

Minutes
March 7, 2022
Forsyth City Council

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. Hewett gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, Chris Hewett, and John Howard. Also in attendance for the meeting was City Manager, Janice Hall, City Attorney, Bobby Melton, and City Clerk, Regina Ivie. Mr. Lawrence was not in attendance for the meeting. There were five members of council in attendance therefore all unanimous votes will be five votes (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Hewett, and Howard).

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 held on February 21, 2022

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

Public hearing for an ordinance providing for the alteration and amendment of a zoning district and map for a variance request by First Baptist Church

Mr. Melton stated the variance application for First Baptist Church seeks a variance to allow the property to be used for outdoor special events, and overflow parking, as a private playground use, and with a chain link fence five feet in height on all sides. The property is .49-acre, tax parcel F26 127 and F26 119A. The notice was published in the Monroe Reporter on February 16, 23, and March 2, 2022. At the planning and zoning meeting held on January 24, 2022, approval was recommended.

Mayor Wilson opened the floor in favor of or opposition to the proposed zoning variance request. There being no comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed zoning variance request Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the request as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Public hearing for an ordinance providing for the alteration and amendment of a zoning district and map for a conditional use zoning application by Shandrea Wilder for 24 Clearview Avenue.

Mr. Melton stated a conditional use rezoning has been requested by Shandrea Wilder at 24 Clearview Avenue. The proposed use of the property as conditionally zoned would be a senior care personal care home. The notice was advertised in the Monroe Reporter on February 16, 23, and March 2, 2022. Planning and zoning recommended approval at their January 24, 2022, meeting.

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

Public hearing for an ordinance to amend chapter 4 (Alcoholic Beverages).

Mr. Melton stated the proposed ordinance is to allow payment of the fees for distilled spirits by the drink; must be paid prior to license being issued. The proposed ordinance will be advertised in the Monroe Reporter on March 9, and March 16th to allow the required notices. A public hearing will be held on March 21 and council will vote at that time on the proposed ordinance.

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

Approval of proposed ordinance for the alteration of the corporate boundaries of the City of Forsyth through annexation; approximately 35 acres tax parcel 054 022A.

Mr. Melton stated the notice was sent by certified mail; it was received on March 11, 2022. He requested council continue the matter until after the required 30 days has passed.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to continue this matter until the March 21, 2022, meeting. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of request for transfer of retail electric service.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the transfer of electric service as presented. Seconded Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of an industrial rate for water and sewer.

Ms. Joyce White of the Downtown Development Authority requested an industrial rate be considered to remain competitive with projects looking to build in the area.

Ms. Hall recommended \$3.00 per 1000 gallons for an industrial rate. Currently we have one water rate for all customers whether residential or industrial. We are working towards providing a residential, commercial, and an industrial rate for water and sewer. In the interim the rate would be \$3.00 per 1000 gallons with a minimum of one million gallons a day of usage for industrial customers. Sewer rate would be the same rate; \$3.00 per 1000 gallons with a minimum of one million gallons a day usage for industrial customers.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to set the industrial water/sewer rate at \$3.00 per 1000 gallons with a minimum of one million gallons a day for industrial customers. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Award bid for Adams Street Storm Drainage Improvements & Update on USDA project by Carl Hofstadter

Mr. Hofstadter stated an estimate for work to be done on Adams Street was at \$250,000. One bid was received in the amount of \$500,000. Mr. Hofstadter recommended the bid be rejected and for the project to be rebid once pricing stabilizes. Mr. Hofstadter also provided an update on USDA projects.

Reconsideration of splashpad maintenance day.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to allow the city manager to close the splashpad as needed for maintenance. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval to authorize Mayor Wilson to sign terms and conditions.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to authorize Mayor Wilson to sign the terms and conditions for the recently awarded grant funds of 3.9 million. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of street closure request for N. Jackson Street.

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

Approval of Requisitions Greater than \$5,000

Gresco Utility Supplies, Inc – \$6,618.05

Anixter Inc - \$5,450.00

Geotechnical Environmental Consultants - \$8,350.00

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:

- Survey letters to residents that have not already responded were mailed last week for the CDBG waterline replacement application. Please help stress the importance of responding to those in the Sunset Terrace, Brookwood Drive, and Union Hill Drive area.
- Hofstadter & Associates has provided an estimate for the sewer line upgrade that runs from MPHS to SWWTP; plans and specs are being written and bid notice will go out as soon as that is finalized
- P&Z has 2 vacant seats that need to be filled
- Working with Mr. Melton on the list of 22 properties on the Code Enforcement list. In process of hiring appraiser and/or inspector to provide documentation required per City Code to deem properties as public nuisance or blighted property.
- Mrs. Ivie and Mr. Grinstead have begun the review of the books in preparation of the 2021 audit. We will include on 3/21 agenda approval of budget moves needed for the 2021 audit. Just as information only, we are voiding and reissuing Purchase Orders that were approved in 2021 but items not yet delivered. We do not normally have many if any of these but due to delayed shipments, we have several this year. We will not be bringing these back for approval but including in the description the previous PO# as a reference.
- Continue to have difficulty finding residential meters. Have approved purchasing meters from a different vendor that will be compatible with our meter reading software.

- Obtaining ROW clearing quotes for this year to continue that project on an annual basis.
- Annual water audit has been submitted
- All old fire hydrants on Blount Street have been removed
- Unity Sculpture Grant committee met and selected an artist and sculpture. Working to finalize the project and will release the drawing soon.
- Splashpad work is scheduled to begin March 25 – Carlos will be here then to do the work needed and to get system up and running for the season.
- GMA mass registration for Annual Conference will be March 15. Please submit your class and hotel requests to Regina or Lisa by this Friday so we can prepare for the mass registration. Lisa sent out individual registration packets and transcripts last week.
- Working with Chief Harris on a couple of departmental policy changes that may also require Personnel Manual Policy changes. Hope to have those complete and before you at the next meeting for approval.
- Letter from GDOT received regarding the CVL project timeline and was forwarded out to everyone. It is currently anticipated that procurement for a developer will begin in 2025 with developer selection anticipated in 2026 and final design/construction to follow.
- Forsythia Festival is this weekend. Street closures will begin early on Friday for stage and food vendors to come in; remaining street closures will take place by 5:00 am on Saturday morning and remain closed until streets are cleaned Sunday night. Aldermen Hall will again be the Hospitality Suite for vendors

Planning & Zoning

- Shayla Johnson has requested a variance for parking in Town Creek Center for a carry out only restaurant. This will be advertised and come before Council for a public hearing.
- George Emami has requested a variance for temporary signage size at the subdivision on Highway 41/Thornton Road. This will be advertised and come before Council for a public hearing.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton stated the annexation for Montpelier will be deferred until the required time to respond on the notice has been met. A parking variance request for the Town Creek Center will be advertised and will come before council for approval.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson reminded everyone the Forsythia Festival will be this week. He mentioned he would be at the Capital on Tuesday for Crossover Day; March 15th 10:00 a.m.

Council Board Reports

Mr. Howard requested the Convention & Visitor's Bureau be allowed to move to the second floor of Aldermen Hall.

Mr. Hewett stated the Housing Authority meets Tuesday, March 8th at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Additional Business

Mr. Stroud inquired about the city's park plan and what's necessary to begin progress on the plan. He also mentioned sidewalk repairs that are needed and a possibility of leasing and or purchasing a streetsweeper in the fall to clean up leaves.

Public Comments

No one came forward for public comments.

Executive Session

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to enter executive session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to leave executive session at 8:20 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.