

**Minutes
Forsyth City Council Meeting
June 7, 2021**

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

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes from the May 17, 2021 Council Meeting

Mr. Dodd requested the minutes be updated to add the words "bumps or humps" to the motion made during public comment at the May 17, 2021 Council Meeting.

"Mr. Dodd offered a motion to install speed bumps or humps on E. Main Street. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously."

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

Approval of air piping and filter replacements projects.

Mayor Wilson reviewed the work session discussion with the city engineer, Mr. Carl Hofstadter; during the work session Mr. Carl Hofstadter had requested two projects be approved as an emergency, he stated that the two projects are included in the overall water and sewer upgrades that USDA is funding through grants, and loans, and is reimbursable from the USDA loan. These projects would not add to the total cost of the project but are inclusive in that total.

Mr. Melton stated these two projects could possibly fail tomorrow, or not fail for eighteen months; they are so critical it would diminish the water capacity and the sewage treatment with failure of either one of them.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the emergency projects, to proceed with the repairs, funding for the projects would be borrowed from the competitive trust account to be paid back to the City with interest once the USDA funding becomes available. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried with four votes (Stroud, Dodd, Hewett, and Howard). Mr. Goolsby who was not in attendance for the work session abstained from voting.

Approval to accept Juliet Kristi Thaxton's resignation of Chief Municipal Court Judge

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to accept the resignation of Juliet Kristi Thaxton. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Alyssa Peters as Chief Municipal Court Judge

Ms. Hall recommended Alyssa Peters be appointed as Chief Municipal Court Judge for the remainder of 2021.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to appoint Alyssa Peters as Chief Municipal Court Judge for the remainder of 2021. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Ashley Deadwyler-Heuman as Municipal Court Judge

Ms. Hall recommended Ashley Deadwyler-Heuman be appointed as Municipal Court Judge for the remainder of 2021.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to appoint Ashley Deadwyler-Heuman as Municipal Court Judge. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of assurance of compliance requirements and non-entitlement unit award terms and conditions documents relating to Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Ms. Hall stated the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds will be received from the State of Georgia; guidelines are still being determined as to what the funds can be used for; most recently stormwater projects has been added. These documents require approval for submission so that the City will receive the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds distributed by the State of Georgia.

Mr. Howard offered a motion to approve the documents as presented and to accept the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to be distributed by the State of Georgia. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of traffic calming policy procedures

Ms. Hall reviewed the procedures, the flow chart, and the steps necessary to address various traffic issues.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the traffic calming policy procedures. Seconded by Mr. Stroud.

Mr. Dodd expressed his concerns about the process being lengthy for residents of the city. Ms. Hall provided additional information and clarification regarding the process, and after further discussion Mayor Wilson called for a vote on the motion; the motion carried with four votes (Goolsby, Hewett, Howard, and Stroud). Mr. Dodd abstained.

Approval to remove restrictions for reserving City facilities.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to remove restrictions and to allow reservations for all City facilities. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of street closure request by John Walton on June 26, 27, 2021

Ms. Hall reviewed the street closure request of John Walton for June 26 and June 27, 2021. She stated the Mr. Walton requested use of the stage and recommended that to not be used due to its condition. He would need to contact Monroe County to fulfill his request for bleachers; those are not City owned bleachers. Ms. Hall further stated the street can be closed and electricity can be provided.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the request per Ms. Hall's recommendation; street closed, electricity provided, use of stage denied, and to contact the County regarding the bleachers. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of dress code policy for administrative employees.

Ms. Hall recommended the dress code policy be adopted for all administrative employees; to include employees who are in administration roles within various departments and to exclude employees who are provided a uniform.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the dress code policy for all administrative employees. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Georgia Department of Corrections Work Detail Agreement.

Ms. Hall reviewed the agreement for one work detail at a cost of \$49,318 which includes the cost of the guard with the detail.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the Georgia Department of Corrections work detail agreement. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Forsyth Convention & Visitors Bureau Appointment Recommendation

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Tushar Patel to the Forsyth Convention & Visitors Bureau Board. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried with four votes (Goolsby, Dodd, Stroud, and Hewett). Mr. Howard abstained.

Approval of a Steve Coleman & Associates invoice

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the payment of the Steve Coleman & Associates invoice. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of a budget adjustment for the Cemetery Department for \$11,186.00 for the additional expenses related to 173 cemetery lots in Monroe Hills Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the budget adjustment in the amount of \$11,186.00 for the Cemetery Department. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval to start the memorandum of agreement process to the Towaliga Soil & Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservations Service.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the start of the memorandum of agreement process to the Towaliga Soil & Water Conservation and Natural Resources Conservations Service. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval to award bid for the Fire Station concrete pad.

Ms. Hall recommended the bid be awarded to J&J remodeling in the amount of \$67,305.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to award the bid to J&J remodeling for \$67,305.00. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of joint called meeting with Monroe County, and City of Culloden on June 18, 2021 to discuss TSPLOST.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the called meeting with Monroe County and City of Culloden on June 18, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval to reschedule the July 12, 2021 Council Meeting.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to reschedule the Council Meeting to Monday, July 19, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Requisitions Greater than \$5,000

Head Heating and Air \$5,600.00

J&M Displays \$10,000

Gresco Utility Supplies, Inc \$11,425.00

W A Kendall and Company, LLC \$37,994.40

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 presented the following report:

- Reminder of the T-SPLOST joint meeting with Monroe County and Culloden to approve the intergovernmental agreement for the T-SPLOST referendum. Meeting is June 18 with breakfast at 7:30 and meeting at 8:00 am. A quorum is required to approve the intergovernmental agreement.
- Economic Development Bus Tour will be August 18-19. Approximately 25-30 visitors from across the State will be here as part of the tour. Tammie is working with Electric Cities of Georgia to get all details finalized.
- As previously reported, we are in dire need of new trucks for the public works department. Steve Butler has obtained pricing and looks like these will be approximately \$30,000 each as we need crew cab trucks for the crews. To replace just 4 trucks would be approximately \$120,000 which is not budgeted. Need authorization to move forward with securing the purchases.
Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the purchase of four trucks. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.
- Roberts Hauling has run into another issue on the Blount Street CDBG project - gas service lines that were not marked and do not have tracing tape in them. Gas Company is requiring they stop work until they can find and mark all lines.
- Purchase of old city hall building by Brian and Christie Lambert from Downtown Development Authority was finalized last week. The Downtown Development Authority will pay off remaining balance of loan from the City to do the remodel of the building and that money will be transferred back to MCT.
- Golf Tournament is this Friday with registration at 8:00 am
- Georgia Municipal Association registration is tomorrow morning at 9:00 am. We will have all employees that we can pull together making the registrations in hopes of getting everyone in the class and hotel that they want.
- MEAG Annual meeting is July 11-14. Registrations have been submitted for everyone. I will not be attending this meeting.
- Yvonne Stroud was previously approved to hold a summer camp this week in the Kynette Community building but when she went in over the weekend to setup, she called to let me know it was infested with spiders. Mrs. Stroud is using Aldermen Hall for her camp at least today and tomorrow and depending on what the exterminator says, may need to use Aldermen Hall all week. This is not something that we normally do but since Council had approved the use of a city building for the camp, Aldermen Hall was the only alternative.
- Michael Garrison, Pellicano, will attend the next council meeting to review status of building and to review the latest Change Order which includes a substantial completion date extension. We can schedule another walk through before the next council meeting. Please let me know if June 17 at 6 works for everyone.
- Parts have arrived for the Splashpad, Chief is working with Carlos to schedule 2 days for him to come and install the new equipment.
- Planning & Zoning recommended denial of request from Angel Latch for a variance to bring in a mobile home on Railroad Avenue. This matter is being advertised and will come before City Council for a public hearing.
- Still need possible dates for Strategic Planning Retreat with Planning & Zoning. City/County Retreat has been scheduled for June 25th at the County Conference Center with breakfast at 7:30 am and retreat beginning at 8:00 a.m. and running until 3:00 p.m. The Chamber is requesting an RSVP for those attending. Mary Beth Brownlee with ACCG will be facilitating.

- Received an email this afternoon that Department of Community Affairs is administering the US Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance program to help renters with their past due rent and utilities. We will be providing the necessary information to Department of Community Affairs for anyone that applies for and is approved for assistance with their utility payments.
- Nancy Patten is working on the Safety Grant. The City is eligible for \$6,900 in grant funds. We will be applying for hi-visibility t-shirts and jackets for certain departments, water field barriers for the fire department, circulation fans for inventory. An application plan will be submitted; approval is needed to submit the safety grant along with the action plan.
Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the submission of the safety grant. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton stated two variance requests and an ordinance will be advertised for the July 19, 2021. Planning & Zoning has recommended amended the zoning code; an ordinance to define fences and walls and how it affects adjoining landowners.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson stated a vacancy on the Housing Authority was available, Kathy Rowland's seat at the end of May. Mrs. Yvonne Stroud has expressed interest in the position. Mayor Wilson formally appointed Yvonne Stroud to the vacant position on the Housing Authority. Mayor Wilson announced that he was elected as Chairman on the Middle Georgia Community Action Agency Board. Previously he served as interim Chairman several years back. He's honored to be the Chairman of the Board; it serves the Senior Centers, disburses funds for lighting and heating assistance for those in need, winterization projects, head start programs.

Council Board Reports

Mr. Howard reported the CVB was approved for a grant of \$36,000; and appreciative for the appointment approved during tonight's meeting.

Mr. Hewett expressed appreciation to Mayor Wilson for appointing Mrs. Stroud to the Housing Authority Board. The Housing Authority is currently working on blighted houses in the City.

Mr. Dodd stated a Golf Tournament is this Friday, June 11th. Mr. Dodd inquired about the easement that Mr. Coleman is working on. Ms. Hall provided an update.

Additional Business

No additional business was brought forward.

Public Comments

No one came forward for public comments.

Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn into executive session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn the executive session at 7:58 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.