

**Minutes**  
**Forsyth City Council Meeting**  
**June 6, 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. Dodd gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers John Howard, Melvin Lawrence, Greg Goolsby, Julius Stroud, and Mike Dodd. Also in attendance for the meeting was City Clerk, Regina Ivie and City Attorney, Bobby Melton. Mr. Hewett was not in attendance due to illness. Five members of council were in attendance for the meeting therefore all unanimous votes will be five votes (Howard, Lawrence, Goolsby, Stroud, and Dodd).

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Approval of the minutes from the work session and council meeting on May 16, 2022.**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the minutes for the work session and council meeting on May 16, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public hearing to consider a variance request for 139 Blount Street.**

Mr. Cody Ellis, Economic Development Director stated applicant Rosa Evans seeks a variance request for tax parcel F18 037 at 139 Blount Street. Ms. Evans operates a residential community living arrangement; she has a home for people with developmental disabilities. The home has a capacity for 16 people. Planning and Zoning recommended approval with the condition of no more than 6 residents at any one time. A sprinkler system would be needed if more residents than 6 people were living in the home.

Mr. Melton stated the request is for a variance to allow the property to be used as community living arrangement in an R-3 zoning district. Tax parcel F18 037 at 139 Blount Street. The notice for the public hearing was advertised in the Monroe Reporter on May 18, May 25, and June 1, 2022.

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

After some discussion Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the request to allow no more than 6 residents at any time. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public hearing to consider an ordinance to amend Chapter 15 (Offenses – Miscellaneous).**

Mr. Melton stated this ordinance would amend a portion of the disorderly conduct code. Article 1 Section 15.8 Disorderly conduct; it will add a subparagraph 15 to provide the following as an instance of “disorderly conduct” “Any acts by which a person obtains food services from a food service business (restaurant) and with intent to avoid payment leaves the food service business without paying for the food service order”. This would constitute disorderly conduct under the city code, prosecutable in city court. The public hearing notice was published in the Monroe Reporter on May 25, and June 1, 2022.

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.

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

**Approval of Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Agreement and resolution related to.**

Mr. David Lane stated the project “Country Club Park” redevelopment will be an expansion of the existing park into city owned property. The grant is a one-to-one match and will provide \$500k, the city will provide \$500k, the project estimates a cost of \$1,290,577.50 which will require an additional \$290,577.50 from city funds. The amenities to be provided are an outdoor amphitheater, covered basketball court, entrance road to the park, and pavilion to the splashpad as well as multiple other small amenities. The agreement between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the city is to engage in financial assistance for this project with the state of Georgia.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the agreement and resolution as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of a request for transfer of retail electric services.**

Mr. Mike Batchelor, Electric Superintendent stated a previous agreement with Central Georgia EMC was approved at the March 16, 2022, council meeting transferring services for certain lots within Juliette Commons subdivision. Since that time meetings with Electric Cities and Central Georgia EMC it has been determined that most of the lots were in CGEMC’s territory. The approval for the original agreement will need to be rescinded and new agreements transferring lots 54, 55, and 56 to the City of Forsyth, and the City will transfer lots 5, 6, 7, and 8 to Central Georgia EMC.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to rescind approval of the original agreement with Central GA EMC done at the council meeting held on March 16, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the two agreements transferring lots between the city and Central Georgia EMC. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Pickleball Committee presentation – Martin Presley**

Mr. Martin Presley recognized the pickleball taskforce members. He provided an overview and history of pickleball, as well as information various pickleball courts across the country. Mr. Presley recommended improvements with a cost estimate for eight, twelve, or sixteen pickleball courts at County Club Park.

After some discussion Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to add a minimum of eight pickleball courts to Country Club Park. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion regarding four acres of city owned land next to KOA.**

Mayor Wilson explained he was approached by the owners of the KOA, Debra Bowman and her brother, regarding the four acres next to the KOA. They recently acquired the land from Mercer University, 32 acres that the KOA is on. There are 4.2 acres of city owned land next to the KOA they are interested in purchasing to put more sites on that land, 45 to 60 sites. Ms. Bowman requested consideration of the city to surplus that land so that they might have an opportunity to bid on it.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to allow the city attorney to research the process to surplus the land, and to bring back to council; and that any mitigation needed for the property that the city is held harmless. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Requisitions Greater than \$6,000  
Watts Wrecker Service \$8,800**

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

**City Attorney Report**

Mr. Melton stated that a conditional use application for N. Lee Street for a storage facility and a variance request for Popeye's for a 60-foot pylon sign on the property will be on the agenda at the July 18, 2022, council meeting.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Wilson stated he's been attending recent MEAG CEO roundtable meetings. We will be asked to decide on Vogtle 3 & 4 activity. Ms. Holly Bisick will provide the City's specific information as the project relates to the city. A vote will be needed late summer.

**Council Board Reports**

Mr. Howard requested that Gilda Stanbery review a presentation regarding the use of the additional space coming available at the city hall annex once Artisan Guild moves.

Mr. Lawrence stated Chief Herndon did an excellent job at the recent Eggs & Issues meeting. The next Regional Commission meeting will be June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Stroud stated he has recently communicated with Ms. Fitzgerald with Big Brother/Big Sister; they hope to meet with Dr. Hickman soon.

**Additional Business**

No additional business was brought forward.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Ronald Bearden at 441 Sunset Circle stated he's happy about all the new businesses in the area. He appreciates the efforts being made about blighted properties in the area. He mentioned two properties on his street that the grass is in desperate need of cutting. Mr. Bearden further stated that Mr. Ingram's property has not been completed; the permits are out of date. The property has been there for four years without progress, it's a blighted property.

**Executive Session**

No executive session was held.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.