

**Agenda  
Forsyth City Council Meeting  
October 18, 2021**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation and Roll Call**

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Goolsby gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Greg Goolsby, Chris Hewett, Melvin Lawrence, Julius Stroud, and Mike Dodd. Also in attendance for the meeting was City Manager, Janice Hall; City Attorney, Bobby Melton; and City Clerk, Regina Ivie. There were five councilmembers in attendance for the meeting therefore all unanimous votes will be five (Goolsby, Dodd, Stroud, Hewett, and Lawrence).

**Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the minutes of the council meetings held on September 20, 2021, and October 4, 2021**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the both sets of minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of a resolution to submit recreational trails grant application to Georgia Department of Natural Resources.**

Mr. David Lane with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission reviewed the costs associated with the recreation trails grant. If awarded the grant would cover eighty percent of the total cost of \$119,548.00; city match is 20% at \$23,909; construction must be complete within two years.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing to consider a conditional use application of Willie J. Green and Creative Solutions & Design LLC at 208 Sharp Street.**

Mr. Melton stated the application is for conditional use seeks allowance for a multi-family use in an R-3 zone (Residential Moderate Density), the application for variance seeks approval for setback and other related uses to the development of the property. Tax Parcel F17 114 located at 208 Sharp Street; zoning will remain unchanged. It has been advertised in the Monroe Reporter on September 29, October 6, and October 13, 2021.

Mayor Wilson opened the floor in favor of or opposition of the proposed conditional use application.

Ms. Hall reviewed all relevant information regarding to the application; each building/duplex will be 1650 square feet with each side of the duplex at 825 square feet. Each duplex will have two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Zoning is currently R3 in that area. Planning and Zoning denied the request; they felt it needed to be a single-family dwelling or 1200 square feet.

There being no further comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed conditional use application Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the conditional use application of Willie J. Green and Creative Solutions & Design LLC as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of tax service agreement with Monroe County – tabled at the October 4, 2021, Council Meeting**

Ms. Hall stated the agreement requests an increase from the prior agreement from \$3.00 to \$8.00 per parcel.

Lori Andrews stated the office collects the City's taxes, holds tax sales; the city averages 50 parcels on the tax sale list. She prints reports only when requested for our annual audit; and provides a copy of the digest to the city yearly. In May this year Ms. Andrews stated she informed Ms. Hall that the service and maintenance agreement has gone up over \$100 dollars

each year for the past five years; printing and postage has increased for the company that mails the tax notices. She further stated that an increase was necessary since the amount hasn't changed since 2004.

Ben Vaughn stated the county has 16401 parcels; the city has 2767 parcels. The cost to the city at the new rate per parcel is \$22,136.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to take from the table the approval of the tax service agreement. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the tax service agreement; Seconded by Mr. Goolsby.

Mr. Goolsby inquired regarding the number of tax sales each year specifically for the city. Ms. Andrews stated approximately 50 each of year with the process typically being done twice a year.

Ms. Hall requested changes to paragraph eight to either list each individual report needed or change it to say all reports as needed for our audit. Mr. Vaughn stated the recommended change can be updated. Ms. Hall preferred "reports as needed" indicated for paragraph eight.

Mr. Stroud amended his original motion to approve the agreement with any updates necessary in the agreement the city deems necessary. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilson called for a vote on the amended motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vaughn stated he would provide an editable document for the changes to be made.

#### **Approval of a resolution for the Electric Cities of Georgia voting delegate.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to retain Mayor Wilson as the voting delegate. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Electric Cities of Georgia 2021 board election nomination.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to provide no nomination for the Electric Cities board. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Approval of a temporary permit for the sale of alcoholic beverages on October 20, 2021, and October 22, 2021, for Magnolia's Med Spa.**

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the temporary permit for sale of wine only on October 20, and 22, 2021 for Magnolia's Med Spa. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Approval of travel for Mayor Wilson for upcoming MEAG, ECG and GMA meetings.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve Mayor Wilson's upcoming travel for the MEAG, ECG and GMA meetings. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

#### **2022 Budget presentation – Ms. Hall**

Ms. Hall provided a budget overview for 2022.

#### **City Manager's Report**

##### **General**

- Governor Kemp issued a Law Enforcement and First Responder Supplement Program which opened on October 1. We will be working to apply on behalf of our employees that qualify for this supplement. The funds will be paid to the City to be passed onto the employee through payroll.
- Full guidelines for ARPA funds have still not been released; webinars that I have attended have pointed out that any funds the City passes on to others is still the responsibility of the City and if those funds are not used correctly the City could be required to return all ARPA funds received. We have received ½ of our funding with the remainder expected in July 2022; funds must be obligated by 12/31/2024 and spent by 12/31/2026 so no rush to spend those funds at this time. There is additional State funding that was originally released for applications to be submitted and due by end of August, but the deadline was extended until end of October. Hofstadter has completed our application requesting to use those funds as part of our match on the USDA loan.

- Waste Management continues to have on and off issues; last week they did pick up all residential garbage on the scheduled day.
- I emailed the list of Board Appointments for your review. Except for the Housing Board, all appointments expire on 12/31. If there are any changes to be made those should be made prior to the appointment expiring if possible.
- Sheriff Freeman was concerned about us not approving the agreement to use the Justice Center for Municipal Court and contacted me after the last council meeting. He has worked to reduce the cost by about ½. I have not received a revised agreement but understand that it is on the commissioner's agenda to discuss tomorrow.
- Notified that were awarded a Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) FY22 Vibrant Communities Grant for \$5,000. There were 57 applications submitted by applicants from throughout the state of Georgia, and our project is a worthwhile investment of Vibrant Communities grant funds and deserving of GCA support. I recommend we form a committee to determine what type of sculpture/art we want to create to show unity for our community.

#### Projects

- Blount St CDBG – all issues should be resolved with this project and close out should be moving forward soon
- Sewer line issue in Chambers St – continue to try to resolve this problem
- City Hall – AT&T finally completed work that was reported as completed couple months back; Pellicano subcontractors still have some work to complete, especially the security door hardware installation; tentatively scheduled for all phone lines to be moved to new building on October 25 but that is pending all items relevant to being able to take payments, answer all phone calls and work safely are completed. Until all those items are complete, we will continue to operate City Hall accepting all payments at the police department. Clark Nexsen is here today and tomorrow with a photographer, and I have asked them to look at these pending issues as well.

#### P&Z

- Currently have 2 residential rezoning for the 10/25 P&Z meeting. Once P&Z has heard these, we will begin the advertisements then a public hearing before Council.

#### City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton had no further business to report.

#### Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson stated per an email he received regarding MEAG Power related to Plant Sherer, units 1 and 2. MEAG Power has approximately thirty percent ownership of those two units. They along with Oglethorpe constitute the majority ownership of those two units; approximately ninety percent. Their intentions are to comply with the rules to keep those two units going beyond 2028; they were required to make a filing on last week, anyone that operates a cold plant. As you know, Georgia Power chose on unit three of which they own seventy five percent to shut that unit down by end of 2028. Mayor Wilson further stated MEAG, and Oglethorpe have until 2025 to make a final decision; they've said initially they are going to make the improvements needed to be compliant with the guidelines.

#### Additional Business

Mr. Stroud inquired about Jenay Court regarding the drainage issues there. Ms. Hall stated the engineers will be looking at the area to determine what can be done. Mr. Stroud requested the road be repaved. Ms. Hall stated it's on the list for LMIG 2022. Mr. Stroud requested the budget be reviewed to increase the starting wages. He also requested the board appointments be done prior to the end of the year.

Mr. Lawrence stated the joint City/County meeting will be Friday, October 22, 2021.

Mr. Goolsby stated he's received calls regarding the trees that were recently cut down impeding the power lines. He would like for more forethought be done prior to trees being taken down. Ms. Hall stated the trees were taken down to replace a transformer.

**Public Comments**

No one came forward for public comments.

**Executive Session**

No executive session was held.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.