

**Minutes**  
**Forsyth City Council Meeting**  
**November 18, 2019**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation and Roll Call**

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Stroud gave the invocation. Present for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, John Howard, Chris Hewett, and Melvin Lawrence. Greg Goolsby arrived at 6:06 p.m. Also present was City Manager, Janice Hall; City Attorney, Bobby Melton and City Clerk, Regina Ivie.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Ms. Hall stated the agenda needed to be amended to include two requisitions over \$5000.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the agenda as amended with the two requisitions added. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the Minutes from the November 4, 2019 Council Meeting**

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

**Approval of street closure & land acquisition – George Emami**

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to table this agenda item till more information can be reviewed. Seconded by Mr. Hewett.

Mr. Stroud withdrew his motion.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve and begin the process of deeding Cedar Street to Mr. Emami. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of street closure for Antique Car Show on November 30, 2019**

Ms. Hall reviewed the requested street closure naming the affected streets.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the street closure request as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd.

Mr. Goolsby withdrew his motion.

After discussion with Mayor & Council Mr. Howard offered a motion to approve the street closure request of Jackson Street from Adams Street to King Street. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

**CVB review of 2020 Budget**

Ms. Helen Walker stated the 2020 budget for the Convention & Visitors Bureau was approved September 24, 2019. Ms. Walker reviewed the revenues, and expenditures necessary to operate the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Ms. Swearingen reviewed upcoming projects and goals for the Convention & Visitors Bureau for 2020.

**Approval of Accounts Payables Invoices \$464,661.92**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the accounts payables invoices as stated. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of requisitions over \$5,000**

- **Allan Vigil Ford: \$33,459.00 Vehicle purchase of a 2020 SUV for Police Department**
- **Brannen Motor Company: \$14,500.00 Vehicle purchase of a 2011 Crown Victoria for Police Department**

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

**City Manager's Report**

Ms. Hall reviewed the current process for paying invoices due to vendors and further recommended a revised process that allowed invoices to be paid weekly; in a more timely manner. Updating the process would eliminate the possibility of paying invoices late and incurring late fees for instances when there are five weeks in the month, or if the bill wasn't received soon enough prior to a council meeting to be approved. Ms. Hall further stated that reports would be provided to Mayor and Council to substantiate payments to vendors.

*Mr. Dodd offered a motion to update the accounts payable process per Ms. Hall's recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried unanimously.*

- Demolition of old building on lot for new city hall has begun; asbestos abatement completed last week and building is pretty much on the ground today; haul off of debris will take several weeks
- Request for Qualifications is being accepted for general contractors for new city hall; Clark Nexsen decided to move in this direction to prequalify companies before receiving bids for the construction of the new building; bids are due December 16 at 3:00 pm
- IT Assessment complete – part of pilot program through Georgia Municipal Association; this assessment provides important items that are recommended to be handled immediately
- Schneider Analysis update – met with representatives from Schneider last week; reviewed their analysis so far; they will come back with some additional information on the projects they propose we move forward with and how that would work; need to know if you want to hold a separate work session type meeting with them to review and if so when would you like the meeting to be held
- Cemetery control – continue to work on this project with Regional Commission; met with Regional Commission staff last week to review where we are and what they propose; working on a couple of different options to bring back to council for City Cemetery
- Open Enrollment – 12/10 and 12/11; everyone with any coverage under the city policies must attend one of the meetings; the 10<sup>th</sup> will be at 5:00 pm in the police department and all meetings on the 11<sup>th</sup> will be in Aldermen Hall
- Requested that prior retreat information be provided and that is something that we have done annually since 2016; I have amended the listing somewhat to show what has been completed, what is ongoing, what is no longer being considered, and what has yet to be initiated.
- I have provided a listing of all boards showing person appointed and when their appointment will expire. Any terms expiring 12/31, should be motioned for reappointment before end of year or at Organizational Meeting which will be January 6, 2020 as per Charter. We are working to talk with all appointees whose term will expire this year to see if they wish to be considered for reappointment.

- The Kampground of America train is not currently operating due to some much needed repairs so it will not be available for us to ride on in the Christmas parade. Need to know if you want to ride and if so on what type of vehicle.

Mayor Wilson stated the Christmas tree lighting is scheduled for the same day as the first scheduled Council Meeting, December 2, 2019.

*Mr. Howard offered a motion to not conduct the December 2, 2019 Council Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; Three (3) councilmembers voted in favor of the motion (Lawrence, Hewett, and Howard). Three (3) councilmembers voted against the motion (Goolsby, Stroud, and Dodd). Mayor Wilson voted in favor of the motion; the motion carried.*

Mayor Wilson discussed with council the needs, and concerns of the cemeteries being secured with gates. He feels that items that are being damaged may be accidental, and that it's not necessarily being done at night. Mayor Wilson doesn't think its vandalism. The issues that were previously mentioned were tree limbs, and damage to the gravestones. He would like to create an open culture that employees know that if cemetery property is damaged by equipment there won't be consequences.

#### **City Attorney Report**

Mr. Melton stated the Convention & Visitors Bureau has approval 501c6 from the IRS as of November 6, 2019.

Mr. Melton further stated that Hatchett & Rotan Street off of the new Rail Road Avenue between Tift and Lee St. there was a motion in 2012 to close those streets because they were no longer used. The City declared those streets as abandoned. The process has never been finalized. The owner at that time was RLC Group. He proposed to Mayor and Council to allow him to finalize what was previously approved as abandoned streets if the current owners agree.

*Mr. Hewett offered a motion to allow City Attorney, Bobby Melton to finalize the process as he stated. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Wilson stated he attended the MEAG Mayor's Summit last weekend. Prior to that he attended the Georgia Association of Regional Commission's meeting. Lots of good information was exchanged at the meetings.

#### **Council Comments**

Mr. Howard looks forward to working with the City for another 4 years. He would like to continue to work closely with the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Mr. Lawrence Thanked the Citizens of Forsyth for reelecting him for City Council. Since reelection he's received several calls regarding the needs of the Citizens.

Mr. Stroud inquired as to who the current public defender is. He mentioned on Johnston going towards Country Club there's a pot hole that needs to be properly addressed.

#### **Public Comments**

No one from the public came forward.

**Executive Session**

Mayor Wilson stated an executive session was needed to discuss pending litigation.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor and Council adjourned into executive session at 7:26 p.m.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting into open session at 7:55 p.m.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.