

**Minutes
Forsyth City Council Meeting
August 16, 2021**

Call to Order

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:15 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 Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, Chris Hewett, and John Howard. Also in attendance for the meeting was City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Manager, Janice Hall and City Clerk, Regina Ivie. There were four members of council in attendance for the meeting therefore all unanimous votes will be four (Goolsby, Stroud, Hewett, and Howard).

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 August 2, 2021, Council Meeting

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

Convention & Visitors Bureau quarterly review by Gilda Stanbery

Ms. Stanbery expressed her appreciation for the appointments of Alondra Ochoa and Tushar Patel to the CVB Authority. Ms. Stanbery provided a thirty second commercial that highlights the city; and stated that a ninety second commercial is in production currently and expands on a look at the local attractions in the area. Ms. Stanbery further stated that revenues were down last year 33 ½ percent. June 2020 revenues are the highest compared to the past five years.

Consider conditional use request of Kristen Morgan-tabled at the August 2, 2021, Meeting.

Ms. Hall stated on August 3, 2021, was unsuccessful in contacting Ms. Morgan. The realtor informed Ms. Hall that the deal for the property had fell through.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to allow discussion and bring the matter back to the table for consideration. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried unanimously. After further discussion Mr. Hewett offered a motion to deny the request for a conditional use request of Kristen Morgan. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of temporary permit for the sale of alcoholic beverages by The Lookshop Aesthetic Studio on September 16, 2021.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the temporary permit for the sale of alcoholic beverages by The Lookshop Aesthetic on September 16, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of street closure request of Jess Stephens on October 3, 2021.

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

Approval of street closure request of Sarah Williams on September 30, 2021

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

Set tentative millage rate

Ms. Hall reviewed financials regarding the property tax revenue projections at the current rate of 3 mills, and the revenue projections with a reduced or increased millage rate.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to set a tentative millage rate of 3 mills with a public hearing date set for September 7, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Walter Goodson – Complaint

Mr. Goodson left prior to the meeting; requested to be on the next agenda, September 7, 2021.

Approval of Requisitions Greater than \$5,000

Fisher Scientific \$16,810.10

Solomon Corporation \$7,460.00

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

City Manager’s Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

- West Main waterline project is complete with exception of removing tree stumps for trees removed during project
- Blount Street waterline project is waiting on Davis Plumbing to do tie-in for the existing 2” line and an insertion valve. Once that is complete, Roberts Hauling will be able to complete the project.
- GDOT has completed the resurfacing of West Main Street. I am working with them on having the area on Cabiness Avenue grassed as this area was just cleaned up after Helix completed their work.
- Working with Hofstadter & Associates to submit application for the State funding that is open now, with applications due by August 31. This is competitive funds and not given out to all that apply. We will be requesting matching funds for the ARPA funding for our USDA projects.
- Splashpad will close for the season on September 6, Labor Day
- Departments on standby for any storms that we have this week; also moved the sandbags at this building to hopefully prevent any flooding from coming in – will move those back out and open sidewalk after storms have passed
- Commercial Projects:
 - o Town Creek Center – two units should be opened soon with 1 new business and 1 existing business relocating to that location. Not sure of exact date for Shanes Rib to open
 - o Starbucks – progress is being made on the building; sign variances will be coming before P&Z next week and Council next month
 - o State Farm on Railroad Avenue – construction continues
 - o AJ Patel Tift College – approvals received for the new construction; final plans are being prepared and then construction will begin
 - o Couple of other projects have contacted us to discuss possibly locating here, but have not presented plans or been approved to come forward yet
- City Hall- Most of last week was spent in the building with the furniture company installing furniture in offices and conference rooms (3 long 12-hour days); computers and phones being setup this week; still some areas that are not complete and will know more after our construction meeting this week as to their expected completion of those areas. Resurfacing of streets surrounding City Hall has been completed.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton had no further business to report.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Wilson provided updates from the Georgia Department of Public Health regarding COVID cases in the area; all 13 counties are at a very high rate of spread now. Mayor Wilson requested everyone to please consider getting vaccinated. Mayor Wilson also mentioned the Georgia Municipal Conference; lots of good classes offered and attended. He’s honored to be sworn in as a member of the Board of Directors for the Georgia Municipal Association. An open house will be on September 25th at 2:00 p.m.; and an invite has been extended to Governor Kemp during his conversation with him at the conference. Mayor Wilson and Melvin Lawrence extended an invite to the open house at the Regional

Commission meeting to Ms. Davis, Senator Warnock's representative for this area. We are hopeful all who have been invited will attend.

Additional Business

Mr. Stroud stated he enjoyed the Georgia Municipal Association's conference; great classes were offered.
Mr. Hewett stated he also the Georgia Municipal Association's conference.

Public Comments

No one came forward for public comments.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjourn

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.