

**Minutes**  
**Forsyth City Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 4, 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 and Roll Call**

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

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Approval of the Minutes from the council meeting on December 20, 2021.**

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

**Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem for 2022.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to appoint Mr. Dodd as Mayor Pro-tem for 2022. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried with five votes (Goolsby, Stroud, Lawrence, Hewett, and Howard). Mr. Dodd abstained.

**Adoption of parliamentary procedures.**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adopt the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, 12<sup>th</sup> edition. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment of 2022 professionals.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to appoint Dustin Buttigieg as municipal court solicitor for 2022. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to appoint the 2022 professional positions as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Set qualifying fees.**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to set the qualifying fees at \$375.00 for Mayor's office and \$301.35 for Council office. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

## Approval of Requisitions Greater than \$5,000

### UV Superstore - \$18,487.92

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

## City Manager's Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

### General Report

- Met with ECG representatives on December 15 to review billing error by ECG. We have been overbilled approximately \$3,000 per year for several years. The ECG Board will review the overbillings to all the cities and a recommendation will be made to refund one year only. I expressed that this will not be met favorably by Forsyth and most likely others. This matter will not be reviewed by the Board until end of their fiscal year in June 2022.
- Received revised intergovernmental agreement for Justice Center last week. Will review to make sure it includes an opt out clause without penalty or cost so we can end agreement as soon as Welcome Center is ready for use for court. If intergovernmental agreement includes all matters requested, will need approval for Mayor to sign and return as we previously did not approve the IGA. Revised IGA calls for \$1,000 per court; 3 courts per month except November and December for total of 34 courts per year. IGA will be effective July 2021 to expire on or before June 30, 2022.

*Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement for use of the Justice Center at a rate of \$1000 per court; and to allow Mayor Wilson to sign the agreement once the finalized agreement is presented. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.*

- Regular Garbage and recycling pickup has steadily been getting worse. I sent Mr. Melton an email at the end of December asking him to review the contract and amendments to see what we can do to force their hand or if they are in breach of contract with these repeated missed pickups. I know that I receive more and more messages regarding missed pickups every day and I am sure that Mayor and Council are getting messages as well. I am sure there are those that are being missed that are not reporting it.

*Mayor Wilson and Mr. Howard expressed their displeasure, and disappointment as to the garbage service within the city currently. It was mentioned that all on council are receiving complaints from citizens, as well as the City Manager, City Clerk, and City Hall staff are too. Mr. Melton is researching to see if Waste Management is in breach of contract.*

- Will be meeting with Hofstadter & Associates to review several projects and get those underway as soon as possible – flooding on Adams St, stairs at Pickled Okra, sidewalk on N Kimball, Hunter Street, Montpelier Road.
- With increase in recent number of City employees with Covid, we have put protocols back in place regarding mask and social distancing for employees. No in office meetings will be held. Strongly encourage mask for everyone in all city buildings.
- Sent email out this morning from GMA regarding Cities United conference to be held in couple of weeks in Atlanta. Hopefully everyone was able to respond to the survey with your thoughts regarding in-person conference.

### Planning & Zoning

- Wattum Management request for rezoning of property located on Berner Avenue from RM to MI will come before council at the February 7 council meeting. P&Z recommends approval of rezoning as requested.
- Three Oaks Construction request for annexation with R3 zoning on Montpelier Road which will be Phase 3 of Manor at Montpelier will come before council at the February 7 council meeting. P&Z recommends approval as R1 zoning rather than the R3 requested by developer.

**City Attorney Report**

Mr. Melton stated two public hearings for the proposed updates to the Downtown Development Authority Board will be presented at the next council meeting, January 18<sup>th</sup>; those are being advertised.

Mr. Melton also stated two public hearings are being advertised and will be presented at the February 7<sup>th</sup> council meeting: a proposed rezoning ordinance, and an ordinance for annexation.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Wilson stated the issues with garbage collection service needs to be addressed; it was addressed earlier in this meeting. Mayor Wilson reviewed the report from the north central health district regarding the covid cases; we've had over 10,000 cases in our district in the last week. For the month of the entire month of August 17,000 cases were reported; it's expected to be bad month if we are already over 10,000. He encouraged all to get vaccinated against the virus. Mayor Wilson further stated that the crypto mining operation; it's working through the same process as everything else does here in the city. We did not recruit them; we work with consultants who work with other electric cities. They were approached by the company who wanted to come to Georgia. A list of cities was provided that have capacity; for various reasons they narrowed it down to Forsyth. At that time, they begin talking to the property owner. Planning and Zoning has reviewed; and it will come before council on February 7<sup>th</sup>. During the process we will learn about the benefits and detriments potentially about the project. I've heard concerns about the noise; and the company will address those when it comes before council.

**Council Board Reports.**

Mr. Hewett stated a housing authority meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Lawrence stated meetings with the chamber of commerce will resume soon.

**Additional Business**

No additional business was stated.

**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 6:43p.m.