**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**April 7, 2025**

**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 Mr. Lloyd Strickland. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Josh Hill, Chris Hewett, Lois Allen, Greg Goolsby, Charles Wilder, and Mike Dodd. Also in attendance was City Manager, Craig Mims; Assistant City Manager, Regina Ivie; City Attorney, Brian Causey; and City Clerk, Shayla Furlow. Six members of the council were in attendance for the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be six votes (Hill, Hewett, Allen, Goolsby, Wilder and Dodd).

**Approval of the agenda**

Mr. Dodd 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 March 3, 2025.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting held on March 3, 2025 as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of a street closure request on April 26, 2025 for St. James Baptist Church 5k**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the street closure request on April 26, 2025 for the St. James Baptist Church 5K. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**John Ambrose- Sewer Issue**

Commissioner John Ambrose stated that the old sewer is blocked by a large tree root that has busted the sidewalk. He stated that they don’t feel that they are responsible for the issue, it was caused by the two large tree roots in the city’s sewer. One of the smaller roots grew into the lateral line and caused sewer issues. He stated that someone must pay the bill. It’s between Lee’s Haircutting, Harrison CPA, and the Masonic Lodge. He stated that it is a temporary fix. He is requesting that the city cover the bill.

Mr. Mike Batchelor, the Utilities Director, stated that they have a plan to excavate the area and recap the lines. They are looking into the location of the tree to see if it is on private property or city property to determine the decision to remove the tree. The city is planning a permanent fix.

Mr. Wilder asked Mr. Brian Causey, the City Attorney, to respond on behalf of the City for liability.

Mr. Causey stated that he needs to meet with Mr. Batchelor to get more information and he would get with Mr. Ambrose. He stated that he will look more into the issue to see if the city is liable.

**Approval of dedication in honor of Heaven Woods**

Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the walking trail with signs at Kynette Park as a dedication in honor of Heaven Woods. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilson stated that the walking trail will be named Heaven Woods Memorial Walking Trail, and the council will present a resolution to the father, Mr. Anthony Woods, to commemorate the dedication.

**Adoption of the Georgia Cities Week Resolution**

Mayor Wilson stated that April 21st -26th, 2025 will be Georgia Cities Week in the City of Forsyth as well the rest of the state.

Ms. Kemie Childs, the Main Street Director, stated that during Georgia Cities Week we will be having a coloring contest for Pre-K thru second grade and a drawing contest for third grade thru fifth grade. The winners will be recognized in May at one of the council meetings. We will have Walk About Wednesday, where department heads visit businesses downtown to introduce themselves and get input. On Thursday, April 24, 2025 we will have the Touch a Truck event. We will feature different city vehicles in the parking lot from 10am-1pm.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the adoption of the Georgia Cities Week Resolution. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carries unanimously.

**Approval of Country Club Reservation Fees & Facility Rental Form Updates**

Ms. Kemie Childs, the Main Street Director, stated that we are updating the facilities reservation application and removing the City Hall Annex and adding the Alderman Hall. The reservation fee will remain the same, which is $150. The pavilions at Country Club Park on the upper hill are $50 for four hours $100 for the full day. The large pavilion near the pickleball courts is $100 for four hours and $200 for the full day. The pavilion at Kynette Park is $50 for four hours and $100 for the full day. Lee Street Park is $50 for four hours and $100 for the full day. The amphitheater located at Country Club Park can be reserved for $50 for four hours and $100 for the full day. Ms. Childs stated that the pickleball court reservation would be $150 for two or fewer courts, $300 for three to eight courts, and $600 for nine or more courts.

Mayor Wilson stated that the tournament reservations would be limited to eight reservations per year with two being reserved for the Rotary Club as an agreement for the donation for the pavilion at Country Club Park.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the reservation fees and the update to the facility reservation form. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of park hours of operation**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the park hours of operation from 6:00a.m. to 9:00p.m. at all parks. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the demolition of Surplus Property**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the demolition of Surplus Property. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of funding** **for the golf course project**

Mrs. Regina Ivie, the Assistant City Manager, stated that the funding is for the irrigation project at the golf course with new grass and reshaping. She reviewed two options from the Bank of Dudley, a option from The United Bank, and the option of the Municipal Competitive Trust.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the United Bank as the funding source for the golf course project. Seconded by Mr. Hewett.

After a brief discussion Mr. Wilder offered a motion to table the approval of the fundingfor the golf course project until the April 21, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion passed with five votes in favor (Hill, Hewett, Allen, Goolsby, and Wilder) and one abstention (Dodd).

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to confirm that the city is going to do the project and have the funding source by April 21, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval** **of the amendment to** **Forsyth Country Club, Inc. Agreement**

Mrs. Regina Ivie, the Assistant City Manager, stated that the agreement was amended to add payments of $2 from Forsyth Country Club, Inc**.**  for all or partial full rounds of golf that will be paid to the city either full or partial from the date of the amendment, payable to the city by the twenty-fifth of each month and documentation records should substantiate the rounds played and amount paid until a further written agreement or amendment by the parties hereto.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve **the** amendment to Forsyth Country Club, Inc. Agreement. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Budget Adjustment for the 2025 General Fund**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the budget adjustment needed for the 2025 fiscal year to include the funds donated from the Rotary Club towards the pavilion at Country Club Park. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the purchase of a side-by-side**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the purchase of a side-by-side from Bass Pro Shops. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of bid award to KorKat Playgrounds & Site Amenities for the Splashpad resurfacing**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the bid award to KorKat Playgrounds & Site Amenities for the Splashpad resurfacing. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Plat review for Heritage Place, 644 Montpelier Road, Parcel 054 022A**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the Plat review for Heritage Place, 644 Montpelier Road, Parcel 054 022A. Seconded by Mr. Hewett.

Mr. George Emami stated that he wanted to clarify that his twenty-four-month approval started after the approval of the plat.

After a brief discussion Mr. Goolsby revised his motion. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the Plat review for Heritage Place, 644 Montpelier Road, Parcel 054 022A, with the two-year approval starting on April 8, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Final Plat for Luxe Homes of Forsyth, 50 S. Jackson Street**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the Final Plat for Luxe Homes of Forsyth, 50 S. Jackson Street. Seconded by Mr. Dodd.

After a brief discussion Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to table the approvalof Final Plat for Luxe Homes of Forsyth, 50 S. Jackson Street, until the April 21, 2025 meeting to allow Mr. Dean Nelson, the Community Development Director, to locate the original plat and determine the original intentions of the property. Seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of change order for painting at Country Club Park**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the change order for painting at Country Club Park as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of funding and budget for the Utilities/Public Works facility**

Mr. Mike Batchelor, the Utilities Director, stated that the budget for the Utilities/Public Works facility is

$645, 000 plus a 5% contingency which would come from the Municipal Competitive Trust and be refunded by the 2026 SPLOST.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the funding and budget for the Utilities/Public Works facility. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of bid award to Renfroe Construction for the Utilities/Public Works facility.**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the bid award to Renfroe Construction for the Utilities/Public Works facility. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

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

* **Goforth Williamson, Inc. - $49,480.00**
* **Goforth Williamson, Inc. - $20,890.00**
* **Southern Line Contractors, LLC- $13,160.00**
* **Gresco Utility Supplies, Inc- $21,408.50**
* **Stuart C. Irby Co.- $16,515.65**
* **Anixter, Inc-$16,833.80**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the requisitions greater than $6000 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**City Manager’s Report**

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

-We received bids for the Kynette Park renovations, and we are reviewing them in preparation for the next council meeting.

-Thank you to the citizens and staff that were in attendance at the grand reopening of Country Club Park.

-We Have officially rolled out our new street signs.  The first set was installed at Country Club Park Drive and Ensign Road. We will be replacing more signs throughout the year.

**City Attorney Report**

Mr. Brian Causey, the City Attorney, stated that he had items to discuss in executive session. He provided the first reading for section 23-119 and section 23-120of Chapter 23, Utilities, Article IV., Service Charges, of the Forsyth City Code. He stated the purpose of the amendment to the ordinance is to clarify to the public regarding service charges and to help reduce administration expenses.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson stated that today was an exciting day. We rededicated Country Club Park at 10:30a.m. This investment is an upgrade to the park for the people who live here and guests who visit. He stated that he was excited about the sixteen pickleball courts, expansion the walking trail, new playground, shade features at the splashpad, new road, and the amphitheater. He congratulated and thanked the staff for all the hard work at the park. Mayor Wilson stated that he is looking forward to Kynette Park with a walking trail, new pavilion, upgraded baseball field, splashpad, and a new relocated basketball court.

**Council Board Reports**

Mr. Hewett stated that the Hospital Authority joined in with the county and tore down the old Hospital, all that’s left is a cement slab and the old McMurry building to be temporary parking. In the future there will be about 3 million dollars of improvements. They have a five-year plan to add to the hospital. He questioned about the four way stops at Adams and Jackson and at Tift College and Patrol Road

Mrs. Allen stated that the Convention and Visitors Bureau is moving on with the goals for 2025. They will be entertaining the Hubbard Alumni on April 18th, 19th, and the 20th.

Mr. Hill stated that May 2, 2025 will be the first Main Street Market, and it will run every Friday through the month of October. The first concert for the series will be at 7:30p.m. on May 3, 2025. The band performing is Purple Madness.

Mrs. Allen stated that she spoke with Mr. Freeman, and he seems to think that we are running out of burial space at Rest Haven and asked that the City Manager speak with him.

Mr. Wilder spoke of the Country Club Park and commended the City Manager and staff on a job well done. Mr. Wilder stated that he also wanted to bring attention to the city about the golf carts on Highway 83 as a point of concern. He stated that a golf cart pulled out in front of a truck on Highway 83, and it should only be on city streets.

**Additional Business**

Mr. Hill stated that Montpelier Avenue is a joy to drive on. He stated that people have noticed the improvements. After the most recent rain no debris was on the road and the culverts are working properly. He stated that he wanted the city to know how appreciative we are for the improvements.

Mr. Hill stated that the grass at Lee Street Park in the shade area under the overhang from the trees will not grow questioned what could be done.

**Public Comments**

No public comments.

**Executive Session (potential litigation)**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to go into executive session for potential litigation at 7:37p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to end the executive session at 7:45p.m. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting back into regular session after executive session.

Mr. Wilder offered a motion for the council to approve the city attorney to correspond to a claim with a denial on behalf of the City of Forsyth. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.