**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**November 18, 2024**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m

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

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was led by Councilman Josh Hill. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Josh Hill, Lois Allen, Greg Goolsby, Charles Wilder, and Mike Dodd. Also in attendance was the City Manager, Craig Mims, the Assistant City Manager, Regina Ivie and the City Attorney, Bobby Melton. Six members of the council were in attendance for the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five votes (Hill, Allen, Goolsby, Wilder and Dodd).

Mayor Wilson stated that Mr. Bobby Melton, the City Attorney, has been with the city for forty-four years and will be retiring at the end of the year. He stated that the city celebrated and honored Mr. Melton by naming November 18, 2024 C. Robert Bobby Melton Day.

**Approval of the agenda**

Mayor Wilson stated that the agenda needed to be amended to make an addition. He stated that the approval of a photo booth would be added after the street closure of the remaining 2024 Main Street Events.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the amended agenda with the addition. Seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the minutes from the council meeting held on November 4, 2024.**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting held on November 4, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing for the proposed 2025 budget.**

Mrs. Regina Ivie, the Assistant City Manager, stated that the public hearing was advertised in the Monroe County Reporter. She reviewed the General Fund Revenues and Expenses, the budgeted Employee Benefits plans, proposed salary increases, new positions in the city’s pay plan, and a new title. Mrs. Ivie reviewed the proposed 2025 capital request for the Cemetery Department, Police Department, Fire Department, Recreation, Public Works, and the Garage. She reviewed the Hotel Motel Tax Fund and how the funds are split and the portion that is used for the Tourism Product Development Fund. She reviewed the Special Revenue Funds and the Combined Utilities Revenues along with the Expenditures. She stated that the adoption of the resolution for the proposed 2025 budget will be on December 2, 2024 at the next council meeting.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed 2025 budget.

There being no comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed 2025 budget Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing.

**Approval of GIRMA Georgia First Responder Proposal of Coverage and all documents related to.**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve GIRMA Georgia First Responder Proposal of Coverage and all documents related to. Seconded by Mr. Hill, the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of street closure requests for remaining 2024 Main Street Events.**

Mr. Wilder offered a motion to approve the street closure requests for the remaining 2024 events. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of photo booth**

Mr. Wilder offered a motion to approve the photo booth to be located downtown on the square in an appropriate and safe location. Seconded by Mr. Dodd.

Mr. Wilder amended his motion to offer a motion for Ms. Kemie Childs, the Main Street Manager, to find a location for the photo booth and bring it back before the council for further approval. Seconded by Mr. Dodd.

Mr. Hill questioned if she had a proposed location to place the photo booth.

Ms. Childs stated that the proposed location is at the corner of Johnston and Jackson on the Courthouse side.

After a brief discussion Mr. Wilder amended his motion to offer a motion to approve the photo booth contingent on the location at the corner of Jackson and Johnston, if the location changes it needs to be brought back before the council. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd suggested that Kemie speak with the Courthouse before it is finalized.

**Approval of a called meeting on December 4, 2024 at 5:00p.m.**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the called meeting on December 4, 2024 at 5:00p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Allen, the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval** **of the H2O Innovations Renewal Agreement.**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the H2O Renewal Agreement, pending the final review. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.

**Walter Goodson**

Mr. Goodson stated that his concerns are with the City of Forsyth court system. He stated that two years ago he attended court in Forsyth and asked that his case be bonded over to State Court. The State Court denied his case and sent it back to the City of Forsyth. The City of Forsyth Court sent him a letter with a court date. He stated that court usually has due process. He and his son attended Forsyth Court and they were told that the case was going to trail that day. He stated that he told the judge that he was a disabled veteran and suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and he wanted his case transferred to Veterans Court. He stated that the judge told him she never heard of Veterans Court and denied him that right. Mr. Goodson stated that he wanted to appeal, and the clerk did not know what to do. He stated that when he went back to court the clerk lied and said he didn’t want to pay for the open records that he requested. He stated that he never said that he did not want to pay for his records. He stated if his appeal comes back hog washed or if he doesn’t feel that it is right he would like to have a GBI investigation done. He suggested that Forsyth Court visit Superior court to learn how to do an appeal. He stated that when he went back to court, he was told you know the ropes. Mr. Goodson stated that he was going to file a complaint and if something is wrong, he wants a GBI investigation or a biased crime report.

**City Manager’s Report**

Mr. Craig Mims, the City Manager, stated that the budget process took about two months and thanked Assistant City Clerk Furlow, Assistant City Manager Ivie, Chief Bunn, Chief Blue, Director Batchelor, and Director Nelson for their hard work and dedication during the process.

**City Attorney Report**

Mr. Bobby Melton, the City Attorney, had no business to report.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson had no business to report.

**Additional Business**

Mr. Wilder called on Mr. Allen Wise from the audience.

Mr. Allen Wise stated that the sewage plant is less than a mile from Gilmore and he is trying to find a location for building purposes. The sewage plant is behind Mr. Eddie Buice and the Cabinet Shop. He stated that he is trying to figure out how to get sewage within a mile of the plant. He stated that from George Street there is no sewage. He is trying to figure out how to get sewage lines. The sewage plant is so close, and he can’t figure out why some houses don’t have city sewage. He questioned if the city could look into getting sewage in the area.

Mr. Mims questioned if he was talking about new construction and if so how many houses does he suspect.

Mr. Wise stated yes and that he has to have it surveyed before he can give a number. He would like to build five or more.

Mayor Wilson stated that the city could do a feasibility study on sewage in the area.

Mr. Hill stated that he received a call from someone in Evergreen Subdivision regarding the crumbling of the edges of the road and he was questioned if Evergreen Subdivision was on the list to be repaved. He questioned if the city has a master list of roads to be paved and if Evergreen Subdivision is on the list.

Mr. Mike Batchelor, the Utilities Director, stated that the subdivision is on the list, and it is part of the 2026 SPLOST.

**Public Comments**

Ms. Linda Hampton at 419 MLK Jr. Drive stated that the homeless population in the community is growing and there are no funds in the budget for community-based services. She asked the council to consider putting some funds somewhere for those who offer services for the community. So that we can make the City of Forsyth a well-rounded community.

Mrs. Allen asked what services she suggested.

Ms. Hampton stated that you could do warming centers or feed the elderly.

Mr. Scott Bogulski at 390 Sunset Terrace stated that he attempted to pay his electric bill online and put $250 in his shopping cart, it would be empty. He stated that he called the “844” number, and it was for Medicaid part B. Mr. Bogulski stated that he called the City Hall and spoke with Janet, and she took his payment he didn’t know that she took the fee. He stated that he talked with the Mayor and Mr. Hill, and he was told that the city shouldn’t have taken the $35.00 fee. He was not concerned about himself; he was concerned about the young lady that came in and only had $2.00 left to her name. She was told that she would get credit on her bill. He was disgusted that the City was talking about a billion-dollar budget and couldn’t give her the funds back.

Mr. Mike Batchelor, the Utility Director, stated that last Wednesday the City of Griffin had a lineman that lost his life due to bucket mechanical failure. He stated that the City of Forsyth Electric Department will be attending and mentioned the GoFundMe on the City of Griffin page for the family of the lineman that lost his life and the one that was injured.

**Executive Session (if necessary)**

Mr. Hill offered a motion to go into executive session for land acquisition at 6:50p.m. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to end the executive session at 7:28p.m. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29p.m. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously

**Minutes submitted by:**

**Shayla Furlow, Assistant City Clerk**