

**Minutes**  
**Forsyth City Council Meeting**  
**October 17, 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 Chris Hewett, Melvin Lawrence, Greg Goolsby, Julius Stroud, and Mike Dodd. Also in attendance was City Manager, Janice Hall; City Attorney, Bobby Melton; and City Clerk, Regina Ivie. There were five members of council in attendance therefore all unanimous votes will be five votes (Hewett, Lawrence, Goolsby, Stroud, and Dodd).

**Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Goolsby 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 held on October 3, 2022**

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

**Ceremonial swearing in and pinning ceremony of Fire Chief Kevin Bunn.**

Mayor Wilson stated Chief Bunn began his fire career in 1995. He's held multiple positions over his years of service, most recently as Deputy Fire Chief for Forsyth. Chief Bunn retired from Dekalb County as captain over station 23. Mayor Wilson performed a ceremonial swearing in of Chief Bunn. Chief Bunn's daughters, Kendall and Kennedy pinned their dad as the city's new Fire Chief.

**Approval of an agreement with Kenny L. Smith for consulting services.**

Ms. Hall reviewed an eight-week agreement for consulting services with Kenny L. Smith; monthly rate of \$8,000.00 to begin on October 18, 2022.

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

**Presentation by Mike Beatty**

Mr. Mike Beatty presented an initiative for the Beatty team to reach community youth. His team is looking for city leaders to bring hope and opportunity to young people; our goal is to help create an ongoing process that will reach hundreds of youths that will engage 100+ each year. The youth would earn a paycheck and would also have coaches and mentors guide them to proper career paths.

**Audit presentation by Miller Edwards with Mauldin & Jenkins for 2021**

Mr. Miller Edwards stated the audit reports are clean; no findings exist within the audit. Management did a very good job of closing out the year. The city's internal controls, compliance with laws and regulations that are pertinent to the audit are in excellent shape. At 12/31/21 the entity including CVB & DDA has assets at \$47 million with liabilities at \$15 million; a great equity position at \$32.5 million. The general fund has assets at \$3.3 million with \$2.7 million in cash; liabilities at \$214k for a fund balance at \$3.1 million. The combined utilities fund has assets of \$28 million with liabilities at \$2.7 million for a net position of \$25 million. The city performed overall better than budget.

**Approval of a street closure request for the Hometown Holidays Parade on December 1, 2022**

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

**Approval of a final plat approval for Manor at Montpelier Phase 3.**

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to change the agenda item to approval of a preliminary plat for Manor at Montpelier Phase 3. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cody Ellis, Economic Development Director stated the preliminary plat has been to Planning and Zoning; a variance request for lot size has been approved. The preliminary plat depicts R-1 zoning for 43 lots.

Mr. Steven Rowland with Rowland Engineering stated the additional lots came from lots that were over the minimum width when the plat was revised to ensure compliance of the lot size. The current plat depicts R1, the only variance was for lot size. It does meet the minimum width requirement of 100 ft, and the setbacks are per the R1 zoning requirements.

After some discussion regarding the sewer lines in the area Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the preliminary plat as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc for tasers.**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

### **City Manager's Report**

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

- Need to create the Bicentennial Committee
- Working with Hospital Authority to correct some issues that they have at their helicopter pad
- Chief Bunn is working with MCSO on issues that we continue to experience with 911 dispatchers. He worked with MGRC to get CADD maps so dispatchers would have mapping. 911 experienced an issue with their phone lines this weekend but the lines should be back up and running now.
- Fire department light towers are being used by county at the Rec Dept and for events more and more
- Fence at Bramblett Lift Station has been repaired and old portions of the fencing have been pressure washed so the fence looks new and is now completely secure on all 4 sides
- Continue with work on Filter 5 & 6; we thought these were finished couple weeks ago but one of the parts did not come in and will not be delivered until next week. Automatic flow regulator is not operational yet either
- 200 of the 1" meters that we ordered have been received
- Have issues with Juliette Commons with installation of small meter boxes and Manor Montpelier Phase 2 with deficiency list. Department Heads are working with the developers on these issues to get them resolved
- Working with George Emami to repair/replace the storm drain on S Jackson Street – working this as a joint project with his contractor
- Developing follow-up process for issues that are reported. We have always handled issues as they are reported, but we are lacking in our follow-up process when the problem turns out to be on the customer.
- Groundbreaking for DDS facility will be tomorrow at 4:30 in the Industrial Park
- Pulled 4 crown vics from the police department fleet and reassigned them to other departments. Working to get them repainted from the black & white.
- System inventory for our utility poles should begin soon. This was included in our subscription with ECG this year. They will locate, tag, and identify each pole so this information can be added to our overall infrastructure maps that MGRC has. Once all complete, we will have access to those maps that will show all lines/infrastructure.
- As we have tried to do in the past, we will look at resurfacing Blount Street now that the waterlines have been replaced and as much of the side streets off Blount as we can for the 2023 LMIG.
- Resurfacing/widening of Montpelier Road. Hofstadter recommends either resurfacing only at approximately \$250,000 or best option to widen with curb & gutter, storm drain with inlets at approximately \$1.9 million

#### **Planning & Zoning**

- Variance request from James Freeman to allow a 10' setback in rear and west boundary for a carport behind Freeman Funeral Home on Brentwood Place

### **City Attorney Report**

Mr. Melton stated the variance request for James Freeman is currently being advertised for the November 7, 2022 council meeting.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Wilson reminded all the Planning Retreat is Friday, October 28, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mayor Wilson provided a MEAG update; fuel was loaded into Vogtle Unit 3, a significant milestone. It's expected to be online the first quarter of 2023, and unit 4 at the end of 2023. It's very significant for the city, all the MEAG cities, and the power grid in Georgia for all those who will receive good non carbon emitting electricity. Mayor Wilson also mentioned the GMA District 6 meeting was well attended; learned a lot.

### **Additional Business**

Mr. Stroud stated he and Commissioner Davis are holding a town hall meeting at Union Hill Baptist Church Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Communications Committee met recently; it's been discussed with Richard Dumas about possibly preparing a One Monroe newsletter highlighting community updates, and businesses in the community.

Mr. Stroud reviewed the recent local option sales tax negotiations with Monroe County. The city will be able to appoint a member on the Development Authority of Monroe County and the Monroe County Hospital Board. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to appoint Greg Goolsby on the Development Authority Board at the earliest opportunity once documents with Monroe County are finalized. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried with four votes (Hewett, Stroud, Dodd, and Lawrence). Mr. Goolsby abstained.

Mr. Stroud expressed appreciation to Michael Banks with the Public Works department for keeping the city cleaned up on the weekends and after events.

Mr. Lawrence stated he attended the Middle Georgia Regional Commission meeting last week; very informative. He expressed his appreciation to Ms. Hall who will be the speaker at the next Kiwanis Club meeting. It will be held November 15<sup>th</sup> at the United Methodist Church at noon.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Walter Goodson stated that at a prior council meeting he mentioned the issues with the road on Hunter Street. He states there was a hole in the road, barricades were placed and those have now fallen in the hole. He inquired about soil samples and the future of Hunter Street; will it be a one-way road; will it be closed off? Mr. Goodson requested to be the next two council meeting agendas.

Ms. Joy Moten-Thomas introduced herself; she's the new Assistant Vice President of Atrium Health Navicent. Atrium Health Navicent is hosting a community leaders' reception on November 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Tubman Museum.

**Executive Session**

No executive session was held.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss the council meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.