

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Chris Hewett 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

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Mr. King, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes from the September 6th Council Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stroud. Mr. Melton asked that the minutes be amended on page 2 to take out the Hamlin Hills info that it looked like a copy and paste issue. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

HOMETOWN TEAM REVIEW – RICHARD DUMAS

Mr. Dumas came forward and stated that Better Hometown had received a sports grant, which a committee had been working on for over a year. Mr. Dumas stated that Forsyth was one in twelve cities, and that it would be a 6 week event that will be held from June 10th 2017 until July 22nd 2017. Mr. Dumas stated that the Main event would be held at the Connelly Building, but there would be other events around the City. Mr. Dumas stated that he was there to ask for assistance/funding, volunteers, and that he wanted to keep the City in the loop on what was going on. Mr. Dumas stated that they would be doing some advance fundraising, because they would not get the money from the Grant until January or February. Mr. Goolsby stated that he would like for the City to give \$5000.00 out of the Special Funds. Mayor Wilson stated that we could go \$2,500 now and \$2,500 next year. Mr. Goolsby stated that he knew Mr. Ralph Bass had trophies, but that he needed a place to put them. Mr. Dodd stated that Forsyth had a lot of history in sports. Mr. Goolsby stated that we had the \$300,000 in special projects, we needed to use it. Mr. Hall stated that the money was not there yet, that it was property tax money. Mr. Dodd asked how do we justify giving the money. Mr. Melton stated, by promotion of the DDA & CVB. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to give the project \$2,500 now and \$2,500 next year. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SIGN VARIANCE TO ALLOW INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED WALL SIGNS FROM MIKE BENDER ON BEHALF OF GEORGIA-TEXAS INTERPRISES, INC FOR NEW TACO BELL BUILDING LOCATED AT 152 N. LEE STREET

Mr. Melton stated that this was for a sign variance at the new Taco Bell that is under construction. Mr. Melton stated that the legal advertisement for a sign variance had been published in the Monroe County Reporter on August 31st, September 7th and September 14th, for Public Hearing. Mayor Wilson opened the Public Hearing. Mrs. Hall stated that Mr. Bender had left three (3) sets of plans for Council to look at. Hearing no discussion, the Public Hearing was closed. Mr. Goolsby asked if there were any notes from the Planning and Zoning Committee. Mrs. Hall stated no, but that this was in the Corridor Overlay and was a Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Wilson stated that it was approved unanimously by Planning & Zoning. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the Sign Variance. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Stroud asked what it was going to look like. Mr. Hall stated that the new building would have outside seating. Mr. Goolsby stated that we had been very fortunate with everything that is going on in that area. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

ACCEPTANCE OF EASEMENTS FOR BUNN ROAD PROJECT FROM JOHN ROQUEMORE, A. LEE WILLINGHAM II, CELESTE CLOTFELTER AND EXECUTOR OF HARRY WILLINGHAM ESTATE

Mrs. Hall stated that this was for the Bunn Road Project, where we had run a waterline on the properties and we had provided them with water taps and a drive way. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the easements. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mayor Wilson asked if everything looked in order. Mr. Melton stated that exhibit A is attached. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

2016 MILLAGE RATE

Mrs. Hall stated that this was to advertise the Millage Rate at 3 mils, and that the 5-year history would be advertised. Mrs. Hall stated that if there were appeals, it would make the numbers change. Mrs. Hall stated that it would be advertised for approval on the 1st meeting in October.

2016 ECG BOARD ELECTION NOMINATION

Mrs. Hall stated that this was to make an election nomination for the ECG Board. Mr. Goolsby asked if the Council could nominate someone. Mrs. Hall stated yes. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to nominate the Mayor. Seconded by Mr. Hewett. Mr. Goolsby stated that it would be to have someone from Forsyth on the Board. Mayor Wilson accepted the nomination. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to close the floor for nominations. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF MPHS HOMECOMING PARADE STREET CLOSINGS

Mrs. Hall stated that they would be taking the same route as last year and the parade would be held on October 27th from 5:00PM until 6:30PM. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the street closings for the Homecoming Parade. Seconded by Mr. King. Mr. Stroud asked where it would start. Mrs. Hall stated the Junior Parking Lot at the High School. Mr. Stroud stated that he got the parades confused. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

STREETScape PHASE III – EAST JOHNSTON STREET – REVIEW OF PROJECT FROM JOHN BOUDREAU, ATKINS

Mrs. Hall reviewed email from John Boudreau concerning Streetscape Phase III. Mrs. Hall stated that the Grant was for \$600,000 and the Cities match is \$150,000. The total price would be approximately 1.3 Million Dollars and that would be from Lee Street to Rail Road Avenue. The bidding company's base bid was \$719,254.45, and that included 100% of the lighting. Mrs. Hall stated that there were somethings we could do, like the lighting and maybe get the pavers from Georgia instead of Wisconsin. Mrs. Hall stated that Atkins sent out to seven (7) contractors for bids and we only got one back, and that per John Boudreau everything looked good. Mr. Stroud asked how long did we have. Mrs. Hall stated that it must be done by December 31, 2017, and that they would need to send all new agreements. Mrs. Hall stated the Council could approve contingent on negotiating the price down, for things the City could do themselves. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve contingent on negotiating the price down. Seconded by Mr. Stroud. Mr. Goolsby asked if we could get Atkins to help validate the bid and make sure it is a true number. Mrs. Hall stated that she was concerned we only received one (1) bid, but that Atkins says it is a good bid. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$181,409.92

Mrs. Hall read the Accounts Payable totals for each Department and stated that there was a small invoice for Dodd Builders. Mr. King offered a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Invoices in the amount of \$181,409.92. 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. Frontage Road at KOA Campground erosion – estimates of \$15,000 - \$50,000**
- B. Sellers Contracting – initial repairs at landfill - \$7,130**
- C. Sellers Contracting – additional repairs at landfill - \$4,747.18**

Mrs. Hall stated that this was erosion that had developed at the guard rail in front of KOA. Will not know what it will cost until they get in there and see what is going on. Mrs. Hall stated that we needed approval to move forward. Mr. Stroud asked if it was a DOT problem. Mrs. Hall stated no, that they gave the road to us. Mr. Dodd asked if it was at the pond. Mrs. Hall stated yes, but will have to be repaired from road. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve going forward. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Stroud stated that he had several questions, but did not know what to really ask. Mr. Dodd asked exactly where it was. Mrs. Hall stated that it was just past KOA, before cottages. Mr. Dodd asked if it was a drain and if the water was coming from the pond or the Interstate. Mr. Stroud stated that it would be a GDOT issue if the water is coming from the Interstate. Mrs. Hall stated we needed an approval to move forward. Mr. Dodd stated that it sounds serious and maybe that it was not constructed right the first time. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- On behalf of all City Employees, thank you to Mayor & Council for the employee appreciation lunch and service awards

- Sanitary Survey completed last week – went very well
- National Public Safety Night Out – 10/4 from 5 – 7 Leadership Monroe Alumni is requesting close Jackson from Main to Johnston for the event; have Resource Team scheduled for that night so Gilda is trying to change that date; need motion to approve street closure. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the street closing. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)
- Police Department is eligible and will apply for the 50/50 grant for protective vest – only possible due to policy change presented by Chief Harris and approved by Council
- SeeClickFix is up and running on website
- Tommy Vaughn is clearing a portion of the property at the city reservoir; they cannot locate the pins on the property and he has asked that the city pay a portion of the approximately \$3,000 to locate the pins; I have put him in touch with Steve Coleman to see if they can find something in the old paperwork to help them locate the pins

Couple of items to clear up and/or answer from last council meeting

- ECG will do commercial energy audits, the city bears the cost for the audits in our annual subscription with ECG; Johnny Hodges attended training couple years back and he can do the residential energy audits
- Resurfacing of city streets – we have 47.3 miles of city streets; DOT estimate for 1 mile of resurfacing is \$120,000/mile; total cost to resurface all city streets \$5,673,431; LMIG is annual and covers less than 1 mile of resurfacing; need streets for 2017; map created to show streets resurfaced from 2001 to 2016
- Ammo purchase – this purchase covered ammo for practice for pistols and rifles and duty ammo for both; have not had to order ammo since late 2014; Police Department qualifies all FT & PT employees twice a year for pistol and shotgun – the pistol and rifle courses are 30 round courses and the shotgun is a 15 round course; ordered 5 cases 40 caliber regular & 20 practice rounds and 10 cases rifle ammo
- Beer license for Forsyth Country Club (golf course) – spoke with Mr. Schultz and they do not want a pouring license; they want to sell packaged beer from the club house and the golfer leave the clubhouse and drink the beer on the golf course; county has approved to allow drinking on the back 9 of the golf course; need package license and permission to drink on the front 9 – not in the clubhouse

Yard Debris pickup – approved to take over the yard debris pickup; Bobby Melton said would need emergency ordinance to amend current ordinance for us to pick up; Alvin Randall provided parameters today and copy to council; would not pickup stumps for any debris greater than 5” diameter and 5’ in length or pile greater than 5’ high; no multiple piles. Mrs. Hall stated needed approval as an emergency ordinance. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve Yard Debris pickup as an emergency ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Hewett stated that the curb terminology needed to be changed on # 2, in its subdivision there were no curbs or sidewalks. Mrs. Hall stated that it would be changed to curb or edge of pavement. Mr. Goolsby stated that he liked we are doing something but does not like #3, no commercial. Mr. Goolsby asked what if you had a major yard cleaning and you pile was bigger than five foot. Mrs. Hall stated that we would be charging \$15.00 and that the County charges \$35.00/ton at the landfill. If we did no limits and picked up everything, all day, every day, we would never get caught up. We will

pick up extra, but charge you a fee. Mr. Stroud asked what the fee was. Mrs. Hall stated \$25.00 per load. Mr. Goolsby said lets' do it all and tell what the additional fee will be up front. Mr. Goolsby stated that if we do one day a week, make sure we are very clear what we are doing up front. Mrs. Hall stated that there would be a regular route and will be posted. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

Water Agreement with County

- Called meeting tomorrow at 9:00 am with county to review water service agreement unless council is in agreement with the agreement; if want to meet with county to review all sections of the agreement, do you want to attend their meeting in the morning or request called meeting to have roundtable discussion. Mayor Wilson stated that he had been trying to get us in the same room and was very frustrated they will not recognize us at their meeting. Mr. Goolsby stated that he would like to see our Engineer at a work session and have him walk through agreement. Mrs. Hall stated that the Attorneys, Engineers, Anita Cawthon and herself had sit down and agreed on an addendum, their attorney wrote a separate agreement and that is not what he was instructed to write. Mrs. Hall stated that there were three (3) items that needed to be talked about, the Water Agreement, Election Board and Dispatch. Mrs. Hall stated that they wrote a different Resolution for the Election Board. Mr. Goolsby asked when the next joint meeting was. Mayor Wilson stated in November. Mayor Wilson stated that he had been advised not to connect Bunn Road until the agreement was done. Mrs. Hall Stated that there was a problem with having it at the meetings and it needs to be at a time other than regular meeting. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to have a different meeting. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton stated that he had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Clean up date at Millage Circle, Hill Street and Solomon Street went good.
- Ribbon Cutting, Wednesday, at 11:00 AM at LaQuinta.
- Received letter from School Superintendent thanking the City and Electric Department for their efforts in getting the transformer fixed quickly.
- Had our 1st Employee Appreciation and feels it went good. Gave out pins and certificate for years of service.
- Would like to get a banner to put over the doors at each department that says, 'We make a difference. We are Team Forsyth.' Or something to that affect. Would like the City Manager to go ahead and get those ordered.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- No Committee

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Goolsby

- Lights behind Tractor Supply are out.
- Email received from Mary Akin; would like to do a plaque for 'Back the Blue'.
- Would like to get an extended list for Commissioner Evans for roads that need to be paved.

Councilman Stroud

- RFQ for Splash Pad. Where do we go now? Mrs. Hall stated that there were groups that were promoted by GMA and that American Ramp is one of those.
- Do all our Police Officers have Body Cams? Mrs. Hall stated that she knew a couple needed to be replaced and did not know if everybody had one.
- Has LMIG been completed? Know of four (4) street that have not been done. Mrs. Hall stated that she will find out, but knew that 2016 had not been done yet and that the list for 2017 was due in December.

Councilman Dodd

- Nothing to report.

Councilman King

- Nothing to report.

Councilman Hewett

- How are the recruits doing in the Academy? Mrs. Hall stated that one (1) would be graduating on Friday and that only one (1) out of the three (3) made it.

Councilman Lawrence

- Commend Mayor and Council for working so diligently on project that were talked about at the Retreat.

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. Hewett 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 7:46PM.

Submitted by:

Kristal S. Dunn
City Clerk