

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 17, 2016

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Whatley of Union Hill Missionary Baptist Church gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting were Mayor Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud III, 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 to amend the Agenda by deleting Item# 4, due to the Proclamation not being needed until a later date. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the amended Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. King offered a motion to approve the minutes from the October 3rd Council Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried five (5) to zero (0) with one abstention, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence with Stroud as the one abstention.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2016 SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR BEER AND WINE PACKAGE LICENSE FOR FORSYTH COUNTRY CLUB, 400 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE

Mr. Melton stated that the Forsyth Country Club stated that they had asked for the wrong thing, that they had wanted a License for package sale for Beer and Wine. Mr. Melton stated that it had been advertised in the Monroe County Reporter on October 5th and October 12th.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing. Hearing no discussion, the Public Hearing was closed. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the Beer and Wine Package application as presented by Mr. Melton. Mr. Stroud seconded the motion. Mrs. Hall stated this application was for the sale of package beer from the Club House for consumption on the golf course. Mr. Stroud asked if they are assuming all responsibilities. Mr. Melton stated yes they would. Mr. Dodd stated that his only concern was having a cart coming around selling. Mr. Melton stated that they would need a pouring license for that and to think of it as a convenience store. Mr. Stroud asked if they would follow normal hours. Mr. Melton stated it would be the same as any other package store. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 20 SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE WITH REGARD TO YARD WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Melton stated that this was the public hearing for the amendments to Chapter 20 Solid Waste Ordinance. Mr. Melton stated that it had been advertised in the Monroe County Reporter on October 5th and October 12th. Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing. Hearing no discussion, the Public Hearing was closed. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the amendments to Chapter 20 Solid Waste Ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Hewett. Mrs. Hall went over all the changes that were being made to the ordinance. Mr. Stroud amended his motion to include the necessary changes as stated by Mrs. Hall. Mr. Hewett seconded the amendment to the motion, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

APPROVAL OF TRAVEL REQUEST FOR MAYOR WILSON

Mayor Wilson stated that this was for the travel to the ECG Conference for the Election of the Board. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the travel request for Mayor Wilson. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

DISCUSSION REGARDING LEASE OF WELCOME CENTER/ALDERMAN HALL TO CVB

Mr. Goolsby stated that the CVB had a retreat last Monday and discussed leasing the downstairs to CVB. Mr. Goolsby stated that museum pieces could be on display and that it would be a good use of space. Mr. Goolsby stated that the CVB would fix the floor and after the train festival,

they would bring pieces in to put on display. Mr. Goolsby asked that Mrs. Hall put together an agreement that can be presented to CVB Board and get their buy in. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to lease the Downstairs and Alderman Hall to CVB. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Dodd asked about someone being downstairs to welcome visitors. Mr. Goolsby stated that they hoped to have volunteers, and that maybe Dana could help out until they got someone. Mrs. Hall stated that there was signage to direct people to Better Hometown and Economic Development upstairs and CVB downstairs. Mr. Stroud asked did this take it all off the table for City Hall. Mrs. Hall stated that she will be bringing a plan up. Mr. Goolsby stated that the RFP was almost completed for the Train Museum and that Denise Collins was putting together an outside committee for the museum. Mr. King asked about the flooding. Mrs. Hall stated that she was not sure, but that there was flooding in Alderman Hall and in front of the Building. Michael Norris stated that a contractor had some out and has identified the problem. Mr. Goolsby stated that the DDA had no funding, the CVB could pay the rent, maybe \$500 with water and electric and be put in a separate account to be allocated to the DDA. Mr. Goolsby offered an amendment to the original motion to include 90 days out either way and it would be automatically renewable. Mr. King seconded the amendment to the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

DISCUSSION REGARDING DEEDING AMERICAN LEGION HALL BUILDING TO DDA

Mrs. Hall stated that it had been rented out only through the end of October so that renovation could be done. Mrs. Hall stated that she thought that it would be a good project for the DDA, that the renovation could be more than \$200,000. Mrs. Hall stated that there are grants out there and that there might be opportunities with the new ROTC program. Mayor Wilson stated that he would like to see it be used as a public building and still honor the people it was built for. Mr. Hewett asked if it was on the Historic Registry. Mr. Dodd stated that it was a very historic building, and that it was entrusted to the City be the Trustee, and that it would be in our best interest to keep it and that no drastic changes be made. Mrs. Hall stated that the historical integrity of the Building will be maintained. Mr. Dodd asked that it be stated that the renovation are approved by the governing body. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to deed the American Legion Hall building to the DDA with the restrictions that it remain in is current architectural standing.

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

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$243,839.46

Mrs. Hall read the Accounts Payable totals for each Department. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Invoices in the amount of \$243,839.46. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Public service announcement – there is a “company” calling city utility customers, so far businesses, advising them that they have been hired by the City of Forsyth to collect their utility bill and if they do not pay over the phone right then they will disconnect their power. Upon questioning, one business owner was told that they can disconnect remotely because the city uses smart meters and this is not correct – we still use meter readers. The city does not have the capability right now to call you for payment. Please do not give any banking information to anyone over the phone that is calling saying that they are collecting for the city. Please alert family and friends that may get taken advantage of by these thieves and let them know that the city will not call demanding payment over the phone.
- Thank you to the guys that worked well into the night to restore power after someone pulled a line down and broke a pole. Crews had to set a new pole before power could be restored and this took several hours. The Fire Department brought in the light tower, the Fire Department and Police Department directed traffic, and the Public Works Department brought in barrels all so that the electric department guys could safely work. Team Forsyth at work!!
- Notice in utility bills regarding annual hydrant flushing with some do’s and don’ts during the flushing. The Fire Department will be alerting as to areas they are flushing. Mr. Stroud asked if there was any way to put up a sign in the areas. Mayor Wilson stated that we could use the EMA signs.
- Fall Festival on the square 10/31 and Train festival and car show on 11/5.

- Need approval to close Adams Street from Jackson Street for the train festival on 11/5 for the kids train to run from lot behind Persons Bank to lot at Historical Society.
- Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to close Adams Street from Jackson Street for the train festival. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Stroud asked about traffic control. Mrs. Hall stated that we will need officers to control traffic where the train passed on Lee Street. The motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)
- Board of Elections and Dispatch agreements with Monroe County were halted by County Commissioners until water agreement is approved. Mrs. Hall stated that she did have problems with the agreement that they sent for our approval and when we went to commission meeting to discuss with commissioners, we were told that nothing else would be discussed until the water agreement was approved. Mrs. Hall stated that she does see that they are moving forward with the Board of Elections, and that the resolution they adopted needed to be changed. Mayor Wilson stated that they were talking about a joint City/County Board, with three (3) from the County and one (1) from the City of Forsyth and one (1) from Culloden.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton stated that he had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor's Motorcade – gifts for mentally challenged are donated – notices will go out soon.
- Invitation for the Meet & Greet at BlueTick Mercantile Co., October 24th at 6:00pm. It is a time for Department Heads and Council to interact with new businesses.
- Would like for Council to be thinking about a date for the retreat.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman King

- o Asked about updates on sidewalks. Mrs. Hall stated that they were finishing up Johnston Street and that Blount Street would be next. Mr. Stroud stated that they were doing a good job.

Councilman Stroud

- Ms. Ruby Watts, 90 -100 year Birthday Celebration was coming up and would like if possible for the City to give a donation to help out, maybe a \$100 donation.
 - Mr. Stroud offered a motion to donate \$100 to the Ruby Watts Birthday Celebration. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously, (voting in the affirmative were Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, King, Hewett and Lawrence.)
- Last year the Mayor had the Mayor's Ball celebration and wanted to know if anything had been planned for this year. Mayor Wilson stated that will were planning for a ball drop on New Year's Eve, maybe a Forsythia Drop.
- Would like to go into Executive Session after the meeting to discuss Acquisitions, Dispositions and Lease of Land.

Councilman Lawrence

- Attended the celebration for the Mayor of Augusta at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, representing the Mayor and Council. Got to meet Miss America.

Councilman Goolsby

- DDA held a retreat.
- Main Street purchased a stage and that would help save some money and we will be able to hold concerts a little further in the fall and earlier in the spring.

Councilman Dodd

- Attended the Regional Commission Annual Meeting. Enjoyed it and the food was good.
- Asked about the fee we are paying to the Regional Commission. Mrs. Hall sated that she is working on it.

Councilman Hewett

- Nothing to report.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one came forward for Public Comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

At 8:05PM, Mayor and Council came back from Executive Session.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. King 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 8:06PM.

Submitted by:

Kristal S. Dunn
City Clerk