**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**August 18, 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 Reverend Rod Callahan. 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 August 4, 2025.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting held on August 4, 2025 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of a street closure request** **on October 16, 2025 for the MPHS Homecoming Parade.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the street closure request on October 16, 2025 for the MPHS Homecoming Parade. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of a street closure request on November 8, 2025 for the Second Annual City Fun Day.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the street closure request on November 8, 2025 for the Second Annual City Fun Day. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation of a Proclamation to Chelsia Ogletree for Chelsia Ogletree Day.**

Mayor Wilson presented Chelsia Ogletree with a proclamation proclaiming July 8, Chelsia Green-Ogletree Day.

**Forsyth Country Club- Reimbursement of Expenses**

Mr. Dean Darden stated that he came before council to request reimbursement for repairs that were made to the city properties. He stated that they had a roof put on the clubhouse, remodeled the restrooms on the golf course at number seven, and they had to pull out, rebuild, and put back the irrigation pump. These three projects cost $31,838.92.

Mr. Hill questioned why they were just bringing this in front of the council.

Mr. Dean Darden stated that they were not told until recently that the city might help.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to reimburse the expenses for the three repairs made at Forsyth Country Club. Seconded by Mr. Hewett.

Mr. Wilder stated that in the future these need to be brought before the council in a timely manner.

Mayor Wilson stated that he was not sure that the contract stipulates that the city reimburse for these repairs ongoing. He stated that he thinks that any future instances would need to come before the council before the work is done, and then council could decide if it's something they want to approve. It's not contemplated in the operating agreement that we have.

After a brief discussion Mayor Wilson called the vote on the motion to reimburse the expenses for the three repairs made at Forsyth Country Club. The motion passed with five votes in favor (Hewett, Allen, Goolsby, Wilder, and Dodd) and one vote in opposition (Hill).

Mr. Wilder offered a motion to take the funds from the $26,000 that remains on the note of the money borrowed from our own competitive trust to pay for the greens. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion passed with five votes in favor (Hewett, Allen, Goolsby, Wilder, and Dodd) and one vote in opposition (Hill).

**First reading of an Ordinance for partial lot rezoning of Parcel 053 001B.**

Mr. Brian Causey, the City Attorney, stated that Planning and Zoning and Council have already had a public hearing for partial lot rezoning of Parcel 053 001B. There was never a formal first reading of the ordinance. It will be followed by the two weeks of ads, and a second reading at the next available meeting after those two ads. He stated that an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Forsyth, Georgia to alter and amend the Zoning District of the City of Forsyth to amend the Zoning Map of the City of Forsyth to provide an effective date for other purposes related thereto. He stated that he incorporated the conditions that the council put on there, which included the right-of-way road, the 80-20 rule, the two-lot rule near Betsy Lynn Subdivision, and the fact that it can't be used as construction in entrances, 90-foot barrier, and the mandatory homeowners or condo owners’ association.

**Second reading of an Ordinance amending Articles of the Zoning Ordinance to regulate data centers.**

Mr. Brian Causey, the City Attorney stated that an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Forsyth, Georgia, to enact text amendments to Article 2, Definitions and Interpretations, and Article 10, Non-Residential Zoning Districts, and Article 15, Specific Provisions for Principal Non-Residential Buildings and Uses of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Forsyth relating to Data Centers to provide an effective date and for other purposes related thereto. He stated that he sent two versions, one with Conditional Use and one with Permitted Use. He modified the definition so that a data center does not include regular businesses who are in the business of doing something other than data, who have data centers in their closets or phone systems, computer systems, networking. He stated that he added that nothing in this shall be construed to limit the ability of an existing property owner to locate a data center in an existing structure within the district where it is allowed and the regulations shall not apply to those existing structures which were constructed prior to the passage of this which are aesthetically designed to be congruent with the surrounding structures immediately and in close proximity thereto.

Mr. Hill offered a motion for the Ordinance pertaining to Articles of the Zoning Ordinance to regulate data centers be Conditional for all zoning. Seconded by Mr. Wilder.

Mr. Hill questioned whether having a server closet would be considered a data center. That should not have to come from the council. He stated that if a true data center comes in it should be approved by the council.

Mr. Causey, the City Attorney, stated that the language that he included is that it is not intended, that this definition be extruded so as to include businesses or facilities whose primary purposes are not data-related or not contained in the previous explanation of what a data center does, whose primary purposes are other things such as manufacturing, wholesale business, banks, retail stores, and offices.

After a brief discussion Mayor Wilson called the vote on the motion for the Ordinance pertaining to Articles of the Zoning Ordinance to regulate data centers be Conditional for all zoning. The motion carried unanimously.

**Set tentative millage rate for 2025 and schedule Public Hearing for September 2, 2025.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to set the tentative millage rate for 2025 at 2 mills. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion offered a motion to set the Public Hearing for September 2, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Requisitions greater than $6000**

* **Davis Plumbing Co.- $8987.00**
* **GoForth Williamson- $14,585.00**
* **Industrial Chemicals, Inc.- $14,998.50**

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

**City Manager’s Report**

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

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 due to the Labor Day holiday.

**City Attorney Report**

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

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson stated that staff have been working on addressing the complaints and concerns about the cemetery. He requested a work session on September 2, 2025 at 5:00p.m. for discussion of a proposed new zoning classification.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve a work session on September 2, 2025 at 5:00p.m. for discussion of a proposed new zoning classification. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Additional Business**

Mr. Hewett requested an update from Mr. Mike Batchelor, the Utilities Director, on the crossing and the work with Georgia Department of Transportation.

Mr. Mike Batchelor, the Utilities Director, stated that he spoke with the contractor and it was delayed for two and a half weeks, due to utility relocations. They found a manhole that had been paved over.. The contractors have completed their stormwater installations. The railroad company has to do the actual crossings and the signaling. Once they're completed, the contractor will come out and finish the paving and curbing. He stated that the contractor gave a timeline of two to three weeks and then three weeks to a month after Norfolk Southern finishes. He stated that the contractors are supposed to be starting the Tift College crossing in three weeks.

Mr. Hill questioned if flooding was a part of the work.

Mr. Batchelor stated that it is. The stormwater system is not operating yet. There is a new collection box with transverse pipes.

Mr. Goolsby questioned how far the road is to be repaired from the railroad track on Tift College.

Mr. Batchelor stated that it goes to Adams Street and planes out to the other side. He believes it goes all the way to the other side of the Railroad Avenue. He stated that he thinks that it is 80 to 100 feet on both sides that it goes out.

Mr. Hewett stated that the Hospital Board will meet on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 5:30p.m.

Mrs. Allen stated that she attended the Clean Energy Road Show on August 13, 2025.

Mr. Hill stated that the 2025 Scarecrow Showcase registration deadline is September 19, 2025. Voting occurs September 27th through October 31st. He stated that on Saturday, September 27th from 11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m., there is a Fall Festival and community yard sale. More information is found on the website.

Mr. Dodd thanked the council for the reimbursement on behalf of the Golf Board.

Mr. Hill questioned when a death occurs in a house, what is the city ordinance on getting that house biologically clean? Is there a time frame that the city imposes, or is it based upon the homeowner itself?

Chief Blue stated that if it becomes a code violation but there is no law that states a time it is up to the property owner.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Walter Goodson at 236 Union Hill Drive stated that he came before council a few weeks ago to address his concerns regarding the drainage on Union Hill Drive. He stated that at the last election his light bill came up and somebody put it in the paper that his lights had been turned off seventeen times. He questioned if that would be done again and if it would be a fair election.

**Executive Session (if necessary)**

No executive session needed.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Goolsby motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:46p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.