**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**May 19, 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 Bishop Evans. 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. 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 May 5, 2025.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting held on May 5, 2025 as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

**GA Cities Week Art Contest Winners**

Ms. Kemie Childs, the Mainstreet Director, presented certificates to the winners of the GA Cities Week Art Contest.

**Approval of the location of the Art Connects Community Kiosk**

Ms. Gilda Stanbery stated that this is one of the final steps of the grant process. They have been looking for good locations to put the kiosk. She stated that she reached out to Mr. Shay Smith, the Public Works Director, for good locations at Country Club Park. He offered two options, one being closer to the Splash Pad near the Playground and the other being near signage closer to the pickleball courts. She stated that Mr. Smith’s number one recommendation was near the Splashpad area. Ms. Stanbery stated that the other kiosk will be located near the Depot.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the location of the Arts Connects Community Kiosk near the Splashpad/ playground area and to give latitude for placement. Seconded by Ms. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of a voting delegate for the Georgia Municipal Association’s Annual Meeting**

Mr. Hewett nominated Mr. Goolsby. There were no other nominations.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to close the nominations. Seconded by Mr. Wilder; the motion passed with five in favor (Hill, Hewett, Allen, Wilder, and Dodd) and one abstention (Goolsby).

**Approval** **of an Intergovernmental Agreement to provide funding for the Monroe County Public Library.**

Mr. Hill offered a motion to table the approvalof an Intergovernmental Agreement to provide funding for the Monroe County Public Library until the June 2, 2025 council meeting to allow more time to review the agreement. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of a** **Work Detail Agreement between the City of Forsyth and Georgia Department of Corrections**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve Work Detail Agreement between the City of Forsyth and Georgia Department of Corrections. Seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried unanimously.

**Walter Goodson**

Mr. Goodson stated that he had two issues, one is due process and the Veteran’s Court. He recalled a story when he appeared in Municipal Court and requested a continuance, which was denied and went to trial the same day. He stated that the state has Veterans Court, and the judge stated that she doesn’t know anything about Veterans Court. He was not allowed to go through his due process. Mr. Goodson questioned what could be done about the judge and the court system and if the Attorney General needs to come and investigate.

Mr. Wilder stated that legal counsel review Veterans Court, if he is not already aware.

Mr. Brian Causey, the City Attorney, stated that he spoke briefly with Mr. Goodson. He stated that under the court provisions of Title 15, there is a Veterans Court division that states that any court that has a jurisdiction over criminal cases, which of course would include the Municipal Court, may establish a Veteran’s division. He stated that many Superior Court circuits have them and he was not sure if the Towaliga Circuit had Veterans Court. Mr. Causey stated that this Municipal court does not have one and that the state statue does not require it.

**Lee Smith**

Mr. Lee Smith stated that he owns a business at 76 North Jackson Street, Lee’s Haircutting. He stated that he had a situation with the sewer behind his shop and he was here to save the city some money. Mr. Smith requested that the city pay $16, 250.00 for the repairs that Herbie Johnson did on the sewer lines behind his barbershop. He stated that he met with the Mayor, Mr. Dodd, John Ambrose, and Craig Helms regarding the sewer situation and reviewed the pictures that he provided to the Mayor and Council. He stated that Herbie took his camera and snaked it forty-two feet to discover a large root that is in the line of the city sewer main. Mr. Smith stated that Herbie used his camera coming from the Baptist Church down the water main, in the sewer line, and he used the camera to see that large root that grows out and goes into his lateral. He stated that the city is responsible for the sewer main and customers are responsible for the sewer lateral.

After a brief discussion Mr. Wilder offered a motion to table Lee Smiths request until the June 2, 2025, council meeting to allow the City Attorney and Staff to look into the sewer matter. Seconded by Mr. Dodd: the motion carried unanimously.

**Sharp Street and Jones Street Update**

Chief Blue, the Forsyth Police Department Chief, stated that the traffic study was done over the course of a weekend. It was done on Sharp Street and Blount Street. He stated that he has not received the data for Jones Street. Sharp Street had a total of six thousand five hundred and fifty-one cars that traveled the street with an average speed of eighteen miles per hour. Five hundred and sixty-one cars were going eleven or more above the speed limit. Chief Blue stated that on Blount Street one thousand three hundred and thirty-eight cars traveled the street with an average speed of twenty miles per hour. Sixteen vehicles were going eleven or more above the speed limit. They will have units doing heavy patrolling in those areas to monitor the traffic.

**Downtown Update**

Mr. Craig Mims, the City Manager, stated that we are going to move forward with a request for qualifications (RFQ) for a landscape architect to develop a downtown beatification plan. This will include two or three vision sessions to gather input from downtown stakeholders.

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

* **Calibration Controls & Automation- $17,556.72**
* **Mason Tractor & Equipment Company- $6,738.27**
* **Georgia Safe Sidewalks- $19,600.00**
* **Anixter Inc.- $6436.20**
* **Southern Transformer Service- $7,700.00**
* **Calibration Controls & Automation- $8,590.00**
* **Wade Ford- $58,200.00**
* **Wade Ford- $99,940.00**
* **Priority Lighting Solutions- $25,359.42**
* **Motorola Solutions- $65,457.60**
* **Ugly Signs- $10,800.00**

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

After a brief discussion of the purchase of two Mustangs from Wade Ford Mayor Wilson called the question of all those in favor and opposition to the approval of the requisitions. The motion passed with five votes in favor (Hewett, Allen, Goolsby, Wilder, and Dodd) and one opposition (Hill).

**City Manager’s Report**

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

Chief Blue has been asked to fill the first Vice-President position on the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Board.

**City Attorney Report**

Mr. Brian Causey, the City Attorney, had no business to report.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson noted his absence from the previous meeting due to attending the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions Spring Conference, which he chairs. He stated that Mayor Pro Tem Dodd was also out of town during that meeting. The Mayor thanked Councilman Goolsby for presiding in their absence and expressed appreciation to the Council for their understanding.

**Additional Business**

Mr. Hewett stated that the Hospital Authority will meet on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 5:30p.m.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Joshua Ramcharan at 391 Preakness Way, stated that it was an honor to meet the Mayor and he had a great time at the meeting.

Mr. Walter Goodson at 236 Union Hill Drive requested that someone look at the pipe at the end of Union Hill Drive and questioned if seeding can be done to cover the dirt spots from work done on the waterlines.

**Executive Session (if necessary)**

No executive session needed.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn at 7:25pm. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.