

**Minutes
Forsyth City Council Meeting
April 4, 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. Goolsby gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers John Howard, Chris Hewett, Melvin Lawrence, Greg Goolsby, 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. All members of council were in attendance for the meeting therefore all unanimous votes will be six votes (Howard, Hewett, Lawrence, Goolsby, Stroud, and Dodd).

Approval of the agenda

Mr. Stroud 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 March 21, 2022

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

Presentation and approval of funding for the public art unity sculpture.

Ms. Hall stated as a joint project with the Convention & Visitors Bureau, we applied for and were awarded the Vibrant Community Art Grant. Thank you to Ms. Stanbery for writing the grant application and heading up the committee. Three submissions were received. The artist chosen for the City Hall Public Sculpture Project was Meagan Thomas. Fabricator is Michael Borders of Iron Eagle Design.

Ms. Thomas stated her inspiration for the sculpture was Friends, Fortitude, and Forsyth. The sculpture is of hands clasped in an infinite ring symbolizing the perseverance and generational unity in Forsyth. The sculpture will have a solid, secure foundation with lighting at multiple angles. A flame at the top will have openings that will allow light to be seen. Ms. Thomas reviewed the budget for materials and labor for the sculpture.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the cost of the sculpture. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Monroe County Amateur Radio Society, Inc. facility rental request.

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

Public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant – Dean Nelson.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant.

Mr. Dean Nelson stated the city intends to apply for the Community Development Block Grant to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. He gave an overview of the Department of Community Affairs as well as the Community Development Block Grant funding and its purpose. He reviewed the scope, location, cost, and project schedule. He explained the goal of the project is to replace water lines in Jackson Heights, Brookwood Drive and Union Hill Neighborhoods. Mr. Nelson further stated the city has begun surveying the neighborhoods to determine the beneficiaries of the grant. The grant requires that at least seventy percent of the beneficiaries must be low to moderate income. Additionally, the grant requires a ninety percent response rate. Of the 224 occupied homes within the proposed project area 85% have responded, of those 77% meet the low to moderate income threshold. The city will be requesting up to \$1,000,000 of CDBG funding for the project while the city would contribute up to \$325,000 in SPLOST funds as match. The maximum project timeline is two years. Mr. Nelson noted that Mr. Michael Dodd's son resides within the project area at 264 Sunset Terrace, Mr. Lawrence lives at 345 Brookwood Drive and Mr. Howard lives at 383 Brookwood Drive. Each councilman acknowledged the conflicts of interest and will abstain from all votes pertaining to the 2022 CDBG application.

There being no comments or questions from the public or council Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing.

Public hearing to consider an ordinance for a signage variance request by George Emami for CastleView Development Partners, LLC.

Mr. Melton the request will amend the zoning map and provide the variance for signage for tax parcel 054 019. One sign will be on Hwy 41, and the other on Thornton Rd. Planning and zoning recommended approval for a period of 6 months for each location. The notice was advertised in the Monroe Reporter on March 16, 23, and 30, 2022.

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

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the variance request. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval to accept withdrawal of an annexation application, and rescind the ordinance adopted at the March 21, 2022, council meeting.

Mr. Melton reviewed that council had approved an ordinance on March 21, 2022, for the annexation application of Manor at Montpelier. Within twenty-four hours after approval the applicant requested the annexation application be withdrawn; the zoning was included with the annexation. The withdrawal request was within the same month as the adoption of the ordinance; made timely per state law. Mr. Melton further stated the ordinance will need to be withdrawn along with the annexation application. At which time the property will not be annexed into the city and will not be subject to city zoning requirements. Mr. Melton reviewed that the original zoning requested was R3; planning and zoning recommended R1. The adoption of the ordinance was R1 which isn't what the application requested.

Mr. Stroud inquired about the negative impact of the current zoning as R1 and annexation of the property at this time.

Mr. Melton stated the applicant has requested the withdrawal within the allowed timeframe by law. The applicant can reapply for new zoning after one year. The landowners are likely to want to move forward with the project prior to that deadline. There's opposition from the surrounding landowners.

After further discussion regarding the zoning, and city utilities for land annexed into the city Mr. Howard offered a motion to table any action until after further discussion with the landowner/developer; to be considered on the April 18, 2022, council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Waste Management Update

Mr. Jeff Turner and Mr. Justin Callaway provided an update to the management and staff updates for improved garbage collection services. Employee morale and retention are key aspects to help better serve the city. Accountability has improved with daily leadership meetings every morning. All processes are being fine tuned to reduce missed pickups.

Approval of cost increase for environmental monitoring services related to Old Brent Road Landfill.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the cost increase for environmental monitoring services as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; them motion carried unanimously.

Approval of I-75 Central Corridor Coalition, Inc 2022 dues invoice.

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

Approval of MEAG year-end settlement; deposit to Flexible Operating Account, Intermediate Extended Maturity Portfolio.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the deposit of the year end settlement as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of MEAG telecommunications year-end settlement; deposit to Flexible Operating Account, Intermediate Extended Maturity Portfolio.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the deposit of the telecommunications year end settlement as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of a street closure request on April 9, 2022.

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

Approval of requisitions over \$5,000

Southern Line Contractors, Inc \$67,250.00

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

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

- First concert for the Main Street concert series was a huge success. Thank you to Frank Wilder for his work to have a great lineup of bands for the concerts.
- Main Street is looking at possibility of changing the location of the Farmers Market to area at Old Mill Market.
- Plaque for dedication of north plaza was ordered and to be received in March; unfortunately, manufacturer used old address for delivery and UPS still has the plaque.
- Splashpad opened on Friday and if the shares and comments on Facebook are any indication, it will be packed again this year.
- Fire department is required to do specific testing on all fire hydrants and this year is the 5-year flow testing requirement. They will start this week flow testing the hydrants in the area between I75 and the railroad and from Lee Street to inside the Industrial Park.
- Working on the recertification for City of Ethics through GMA. Will have that ready for next council meeting for your approval.

- Continue to experience long delivery times on water and electric meters.
- Submitted Technical Assistance request to the Regional Commission for them to administer the Local Fiscal Recovery Grant received from the State. This grant has the same requirements as all other state and federal grants for advertising and procurement.
- Joint Comprehensive Plan kickoff meeting is tomorrow at 5:00 pm at the county commission building.

Planning & Zoning

- American Natural Resources, LLC, Tony Brady, has submitted a rezoning request for property on Benson Ham Road for truck parking/trailer storage. Property is currently vacant and zoning HB. Request is to rezone as MI. P&Z will review at their April 25 meeting.
- P&Z tabled the request from Community Growth Enterprises until their April 25 meeting so the applicant can attend and provide additional information.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton stated the application for ABC is currently being advertised for the next meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson requested that all be weather aware tomorrow; we are at a category 3-enhanced for bad weather. Mayor Wilson also mentioned the Mercer baseball game Friday night at 6:00 p.m. He will be throwing out the first pitch. All employees and their families are invited to attend.

Council Board Reports

No reports were provided.

Additional Business

Mr. Dodd inquired about the sponsorships/advertising on the golf carts during the Forsythia Festival. Ms. Hall stated the concern was addressed in the Forsythia Festival post meeting. The Monroe County Chamber posted an apology in the Monroe Reporter after the concern was brought to Rebecca Stone's attention.

Mr. Stroud inquired about extending side walks on W. Johnston Street.

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 6:51 p.m.