**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**May 5, 2025**

**Call to Order**

As both Mayor Wilson and Mayor Pro Tem Dodd were absent, Mrs. Shayla Furlow, the City Clerk called the meeting to order at 6:00pm for the sole purpose of electing a Chair Pro Tem to preside over this meeting.

Mrs. Furlow opened the floor for nominations for Chair Pro Tem.

Mr. Hewett nominated Mr. Goolsby as Chair Pro Tem. Seconded by Mr. Hill.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Mrs. Furlow called the question of all those in favor of the nomination of Mr. Goolsby as Chair Pro Tem. The nomination passed unanimously. Mr. Goolsby was elected Chair Pro Tem to preside over the meeting.

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

Chair Pro Tem Goolsby led the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was led by Mr. Cody Fountain. In attendance for the meeting was Chair Pro Tem Goolsby, Councilmembers Josh Hill, Chris Hewett, Lois Allen, and Charles Wilder. Also in attendance was City Manager, Craig Mims; Assistant City Manager, Regina Ivie; City Attorney, Brian Causey; and City Clerk, Shayla Furlow. Not in attendance for the meeting was Mayor Wilson and Councilman Mike Dodd. Five members of the council were in attendance for the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five votes (Goolsby, Hill, Hewett, Allen, and Wilder).

**Approval of the agenda**

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

**Approval of the minutes from the council meeting held on April 21, 2025**

Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting held on April 21, 2025 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing to consider annexation and initial zoning for tax parcel 015 010Z (1917 Smith Road) and adjacent parcel 027 018A**

Mr. Dean Nelson, the Community Development Director, stated that Mr. Robert Bryson, submitted a petition and supporting documentation requesting the City of Forsyth annex two unincorporated properties, Monroe County Tax Parcel 015 010Z (also known as 1917 Smith Road) and Monroe County Tax Parcel 027 018A, pursuant to O.C.G.A 36-36-20 e. seq. (the “100% method”). The land consists of fifty-seven combined acres and the current Monroe County zoning classification is Agricultural / Rural District. The petitioner has applied for the initial zoning for the annexed territory to be designated by the City of Forsyth as Agricultural / Rural District (AGRI). Mr. Nelson stated that during the April 28, 2025, Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, a public hearing was held with no opposition to the petition, and upon closure of the hearing, the board voted to recommend approval of the application as submitted with an initial City of Forsyth zoning of Agricultural/Rural District zoning.

Chair Pro Tem Goolsby opened the public hearingfor comments in favor of or opposition to the annexation and initial zoning for tax parcel 015 010Z (1917 Smith Road) and adjacent parcel 027 018A.

Ms. Tina Mason stated that she was in attendance on behalf of the property owners. She stated that the owners bought the land with the intention of building their forever home and now that H&H are tied with the property, they no longer want to do that however they would like to annex the property.

There being no further comments in favor of or opposition to the annexation and initial zoning for tax parcel 015 010Z (1917 Smith Road) and adjacent parcel 027 018A, Chair Pro Tem Goolsby closed the public hearing.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the annexation and initial zoning for tax parcel 015 010Z (1917 Smith Road) and adjacent parcel 027 018A. Seconded by Mr. Hill.

After a brief discussion Chair Pro Tem Goolsby called the question of all in favor or opposition to the annexation and initial zoning for tax parcel 015 010Z (1917 Smith Road) and adjacent parcel 027 018A; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing to consider a Setback Variance for Forsyth Storage Masters, Parcels F14 033, F14 034 and F14 035.**

Mr. Dean Nelson, the Community Development Director, stated that Mr. Clint Ward, Storage Masters Forsyth, applied for a variance to allow for a 15-foot encroachment into the 25-foot required building setback within the Highway Business (HB) zoning district, allowing for a 10-foot setback for one building within the larger Storage Masters Forsyth development, specifically, Monroe County Tax Parcels F14 033, F14 034, and F14 035. He stated that on April 28, 2025, the Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on the matter. There was no opposition to the petition, and upon closure of the hearing, the board voted to recommend approval of the variance allowing a setback of twelve feet with the conditions that a green foliage barrier be placed between the subject property and Volume Chevrolets rear parking, to be maintained and measures being active to mitigate any light pollution.

Chair Pro Tem Goolsby opened the public hearingfor comments in favor of or opposition to theSetback Variance for Forsyth Storage Masters, Parcels F14 033, F14 034 and F14 035.

Ms. Jennie Caldwell, with the Carter Engineering Group, stated that she was in attendance on behalf of Mr. Clint Ward to answer any questions or concerns.

There being no further comments in favor of or opposition to the Setback Variance for Forsyth Storage Masters, Parcels F14 033, F14 034 and F14 035, Chair Pro Tem Goolsby closed the public hearing.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the Setback Variance for Forsyth Storage Masters, Parcels F14 033, F14 034 and F14 035 with the recommendations from Planning and Zoning. Seconded by Mr. Wilder.

After a brief discussion Chair Pro Tem Goolsby called the question of all in favor or opposition to the Setback Variance for Forsyth Storage Masters, Parcels F14 033, F14 034 and F14 035; the motion carried unanimously

**City Manager’s Report**

Mr. Craig Mims, the City Manager, thanked the Main Street Director for her work and engaging in the first concert of the Summer Concert Series. It was a great turnout despite the weather conditions.

**City Attorney Report**

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

**Council Board Reports**

Mr. Hill stated that the DDA will meet on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 5:00pm.

Mrs. Allen stated that the CVB continues to work on the 2025 goals. They are working together for the betterment of the city.

**Additional Business**

Mr. Wilder questioned whether a response had been received from the property owners at 50 South Jackson Street after they received the plat denial.

Mr. Dean Nelson, the Community Development Director, stated that the property owners requested that the council meet them at the property.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Walter Goodson, at 236 Union Hill Drive, stated that he was trying to find out about due process. He requested to meet with the City Attorney regarding court issues. Additionally, Mr. Goodson had concerns about the garbage cans being left beside the road on Lovers Lane.

**Executive Session**

No executive session needed.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss Chair Pro Tem Goolsby adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm.