounts Payable total. Mr. King offered a motion to amend the Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the minutes from the June 6th Council Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously five (5) to zero (0) with one (1) abstention, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence, with Stroud as the abstention.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the minutes from the July 18th Council Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously five (5) to zero (0) with one (1) abstention, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence, with Stroud as the abstention.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the minutes from the June 6th Council Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously five (5) to zero (0) with one (1) abstention, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence, with Stroud as the abstention.)

OATH OF OFFICE FOR POLICE CHIEF

Mrs. Hall read the Press Release for Eddie Harris.

Eddie Lee Harris, Jr. is a native of Forsyth, attended Monroe County public schools and graduated from Mary Persons High School in 1984. Eddie began working for the City of Forsyth PD in February 1985 as a patrol officer after successfully completing mandate training. Eddie has worked his way up through the ranks over his 31 years with the City, serving as Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and Major. Eddie served as the Major over the Patrol Division from June 2010 until being named as the Interim Police Chief in December 2015. Since being named as Interim Police Chief, Eddie has instituted regular meeting with the manager of the local apartment complexes; was successful in getting an officer to dress as Santa and greet children at one of the local stores; and held a Back to School Rally for local kids in July. One of the first changes that Eddie brought to me was the departmental policy regarding bullet proof vest. The previous policy gave the officer the option of wearing the vest and Eddie asked to

have the policy changed to make the vest mandatory for all Officers. The reasons that he stated for this request was not only monetary, as the department will be eligible for grant money with the new policy, but utmost for the Officers' safety. This policy change was unanimously approved by City Council and vest were ordered for all Officers including the Investigators. Another policy that Eddie has been successful in getting adopted was the one honoring retiring Police Officers with their gun, badge and call number. This may seem like something insignificant to most, but it means a lot to a veteran Officer – if you don't believe me just ask John Fields who was the first recipient of this honor. During his time with the Forsyth PD, Eddie has received several awards including Officer of the Year and Supervisor of the year from his peers in the department, and Citizen of the year by the Kiwanis Club. Eddie has numerous hours of training with POST including Accident Reconstruction, all levels of Supervision and Management along with the Professional Management Program training. Eddie is known by the community and his colleagues for his witty personality, tenacity, perseverance, honesty and fairness. He has a reputation for timely response to the needs and concerns of the Police Department and community. It is my pleasure to announce Eddie Harris as the next Police Chief of the City of Forsyth. I look for Eddie to do great things as the Police Chief. Eddie is local, has lived here his entire life, and knows the department. One thing is for sure, if you have a time when you need to talk with the Police Chief, he will know who you are, who you are talking about, or the location you are referring to. Congratulations Eddie.

Mayor Wilson came down and swore in Eddie Harris as the new Police Chief. Captain Pete Jones of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office came forward and pinned the Police Chief bars and Police Chief Badge on the new Chief. Mayor and Council came forward and congratulated Chief Harris

APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION FOR BACK THE BLUE

Mayor Wilson read the proclamation for 'Back the Blue'.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ALCOHOL BEER POURING APPLICATION FOR FORSYTH COUNTY CLUB INC. AND GEORGE R. SCHULTZ AT 400 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE

Mr. Melton reviewed the application. Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing. Hearing no discussion, the Public Hearing was closed. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the application. Seconded by Mr. Stroud. Mr. Melton reviewed the application and stated that the legal advertisement for an Alcohol Pouring License for Beer and Wine only had been published in the Monroe County Reporter on July 6th and July 13th. Mayor Wilson opened the Public Hearing. Hearing no discussion, the Public Hearing was closed. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the application. Seconded by Mr. Stroud. Mr. Dodd asked about where consumption would be. Mr. Melton stated that it would be in the Club House only. Mr. Dodd asked about people having a cooler and taking it on the Golf Course. Mayor Wilson asked if they had a package license. Mr. Melton stated no. Mr. Dodd asked if it would violate the law if they had beer in the golf cart, and that maybe they needed to change the application. Mr. Melton stated that they only asked for what is in the application and that operation of the golf cart could be in violation of the law if a person was drinking. Mr. Dodd stated that he had no problem with the license, he just had a problem with it being abused. Mr. Stroud stated that if they feel like they didn't put everything in the application, they could come back. Mr. Melton stated yes they could. Mrs. Hall stated that this was only for consumption in the Club House only, and that the front nine was owned by the City and the back nine by the County. Mr. Hewett asked

if the front nine was an extension of the Cub House. Mr. Melton said no. Mr. Dodd asked if it should be tabled until they are advised. Mayor Wilson stated that it would be clarified when the license is issued. Mr. Stroud asked if there was a requirement for distance to a park, and stated that he agreed with Mr. Dodd. Mr. Stroud if it is just for the Club House they can come back and add to it later. Mr. King asked if they understood when they applied. Mr. Dodd would prefer if they understood. Mrs. Hall stated that she can talk with them when the license is issued. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ALCOHOL BEER AND WINE PACKAGE APPLICATION FOR SUHASH PATEL FOR 111 MLK JR DRIVE

Mr. Melton stated that the legal advertisement for the Public Hearing had been published in the Monroe County Reporter on August 24th and August 31st. Mr. Melton reviewed the application. Mr. Stroud asked if this was just a change of ownership. Mr. Melton stated yes it was. Mrs. Hall stated that Mr. Patel owns the building and will now be running the store. Mayor Wilson opened the Public Hearing. Hearing no discussion, the Public Hearing was closed. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the application. Seconded by Mr. Hewett. Mr. Dodd asked if the underage citation had been cleared up. Mrs. Hall stated that the citation was for the husband. Mr. Melton stated that the license had not been revoked and it was for a family member. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

TEMPORARY ALCOHOL PERMIT REQUEST FROM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mrs. Hall stated that this was for a one (1) day permit for the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the temporary Alcohol Permit. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

PARADE PERMIT FOR HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS

Mrs. Hall stated that this was the Permit for the Hometown Holidays Parade. Karen Buckindail from the Forsyth-Monroe Chamber of Commerce came forward in case the Council had any questions. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the parade permit. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mrs. Hall stated that the Parade route was revised last year and it would be the same route this year. Mrs. Hall stated that they were working on getting the larger floats to end at the old Academy. Mr. Dodd asked if they would be lining up on Rail Road Avenue. Mrs. Hall said there would be a few, but they would be three (3) deep on Tift Drive. The motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

BIBB MILL VILLAGE CDBG EXTENSION REQUEST TO DCA

Mrs. Hall stated that they was just for approval to send a letter to DCA asking for an extension for the Bibb Mill Village CDBG. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approved sending a letter to DCA asking for an extension. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

AWARD BID FOR BIBB MILL VILLAGE CDBG WATER LINE PROJECT – COMPLETION OF INITIAL PROJECT

Mrs. Hall stated that this was to award the bid to Pyles Plumbing. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the award bid for Bibb Mill Village CDBG Water Line Project to Pyles Plumbing. Seconded by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Dodd asked if the prior company would have to pay. Mrs. Hall stated that the assurity company had taken over. Mr. Dodd asked if this was for the original bid only. Mr. Hall stated that it is to finish what was started then rebid for the additional tie in of the services that were left. Mr. Stroud asked about some things that were doubled for Pyles. Mrs. Hall stated that this is all we got. Mr. Stroud stated that some items were more than doubled. Mayor Wilson stated that they all got the same specs. The motion carried unanimously five (5) to zero (0) with one (1) abstention, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King and Hewett and one abstention, Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) VENDOR ASSIGNMENT

Mrs. Hall stated that this was for the approval of the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Vendor assignment. Mrs. Hall stated that the difference in this program is that the money comes directly to us. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Vendor assignment. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Stroud asked if this was advertised. Mrs. Hall stated that a flyer is put out by the company. Mr. Stroud asked if it would be put in with the bill. Mrs. Hall stated yes it would. Mr. Stroud asked as far as the low income was decides. Mrs. Hall stated that it was a threshold, that it would go to senior citizens first, then the disabled if money is left. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

SET TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR 2016

Mrs. Hall stated that this was just so that we could get a five (5) year history, and that it would be used for special projects. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to set the tentative millage rate to 3%. Seconded by Mr. Stroud. Mr. Dodd stated that he would like to reduce the millage rate. Mayor Wilson stated that he liked having it for special projects. Mr. Stroud stated that it was nice for the citizens to know where it is going, maybe we could put a sign to say 'Tax Dollars at Work'. Mayor Wilson stated that if we can't rationalize to ourselves with keeping it at 3%, we can't rationalize it to the citizens. Mr. Goolsby stated that it could be used for good projects. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR POSITION

Mr. Melton stated that this is to stablish the Economic Development Director position. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the resolution to establish the Economic Development Director position. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Stroud asked if it was possible for the Economic Development Director to give a report, possibly once a month on what we could be doing better. Mayor Wilson stated that Mr. Norris hit the ground running the day he started. Mr. Lawrence asked if the Council could get his phone number. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR 2016 TO ADD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR POSITION.

Mrs. Hall stated that this was to amend the budget by increasing the Better Hometown Budget by \$20,352.00. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the budget amendment for 2016 to add the Economic Development Director position. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS FOR FINANCING OF BUCKET TRUCK THROUGH ALTEC CAPTIAL SERVICES

Mrs. Hall stated that this is to purchase a bucket truck for \$164,764.00, with \$30,014.00 payment a year. Mrs. Hall stated that it would be for City use only. Mrs. Hall also stated that the truck had already been delivered and that this was for approval to submit the paperwork. Mr. King offered a motion to approve the submittal of the financial documents for the financing of the bucket truck. Seconded by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Goolsby asked if it was in the budget. Mrs. Hall stated yes that it was already in the 2016 Budget. Mr. Lawrence asked what we would do with the old bucket truck. Mrs. Hall stated that we would keep it, to use as a backup. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS FOR FINANCING OF THE BUNN ROAD WATER LINE PROJECT

Mrs. Hall stated that this was for the loan through GEFA for \$5245.61 payment a month. Mrs. Hall also stated that we were close to the end of the project, because the contractor had actually gotten started ahead of schedule. Mrs. Hall stated that Mr. Willingham had signed the documents he needed to sign and that she needed approval for the Mayor and herself to sign the documents. Mr. Hewett offered a motion for approval of financial documents for financing of the Bunn Road Water Line project. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL TO REMOVE YARD DEBRIS PICKUP FROM ADVANCED DISPOSAL CONTRACT

Mrs. Hall stated that Advanced Disposal has given the City three (3) options. Mrs. Hall stated that she and the Mayor has met with Mr. Lovett and that he proposed a \$1.29 decrease per month, per customer until April when it can be looked at again. Mrs. Hall stated that if we go back to Advance Disposal at that time, they will agree to \$5.14 and will bring their grapple truck in. Mr. Stroud asked how the grapple truck was doing. Mrs. Hall stated that it had been down for minor repairs. Mr. Stroud asked if it was just normal wear and tear. Mrs. Hall stated yes, and that it was not negligence. Mayor Wilson stated that it lets Advance Disposal off the hook and it will cost us about \$1.73 to do it. Mr. Goolsby stated that he did not want us to lose site of the container on the square and knows that everyone is tired of talking about the square. Mr. Stroud asked if a 3rd party could be brought in that could help us solve the problem. Mayor Wilson stated that the Beautify Forsyth committee could possibly come up with a plan. Mr. Goolsby stated that he was tired of getting beat up about the containers on the square and that they were ugly. Mrs. Hall stated that the problem is that there is nowhere behind the business to put the cans. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the removal of pickup of yard debris from the Advanced Disposal contract. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Goolsby asked if it could be sent out to the Citizens about the grapple truck. Mrs. Hall stated that the current ordinance needed to be looked out, and that the Council must decide what parameters should be, and what doesn't tax the truck. Mr. Stroud stated that no household items should be picked up. Mayor Wilson stated

that it would be just debris. Mr. Hewett asked if the debris is not in compliance, will they do a door knock. Mrs. Hall stated that the drivers will let Alvin Randall, Steve Jones or Code Enforcement know and that they would contact the customer. Mr. Goolsby stated that it has never been clear what we are doing. Mr. Dodd stated that their needs to be policy. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$282,005.68

Mrs. Hall read the Accounts Payable totals for each Department and stated that there was a small invoice for Dodd Builders. Mr. Hewett asked about the \$8,275 for ammo for the Police Department. Mrs. Hall stated that this was for the winter training, all firearms. Mr. King offered a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Invoices in the amount of \$282,005.68. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried five (5) to zero (0) with one (1) abstention, (voting in the affirmative were Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence and the one (1) abstention was Dodd.)

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000

A. Gulf States Distributors – ammunition - \$8275

Mrs. Hall stated that this was the ammo for qualifying.

B. Elliott Machine Shop – repair helisieve - \$16,206

C. Calibration Controls & Automation – unforeseen repairs found in shaft for flocculator #2 – new shaft assemblies - \$10,129.77

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the requisitions greater than \$5,000. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Mrs. Hall stated that a decision need to be made to determine what to do with the drug dog that C.J. has. C.J. has been out due to a Workers Compensation case, but it has now been settled and he is no longer employed. We need to either ‘sell’ him the dog or find someone else that wants the dog. Mrs. Hall stated that C.J. has had the dog since around 2011 or 2012.
- Mrs. Hall stated that signs has been purchased for the sidewalk work only, saying ‘sidewalk closed’ and that we will be ordering additional signs to say ‘pardon our progress’ and ‘sidewalk work in progress’.
- SeeClickFix will be rolling out the middle of September. This is a great way to get citizens involved in the community.
- GDOT Projects:
 - o Traffic Study for Main Street and Martin Luther King to be completed by October 31st.
 - o I-75 lighting – Discussion with Atlanta Office to review for funding source and project upgrade.

- Will be scheduling a meeting with the Department of Transportation to review landscaping on I-75 entrances and exits.
 - Patrol Road & Lee Street intersection – Department of Transportation doing traffic counts to determine if lane change is justified, to complete by 1/31/2017.
 - The turning lane at Harold G Clark Parkway and Highway 41 – will be presenting to Quick Response Committee on 9/6 for possible funding.
 - Truck route around downtown – Department of Transportation to install a sign at existing sign cluster at Georgia Hardware directing trucks to continue to Highway 18. It should be complete within one (1) month.
- Employee appreciation lunch for all employees on 9/9 from 11-12.
 - Another leak in irrigation on square has been found around planter on Johnston. Irrigation on Main has been repaired and is back on. Now Johnston and Jackson is off, until new leak is found and repaired.
 - We have completed 600' of sidewalk as of last week. Continuing down Johnston to end of sidewalk at Short Street, then come down other side of Johnston.
 - Looking a pricing to relocate utility pole and serviced provided to Ingles. They are getting pricing from Cable & AT&T to determine complete cost. We are waiting on Ingles to determine if we move the pole or they relocate the entrance to gas pumps.
 - Water service agreement with Monroe County – there will be a new agreement to replace 2005 agreement; per 100 gallon would be \$3.75; lease the Bunn Road line and Sutton Road lines unless B. Vaughn can determine that City and County can exchange lines.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton stated that he had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson reminded everyone about the Employee Appreciation, Friday at 11:00 at the American Legion, and that we would be celebration years of service.
- Mayor Wilson wanted to commend the Electric Department. Friday night at the football game, the lights went out due to the underground transformer going out. Ray Martin, Felton Ross were in the crowd and Mike Batchelor was the on call person came in and did the repairs in record time.
- There will be a community clean-up day on September 17th and they will be cleaning up the Millage Circle area. Everyone will meet at City Hall at 7:00am.
- Mayor Wilson wanted everyone to know that Representative Dickey is working on the lights issues at the exits. Looks like there are two different options, either to repair them or change to the new LED lights. Thank you to Representative Dickey.
- Parking on the square is becoming an issue; need a task force of local business owners to give ideas about solutions. It is becoming more and more of an issue and the Mayor would like to move forward.

- Mayor Wilson stated that we had about 40 people signed up for the AMP. Mrs. Hall stated that Incode was looking at the true up. Mr. Goolsby asked if we could spend some time to look at Budget Billing for existing businesses, maybe work session or energy audits for businesses. Mayor Wilson stated that the Economic Growth is tasked to Mr. Norris.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- No Updates.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

- Mr. Goolsby stated that he had been to the DDA meeting and was bring a couple of things from them.
 - o Mr. Goolsby stated that they would like to move the tree lighting to Saturday, November 26th.
 - o CVB at the new Hotel and it is very nice, encouraged everyone to go by and see it.
 - o Would like to have a Meet & Greet with new businesses; there have been two in the last month.
 - o Business Owners are concerned about Street Scape Phase III, not knowing how it was going to affect them. Mr. Goolsby asked if the business had an opportunity to meet with the contractors. Mrs. Hall stated that there had been two (2) public meetings. Mr. Goolsby stated that it was Jonah’s that had the concerns.
- Mr. Stroud stated that Barbara Davis on Chapman Drive was concerned about some steep turns; is there anything we can do.
 - o Any info on the splash pad? Mrs. Hall stated that due to the joint bid with the County and the Committee has not met, she will be going ahead and submitting the Cities bid. Mr. Stroud stated that we have had 90 days of 90° weather and he would like to move forward. He would like to see it up and running by May or June of next year.
 - o Mr. Stroud stated that Mario Harvey, who graduated from Mary Persons, had started with a group of young men from 6 to 12 teaching them life skills, and that he has gone a good job with the youth.
- Mr. Dodd stated that the guys doing the tree trimming on Church Street did a great job, and that he wanted to commend the Electric Department and Street Department for the good jobs they had done.
- Mr. Goolsby stated that he wanted to remind everyone that the State CVB would be here on October 4th at 5:00.
 - o The DDA took over the Railroad Museum, they had done a draft RFP, and they are waiting until after the meeting on the 4th, but are making progress. Mayor Wilson stated that Andrew Ross from Congressman Scott’s office is working on the project.
- Mr. Lawrence stated he had nothing to report.
- Mr. Hewett asked if any streets were scheduled for resurfacing. Mrs. Hall stated no. Mr. Goolsby said that maybe it needed to be brought to Commissioner Evans attention since it was in his County District.
- Mr. King gave kudos to the Electric Department, they were very impressive, and to the sidewalk person.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one came forward for Public Comment.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.) The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Submitted by:

Kristal S. Dunn

City Clerk