

**Minutes
Forsyth City Council Meeting
January 18, 2022**

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

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes from the council meeting on January 4, 2022

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

Ralph Bass and Gilda Stanbery – Update on the Bicentennial Commission’s activities and provide a final report.

Mr. Ralph Bass on behalf of the Bicentennial Commission expressed their appreciation for the City’s support during the Monroe County’s Bicentennial. Ms. Stanbery and Ms. Winifred Berry presented a “2022 History of Monroe County” calendar that highlights important dates in history, and upcoming events in 2022.

Public Hearing to consider an amendment to an ordinance; Section 2-122 of the Code of the City (What Constitutes Downtown Development Area).

Mr. Melton stated the purpose of the proposed ordinance is to amend Section 2-122; What Constitutes Downtown Development Area; so that the section can be revised to the parameters of the downtown development area as they now exist. The definition of the area will reference a city map. The notice was published in the Monroe Reporter on January 5, and 12, 2022.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing to allow the public to speak in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment. There being no comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the amendment to Section 2-122; seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing to consider an ordinance providing for the appointment to the Board of the Downtown Development Authority of the District 1 Commissioner.

Mr. Melton stated the proposed ordinance would provide for the appointment to the Board of the Downtown Development Authority of Forsyth of the District 1 Commissioner of the Board of Commissioners of Monroe County, alternatively as a non-voting delegate to the Board, or if the statutory qualifications for membership on the Downtown Development Authority are met, then as a full voting member of the Board pursuant to Georgia State law. Mr. Melton further stated the proposed ordinance public hearing notice was advertised in the Monroe Reporter on January 5, and 12, 2022.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance. There being no comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

Waste Management discussion regarding garbage collection.

Mr. Steve Edwards introduced an action plan to address the concerns relating to the garbage collection services, a new management team, new technology, and additional staff. Mr. Edwards explained a new management team is now in place to bring a more consistent and accountable approach to operations going forward in Forsyth. Issues in the past stem from not knowing what and when to service, reoccurring missed collections, supervisors in trucks, and new drivers. Mr. Edwards feels these changes will serve the residents of Forsyth better.

Mr. Jeff Turner, Senior District Manager with Waste Management stated he and his team are committed to fix the issues with garbage collections. Mr. Turner introduced his management team Casimir Babula, Senior Route Manager who has been with the company for 35 years, has a wealth of knowledge and experience to better serve this area. Mr. Justin Calloway, our new District Manager Macon District has been with the Waste Management for a year with lots of prior experience leading a team and hold that team accountable.

Mr. Justin Calloway, District Manager Macon District stated implementation is in the process of a mindset change with our staff with tablets in the vehicles. We now tracking can track the movement of our vehicles, performance management of our staff.

Mr. Casimir Babula, Senior Route Manager stated Waste Management is hiring an operations specialist; a first point of contact with issues. The information will be passed along to the team to get the issue corrected quickly.

Mr. Edwards reiterated that the management team is in place now. The technology with the staff will be completely in place in the new couple of weeks. The operations specialist position has not been filled yet. The Waste Management team is working diligently to correct the errors of the past; to move forward with a new management team. Mr. Edwards requested to come back to a council meeting to provide an update with metrics in March. After some discussion it was determined that Mr. Edwards will attend the first meeting in April with an update.

Approval of Pellicano change orders.

Ms. Hall reviewed change orders 12, 13, 14, and 16 which resulted in a credit of \$23114.85 for work pertaining to the city hall building.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the change orders as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report

- Working with Hofstadter & Associates for roads to resurface for 2022 LMIG. We have Jenay Court, Brookwood Drive Brookwood Circle, and Hunter Street. Any others that you would like considered need to be submitted so we can look at those.
- Working on a flyer, possibly a 1/3-page magnet that has all city meeting dates & times, contact numbers for city, number to call afterhours for electric or water outages, number to call to pay utility bill and citation over the phone, website address, and Facebook page. Will look at pricing to see if this is something that is feasible. If we do a magnet and send out with all utility bills and give out to new utility customers, it would be something they could hang and have info readily available. Also looking at signage to put out as requested at last meeting.
- Tax Commissioner requested and County Commissioners approved changing due date for property taxes to November 15. This will mean that we will need to approve the millage rate in June.
- All stumps have been removed and Tree Board has trees that they will be planting to replace most of them.
- 2022 CDBG – Regional Commission has begun work on this; area to include is Sunset Terrace, Sunset Circle, Bazemore St, Brookwood Dr and Circle, Union Hill Drive. We will need to get income surveys from those that have not already submitted. We have a map showing those that have not yet been submitted. Please help get the word out that we need this information to qualify for grant to replace their waterlines. The information is not shared with anyone, and we only need income range not exact figures. Last year we sent out an RFP for Engineering for the CDBG. The RC

reviewed and scored those that submitted, and Hofstadter & Associates scored highest and was awarded the project. We would like to use that same RFP and award for the 2022 CDBG as they are already familiar with the area.

- We have had several companies request use of City property to have a popup testing site. As most of these sites have large number of people daily, we do not have a location that would be suitable for this use. Each company is being told that we do not have a site that could be used and that any site they choose, they will be responsible for making sure they have sufficient area for traffic.
- Fire department has required hydrant flow testing this year. We will not start the flow testing until last Spring or early Summer. Before we begin, we will need to notify customers of the testing in their area. We need all customers to update their information in our billing system as we almost have the system ready to roll out that we can email bills and send emails and text messages to customers. If we do not have their information in our system, we cannot notify them through this part of our system.
- Main Street Board has requested that Frank look into possibly moving the July 4th Fireworks show to downtown and if possible, will add a concert downtown that night as well. Frank, Chief Herndon and I had a conference call last week with the fireworks vendor. The 2 areas that they feel would work is Chambers Street behind City Hall or the lot behind Farmers Furniture owned by Otis Ingram. Chief Herndon and I have some real concerns about both locations. The vendor is sending someone to visit to do measurements to make sure these areas would work and to also measure the distance to determine what buildings would be included in the “fallout area”. Before we go too far with this, need to make sure council is ok with having fireworks downtown.
- QuikTrip has submitted their application for alcohol package. This will be advertised and come back before council for consideration.

Planning & Zoning

- Wattum crypto mining farm rezoning request will come before council on 2/7 for a public hearing.
- Manor at Montpelier Phase 3 annexation and zoning will come before council on 2/7 for a public hearing.
- Conditional Use request for 24 Clearview Avenue will go before P&Z on January 24
- Conditional Use/Variance request for First Baptist Church to install playground on lot behind the church on King Street with fence will go before P&Z on January 24
- Approval of exterior design for Popeyes will go before Design & Review on January 24

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton reviewed the upcoming public hearings scheduled for the February 7th Council meeting.

- Proposed ordinance to amend the charter – Chapter 35 of the official code of Georgia annotated to provide for the organizational meeting of city council each year.
- Proposed ordinance of annexation of 35 acres on Montpelier Road/Zoning as R-1 (Residential detached single family low-density district).
- Proposed ordinance to rezone property located at 40 Berner Ave from residential multi-family (RM) to Manufacturing-Industrial (MI).

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Wilson had no further business to report.

Additional Business

No additional business was brought forward.

Public Comments

Angel Latch at 285 East Main Street inquired about emails they have sent recently to Mayor & Council. She stated that any research she has done recently has not been positive for her neighborhood. She wants all well informed prior to the Feb. 7th public hearing.

Libby King at 321 E. Main Street stated she has concerns that an international company, Wattum is stating on their website are taking orders to host servers. Ms. King is also concerned about transparency and that the company is bold to state that it will be rezoned. She inquired as to what exactly would be voted on at the February 7th regarding the rezoning application related to Wattum.

Mayor Wilson and City Attorney, Bobby Melton provided clarification as to the vote coming to council at the February 7, 2022, meeting.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.