**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Minutes**

**March 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 Ms. Carol Cook. 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, Assistant City Manager, Regina Ivie, and City Attorney, Bobby Melton. Not in attendance for the meeting was councilmember Chris Hewett. Five members of the council were in attendance for the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five votes (Hill, Allen, Goolsby, Wilder and Dodd).

**Approval of the agenda**

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

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

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

**CVB quarterly report by Gilda Stanbery**

Ms. Gilda Stanbery stated that goals for 2024 are to solidify the home of the Welcome Center and CVB office, to enhance member engagement and capture training opportunities, to overhaul the CVB website, and to continue building strategic partnerships. Ms. Stanbery advised they received the Travel Blazer Award and will be featured in the Georgia Trend in July. They created cards with QR codes on both sides, one for shopping and the other for dining in the community.

**Proposal presentation for the Welcome Center by Gilda Stanbery.**

Ms. Gilda Stanbery advised that visitors are looking for space to build businesses. She proposed that the Welcome center be renovated to include empty space to develop businesses with offices and on the opposite side she proposed a conference or training room. She stated that the renovations would not alter the current structure.

After a brief discussion council advised Mr. Mims, the City Manager, to speak with Ms. Stanbery to see if Alderman Hall meets her needs, to check on getting the water issue fixed at Alderman Hall, and report back with a work session date.

**Appointment of Downtown Development Authority board member.**

Ms. Kemie Childs, Main Street Coordinator, advised that Glenn Watson resigned from Downtown Development Authority board and recommended the appointment of Chelsia Ogletree, a business owner in the community. She would be serving the remainder of Watsons term.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to appoint Chelsia Ogletree to serve on the Downtown Development Authority board until 2025. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Main Street update by Kemie Childs, Main Street Coordinator.**

Ms. Kemie Childs, the Main Street Coordinator, provided a recap of accomplishments received in 2023. She advised that the Farmer’s Market will be held in the City Hall parking lot this year. Ms. Childs stated that the goals this year are to work on downtown lighting and landscaping, looking into uses for Alderman Hall, looking for ways to get income for DDA, growing the volunteer and sponsor base, working on getting more grants for downtown projects and businesses, and to continue to increase involvement in downtown and the community for continued success.

**Approval of street closure requests** **on May 4th, June 1st, and August 3, 2024 for Main Street Concerts on the square.**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the street closure requests on May 4th, June 1st, and August 3, 2024 for Main Street Concerts on the square. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of street closure request on July 6, 2024 for Main Street Independence Day Celebration.**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the street closure request on July 6, 2024 for the Main Street Independence Day Celebration. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of alcohol license for 111 MLK, Jr. Drive, Crossroad 2 Food Mart, Inc.**

Mr. Bobby Melton, the City Attorney, stated that the legal advertisement for 111 MLK, Jr. Drive, Crossroads 2 Food Mart, Inc. Parcel F17 013A had been published in the Monroe County Reporter and that he did not have any questions regarding the documents submitted.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the alcohol license for 111 MLK, Jr. Drive, Crossroads 2 Food Mart, Inc. Seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of bid award for Amwaste of Georgia, LLC.**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the award bid for Amwaste of Georgia, LLC. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of FY2023 budget adjustments.**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the FY2023 budget adjustments. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Requisitions Greater than $6,000**

1. **Calibration Controls & Automation- $55,000.00**
2. **Ace Pole Company, INC.- $9,590.00**
3. **Bennett Fire Products Co., INC- $56,712.00**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the requisitions greater than $6000.00 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Wilder; the motion carried unanimously.

**Walter Goodson**

Mr. Walter Goodson questioned if the investigation into Will Davis that he requested was done. He advised that Davis was a problem and questioned if he could bring in evidence to prove that he rigged the election. He also advised that he was going to start a nonprofit organization.

**City Manager’s Report**

Mr. Craig Mims, the City Manager, reported that:

The police department recently completed an assessment of officers for promotion. I’m happy to announce that the following officers have been promoted.

-Sgt. David Asbell, Sgt. Terrance Thomas, and Cpl. Kimberly Barnett were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

-Cpl. Bruce Hughley has been promoted to the rank of First Sergeant.

-Officers Jeffrey Burris, Gregory Jefcoats, Richard Maddox, and Arthur Musselman were promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

--Officers Joseph Crumpler, Colt Taylor, and William Rodrigues were promoted to the rank of Corporal. Congratulations to these fine men and women in our police department.

**City Attorney Report**

Mr. Bobby Melton, the City Attorney, advised he only had the report of the application for alcohol, beer, malt beverages and wine for 111 MLK Jr. Drive, Crossroad 2 Food Mart, Inc. which had already been approved.

Mr. Wilder questioned Mr. Melton if he had an update on the library board issue.

Mr. Melton advised he was still working on it.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson reported that:

-DDS ribbon cutting will be held on March 26, 2024 at 1:30p.m.

-He attended the Armory Send off on Friday, March 15th, and the wave off on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

-He advised he attended the Middle Georgia Community Action Agency to celebrate Mr. Willie Shannon and commended him for serving on the board for 48 years.

-GFOA certificate of excellence was received this year for the audit reports.

-He advised he received a request from the Monroe County Reporter for use of the Council Chambers for forum debate.

**Additional Business**

Mr. Wilder advised that he noticed some people in the community are suffering from drainage water. The older communities don’t have curbs to control storm waters. He would like to have a study, or someone look at it. He questioned how we could start a storm water drainage program in Forsyth.

Mr. Mims advised that we are already working on an assessment to look at those issues in certain areas.

Mrs. Allen stated that she knows an elderly lady in Forsyth, that has been living in a hotel for three years. She questioned if we have any programs that can assist her with getting back into her home.

Mr. Hill advised we have church programs and habitat for humanity that may be able to assist.

Mr. Goolsby stated that the Development Authority met last week. The Department of Driver Services brings around 300 visitors into the city. They closed on the Chick-fil-a property in April and expected to be open August 28, 2024. He advised the Development Authority has received many proposals for the surrounding parcels from businesses that want to be in Forsyth.

Mr. Mims advised the city will be providing power services for the Chick-fil-a.

**Public Comments**

Mr. David Herndon, retired fire chief, commended the City of Forsyth for working on Country Club Park and the pickle ball courts.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion for executive session for personnel matters at 7:15p.m. Seconded by Mr. Wilder; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to end the executive session at 7:20p.m. Seconded by Mr. Wilder; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:21p.m. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes Submitted by:

Shayla Furlow, Assistant City Clerk