

Minutes
Forsyth City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 3, 2022

Call to Order by City Clerk

In accordance with section 2.18 of the City Charter, City Clerk, Regina Ivie called the council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.; at that time the meeting was turned over to Mayor Wilson to preside.

Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Michael Jones, and Roll Call.

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Michael Jones with the local ministerial association gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers John Howard, Chris Hewett, Melvin Lawrence, Greg Goolsby, and Mike Dodd. Also in attendance was City Manager, Janice Hall; City Clerk, Regina Ivie; and City Attorney, Bobby Melton.

Approval of the agenda.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried with five votes (Howard, Hewett, Lawrence, Goolsby, and Dodd).

Approval of the minutes from the council meeting held on December 19, 2022.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried with five votes (Howard, Hewett, Lawrence, Goolsby, and Dodd).

Public hearing to consider an ordinance for a variance request for 533 Cabiness Road, tax parcel 053 012A.

Mr. Melton stated Rick Cantrell applied for a variance request for 533 Cabiness Road. He requests an eight-foot setback from the east boundary. Tax parcel 053 012A is .620 acre at 533 Cabiness Road. The current zoning for the property is highway business, with a current use as a warehouse. The proposed use of the property will continue as warehouse. The public hearing notice was published in the Monroe Reporter on December 14, 21, and 28, 2022. Planning and Zoning recommended approval.

Cody Ellis, Economic Development Director, stated a metal structure will be added to the property. Currently the setback requirement is 25 feet; the applicant is requesting an eight-foot setback. A fence separates the properties.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed variance request. There being no comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed variance request Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the variance request. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried with five votes (Howard, Hewett, Lawrence, Goolsby, and Dodd).

Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem for 2023.

Mr. Hewett nominated Councilman Goolsby as Mayor Pro-tem. No other nominations were made. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to close the floor for nominations. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried with five votes (Howard, Hewett, Lawrence, Goolsby, and Dodd).

Adoption of parliamentary procedures.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to adopt the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order for parliamentary procedures. Seconded by Mr. Hewett.

Councilman Stroud arrived at the meeting at 6:09 p.m. All members of council are in attendance therefore, all unanimous votes will be six votes. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of 2023 professionals.

Ms. Hall stated the chief judge, Alyssa Peters has been handling all court for the past several months. Judge Peters has requested a fill in judge for court dates only when she's unable to attend.

After some discussion Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the 2023 professionals as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Set qualifying fees.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to set the qualifying fees as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

2023 Board Appointments.

Ms. Hall provided an overview of each board's needs are at this time, vacant positions, and expiring terms.

- **Planning & Zoning Commission 5-year terms:**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to reappoint Hal Clark to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Martin Presley	-	term to expire 12/2023	taxpayer in city
Phillip English	-	term to expire 12/2024	business in city/lives in county
Steve Coleman	-	term to expire 12/2025	taxpayer in city
	-	term to expire 12/2025	taxpayer in city (Vacant)
Jennie Caldwell	-	term to expire 12/2024	taxpayer in city
Kathy Rowland	-	term to expire 12/2023	business in city/lives in county
Hal Clarke	-	term to expire 12/2027	taxpayer in city (Reappointed at 1-3-23 Meeting)

- **Downtown Development Authority – 4-year terms:**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to nominate Julius Stroud to the Downtown Development Authority. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to reappoint Kerri Swearingen. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to reappoint Eric Thomas. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Vacant	-	term to expire 12/2023	(Wes Cone resigned)
Nichole Brewer	-	term to expire 12/2025	business owner downtown
Eric Thomas	-	term to expire 12/2026	business owner downtown (Reappointed at 1-3-23 Meeting)
Glenn Watson	-	term to expire 12/2025	Business owner downtown
Kerri Swearingen	-	term to expire 12/2026	business owner downtown (Reappointed at 1-3-23 Meeting)
Vacant	-	term to expire 12/2025	(Denise Buff resigned)
Julius Stroud	-	council annual appointment	Appointed at 1-3-23 Meeting.

- **Convention & Visitors Bureau Board:**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to appoint Brandie Starr and Paige Bryson to the CVB board; to replace Kerri Swearingen and Amy Knight. Seconded by Julius Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to appoint Melvin Lawrence to the CVB Board. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Hotel	-	Sunny Patel	term expires 12/2025	Quality & Rodeway Inns
		Navid Kapadia	term expires 12/2024	Comfort Suites, LaQuinta and Clarion Pointe
Restaurant	-	Alondra Ochoa	term expires 12/2025	El Tajada Restaurant
Helen Walker		term to expire 12/2023		
Retail	-	Paige Bryson	term expires 12/2026	Hometown Boutique Appointed at 1-3-23 Meeting
Tushar Patel			term to expire 12/2023	Royal 7
At-large	-	Brandie Starr	term expires 12/2026	Branded Starr Appointed at 1-3-23 Meeting
		Brandon Ogletree	term to expire 12/2024	Iron Willed Trucking
City Council	-	Melvin Lawrence	annual appointment	Appointed at 1-3-23 Meeting.

- **HOUSING BOARD – 5 YEAR TERM (appointments made by Mayor)**

Mayor Wilson appointed Councilman Stroud to the Housing Board.

Freda White - term expires 05/01/2022 Senior Center Director

Jane Pennington - term expires 05/01/2023 Business Owner

Julius Stroud - term expires 05/01/2025 Retired & Council appointment Appointed at 1-3-23 Meeting

Yvonne Stroud - term expires 05/01/2026 School Teacher

Dana Lynch - term expires 05/01/2024 Extension Office

- **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – ADVISOR MEMBER**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to reappoint Melvin Lawrence to the Chamber of Commerce. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

Melvin Lawrence - annual appointment

- **GOLF BOARD**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Dodd to the Golf Board. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

Mike Dodd - annual appointment

- **REGIONAL COMMISSION BOARD**

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to nominate Mike Dodd as an associate for the Regional Commission Board. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to appoint Mayor Wilson as the Municipal Appointee for the Regional Commission Board. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Eric Wilson

Mike Dodd - Associate

Dick Bazemore – Voting non-public

– Associate

Approval of the language access plan for the Community Development Block Grant.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the language access plan for the Community Development Block Grant as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried with four votes (Hewett, Stroud, Goolsby, and Mayor Wilson).

Mr. Howard, Mr. Dodd, and Mr. Lawrence have conflicts of interest; abstained from voting.

Approval of a land easement and payment of fees.

Mr. Melton stated authorization for the compensation for the sale agreement for Ocmulgee Discharge Project, which includes a deed and easements was previously approved in executive session. The agreement of compensation for X85 LLC & Camilla Properties LLC would be the sums totaling their consultation fees, valuation fees, and legal fees; for a sum of \$33,750.00. The deed and easements have been signed and forwarded to courthouse for recording. There was no cost to the city for the land easement.

Ms. Hall added that the easement will provide access to the Ocmulgee River to run the discharge lines from the northeast wastewater treatment plant. The discharge lines are part of the USDA project, and this easement will save over \$1 million on this project.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the land easement and payment of fees as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of a proposed ordinance to amend the city code regarding city council meeting dates.

Mr. Melton stated the proposed ordinance will be presented to council in February; this is a first reading of the proposed ordinance. No approval is needed at this time.

Review of blighted properties.

Mr. Melton and Ms. Hall provided updates on blighted properties.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to remove 503 Stroud Street from the blighted properties. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Requisitions Greater than \$6,000

Galls \$16,500.

Mosca Design \$15,504.32

Industrial Chemicals \$15,187.50

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

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

- New Public Works trucks are fully equipped and on the road.
- Solar flashing stop sign is fully operational at the intersection of Indian Springs Drive/W Johnston
- DCA submits a delinquency list each year of cities that are out of compliance with submitting required reports. Pleased to announce with a huge thank you to Mrs. Ivie that the City of Forsyth is not on their list and that we are compliant on all reporting to DCA at this time.
- I have registered for GMA's webinar to learn about their new Certified City of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging program to be held on January 18.
- Review of Departmental Projects – preliminary spreadsheet sent out to all today. Working with VC3 for best method to add this to website so that it is updated as we update the spreadsheet. This is a fluid listing that may change daily.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton stated the ordinance to amend council meeting dates will be presented to council at the 2-6-23 council meeting. Mr. Melton expressed his appreciation for the continued appointment as city attorney.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson had no further business to report.

Council Board Reports

Mr. Lawrence stated Chief Blue is doing a fantastic job; recently at Union Hill Church meeting the community.

Additional Business

Mr. Stroud stated he's currently attending a GMA sponsored Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training workshop. So many topics are discussed; encouraged all to attend. He's proud to be a part of the first class to complete the training.

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 7:24 p.m.