

Minutes
Forsyth City Council Meeting
January 4, 2021

Call to Order by City Clerk

In accordance with Section 2.18 of the City Charter, City Clerk, Regina Ivie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.; at that time, the meeting was turned over to Mayor Wilson to preside.

Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation and Roll Call

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Howard gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting in person was Mayor Eric Wilson; Councilmembers Greg Goolsby, Chris Hewett, and Mike Dodd. In attendance via zoom were Councilmembers John Howard, Julius Stroud and Melvin Lawrence. Also, in attendance for the meeting in person was City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Manager, Janice Hall and City Clerk, Regina Ivie.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes from the December 7, 2020 Council Meeting

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

Appointment of Mayor Pro-tem

Mr. Hewett offered a motion appoint Councilmember Melvin Lawrence as Mayor Pro-tem. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Parliamentary Procedures

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adopt the 12th and current edition of Robert's Rules of Order for the parliamentary procedures. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Board Appointments for expired and vacant positions

Ms. Hall reviewed the expired positions; and stated that currently there are no vacant positions. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to reappoint currently serving expired board appointments. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of 2021 professionals

Ms. Hall reviewed the current list of professionals and recommended that Mrs. Ivie, City Clerk remain the Custodian of Records; further stated that Mauldin & Jenkins has a contract to perform the annual audit for 2019 through 2021.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to appoint the 2021 professionals as presented by Ms. Hall. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Set qualifying fees

Ms. Hall stated the qualifying fees for the Mayor and Council's position is required to be three percent of the annual salary; qualifying fee of \$375.00 for Mayor's position and a qualifying fee of \$301.35 for a Council position.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to set the qualifying fees at \$375.00 for the Mayor's position, and \$301.35 for a Council position. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of license application for the sale of alcoholic beverages - Comfort Inn @ 333 Harold G. Clarke Parkway

Mr. Melton reviewed the application; stating the license is for the sale of alcoholic beverage (beer-malt beverage-package; and wine-package) at 333 Harold G. Clarke Parkway. The notice was published in the Monroe Reporter on December 23, 2020 and December 30, 2020.

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

Forsyth - Monroe County Chamber of Commerce - Review & Discussion with Rebecca Stone and Chrissy Donovan and Approval of street closure request for Forsyth Festival on March 13 & 14, 2021

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the street closure request for the Forsythia Festival on March 13, & 14, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Water line discussion - Otis Ingram - tabled from 12-7-2020 Council Meeting

Ms. Hall reviewed pertinent information regarding the water lines currently in the area; further clarified what would be necessary if lines were moved; easements necessary, sidewalk construction and the additional expenses the City would incur going forward if Council were to change the policy by paying for the installation of the water line Mr. Ingram currently needs; currently the City does not cover the cost to install water lines for businesses.

After some discussion Mr. Howard offered a motion to approve to pay for the installation of the water line per Mr. Ingram's request. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby.

Mr. Ingram explained to Council his reason for his request; once he incurs the cost of installation of the water line in the future there would be an occupant on the second floor of the building. The City would at that time allow a tap to the closest six-inch water line which would be the line he paid to have installed. In his opinion it's not fair to incur that cost and receive no reimbursement once the City owns the water line.

Ms. Hall stated with all infrastructure work performed within the City referring to electric needs specifically that if a distribution line is needed for a developer the material cost is passed on to the developer; if a contractor is needed to complete the work if City staff is unable to that cost is passed onto the developer also. Ms. Hall further stated that other Cities in the area charge impact fees whereas the City of Forsyth does not charge those fees.

Mr. Ingram further stated that in retrospect he should've included in the cost of the City Hall construction site the cost of the water line that's currently needed. He inquired as to what the City could do to assist with expenses relating to the installation of the water line; tap fees, sidewalk repairs.

Ms. Hall stated Council adopted a business incentive program to waive water and sewer tap fees several years back; and recommended the repairs to the sidewalk be completed by the City and City to waive the tap fees.

After further discussion Mr. Goolsby offered an amendment to Mr. Howard's original motion; to waive tap fees, City will repair the sidewalks, and the City will not incur the cost of installation of the six-inch water line. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried with five votes (Goolsby, Howard, Lawrence, Stroud, and Dodd) and one abstention by Mr. Hewett.

Mayor Wilson called for a vote on the original motion by Mr. Howard; to approve to pay for the installation of the water line per Mr. Ingram's request. The motion failed with five votes (Goolsby, Howard, Stroud, Dodd, and Hewett) and one abstention by Mr. Lawrence.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to facilitate moving the water lines off Mr. Newton's property. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Property & Liability Coverage Renewal with Travelers & Hiscox

Ms. Hall reviewed the premium for 2021 is \$132,048 and will expire on December 31, 2021; a \$15,000 increase is due to several automobile claims recently.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the property and liability coverage renewal for 2021 with Travelers & Hiscox. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of agreement with AT&T

Ms. Hall stated the agreement is for a dedicated fiber circuit line for the new City Hall building and the network operating center.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the agreement with AT&T. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of electric service agreement with QuikTrip Corporation

Ms. Hall stated QuikTrip has chosen to receive their electrical needs from the City of Forsyth. Electric Cities of Georgia and Mike Leverett assisted with the contract details.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the electric service agreement with QuikTrip Corporation. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Reschedule Council Meeting for January 18, 2021 – City Observed Holiday

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to schedule the meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hall mentioned that other City observed holidays would occur on currently scheduled Council Meeting dates; Independence Day, (July 5 meeting date) and Labor Day Holiday (September 6 meeting date).

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to conduct one meeting in July on Monday, July 12, 2021 and to change the meeting date from September 6 to Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Requisitions Greater than \$5,000

Williams Communications, Inc - 17,787.83 - 2020 SPLOST

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

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

- Reimbursement on Jamison workers comp case received - \$200,621.52 for replacement of 2015 checks and \$374,095.89 for reimbursement of medical settlement. Those amounts have been deposited but will show up as Fund Balance as these were not budgeted receipts and were against payments that we had made in prior years. We can use those in 2021 if approved, will just show those as coming from Fund Balance rather than GF. The Jamison case is now closed.
- Application form created and reviewed by Health Department for Food Service Permit for Non-Profit events. Will begin that process immediately - applications will be received at City Hall and forwarded to Health Department for non-profit to pay their fee for inspections.
- Hofstadter & Associates has reviewed the Traffic Calming Policy and signed off on it. Speed detection signs are in place. Gathering data to have sufficient timeframe to look back on.
- Met with Hofstadter & Associates and they are putting together a plan for storm drain on Adams/Jackson to correct the flooding issue and for the stairs on Johnston Street at TPO
- RFQ is out for CDBG; hoping to get water lines installed to replace the old ones in Jackson Heights that we have had numerous breaks on
- Attending virtual training classes Human Resource Administration Certification program through GMA. 5-day classes held each Wednesday through 1/13
- Received email stating I reached next level of certification in the GMA program. If you have reached the next requirement of classes, you should receive an email from GMA.
- Revised schedule received from Pellicano for City Hall completion and they have requested a week extension due to inclement weather days; new completion date is April 5, 2021
- We have a couple of employees that have tested positive for COVID or are in quarantine due to direct contact with someone that has tested positive. Discuss weekly in our meetings to remain vigilant about social distancing and wearing masks.
- We will hold a public meeting on January 12 at 4:00 pm in Aldermen Hall to provide citizens of Forsyth an opportunity to become acquainted with our water and wastewater improvement projects and to comment on different items, such as economic and environmental impacts, service area, alternatives to the project and any other issue identified by USDA.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton expressed his appreciation to continue to represent the City of Forsyth.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson stated he anticipates continued progress on the new City Hall building. Mayor Wilson also stressed the importance of precautions necessary for the current pandemic situation; we all need to continue to social distance, wear masks and wash hands frequently. The community and the Nation are in a crisis right now; we previously talked about surges in the winter months; it's placed a burden on our hospitals and medical facilities. For his recent monthly radio program Mayor Wilson interviewed Dr. Goodwin; during that interview it was mentioned that hospitals are overwhelmed currently. Staff isn't available as they were prior to the pandemic; we should continue to do the right thing with precautions, get the vaccine when available. Currently the vaccine is being administered based on classifications; currently 1A is being done, healthcare workers, and nursing home patients; group 1B will be included soon. Information regarding COVID, the vaccine and classifications can be found at www.dph.ga.gov.

Council Board Reports

Mr. Hewett stated a Housing Authority meeting will be held Thursday, January 7, 2021.

Additional Business

Mr. Lawrence expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2021.

Mr. Stroud would like for the housing availability in the City be reviewed and research done for a more reliable internet provider within the City.

Mr. Goolsby requested Council schedule a retreat for Mayor & Council to collectively discuss areas of improvement needed for the City. After further discussion, a retreat was scheduled for Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at Aldermen Hall.

Public Comments

No one came forward for public comments.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn the Council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.