

Minutes
Forsyth City Council Meeting
June 17, 2019

Call to Order

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation, and & Roll Call

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Dodd gave the invocation. Present for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Greg Goolsby, Julius Stroud, Chris Hewett, and John Howard. Melvin Lawrence arrived at 6:10 p.m. Also present was City Manager, Janice Hall; City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Clerk, Regina Ivie.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Wilson requested to amend the agenda; to swap items five and six.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to amend the agenda as mayor stated. Seconded by Mr. Howard. The motion carried with five (5) votes; Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Hewett, and Howard.

Approval of Minutes of the June 17, 2019 Council Meeting

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried with five (5) votes. Goolsby, Dodd, Hewett, Lawrence, and Howard. Mr. Stroud abstained from voting as he was not in attendance of the June 17, 2019 meeting.

Recognition of New Police Officers

Chief Eddie Harris introduced Brittany Mullins as the City's newest Police Officer. She comes to the City with previous law enforcement experience with the Griffin police department. Chief Harris stated that she will be assisting with the summer camp.

Presentation & Review of Police Body Cameras – Sergeant David Asbell

Sergeant Asbell explained how the LensLock body cameras system functions. Police policy is that all officers while on duty must wear a body camera. The camera's usage will protect the City, the Public, and the Officer. The software allows information within the video to be redacted if necessary for open records requests. A warranty has been issued to cover for loss, or damage with no charge to the City. Sergeant Asbell further explained the usage of the docking station, and terminal at the Police Department.

Proclamation presented to Amateur Radio Week

Mayor Wilson presented and read aloud the Proclamation to Amateur Radio Week. Amateur Radio Field Day exercise will take place on June 22 to June 23, 2019. Amateur Radio Week is proclaimed to be June 16 – June 23, 2019.

Public Hearing for alcohol license – Devi Foods

Bobby Melton stated this is a beer & wine package license for Devi Food Store. Ads will run in the Monroe County Reporter on June 5th and June 12th for tonight’s meeting. It’s here for the final approval of the alcohol license. He stated it’s a change of ownership, no change of location.

Mayor Wilson opened the floor for public comment at 6:16 p.m.

No one came forward for public comment.

Mayor Wilson closed the floor for public comment at 6:17 p.m.

Mr. Stroud made a motion to approve the transfer of ownership license. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Permit – Jingle Jog 5k

Ms. Hall stated the Jingle Jog event will occur on November 30, 2019. The permit is for rolling road blocks during the 5k.

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to approve the permit as stated. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Road Closures – Hometown Holiday Parade

Ms. Hall stated this is an annual event December 5, 2019. The parade starts at Tift College Drive Department of Corrections and ends behind Tractor Supply. The parade starts at 7pm but street closures begin at 4pm.

Mr. Stroud made a motion to approve the road closures. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of T-SPLOST Projects

Ms. Hall stated the T-SPLOST projects have to be associated with transportation, streets, storm drains, and sidewalks. We will have \$2.5 million based on the collections for the SPLOST which is a six (6) year, T- SPLOST is a five (5) year. We would have the same percentage as we do in the SPLOST which is 15.0082% of the total proceeds.

Mayor Wilson stated that both the County and the City of Culloden voted to proceed at the joint meeting last week.

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to approve the T-SPLOST projects. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval – Intergovernmental Agreement with Monroe County for T-SPLOST

Ms. Hall stated the percentages are listed in the agreement on page 3. The County has 83.1974%, City of Forsyth 15.0082%, the City of Culloden 1.7945%. These are the same percentages as the SPLOST. I would have like to have increased that percentage some. Our portion will be a little over \$2.5 million.

Mr. Hewett stated he wasn’t aware that a vote was going to take place at the County meeting.

Mr. Dodd made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Monroe County for T-Splost. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution of the City of Forsyth – Appointments to the Joint Board of Elections & Registration of Monroe County & Approval of Clerk’s Certification

Ms. Hall stated that Kaye Warren, Election Superintendent has determined that this is necessary and has to be submitted to the state and to Superior Court in Monroe County. It was originally not done at the time of the appointment. Ms. Rosalyn Harbuck was appointed July 1, 2017 and her term will expire on June 30, 2021. The clerk certification authorizes Regina Ivie to sign and submit to Superior Court.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to approve the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2020 Electric Cities of Georgia Subscriptions

Ms. Hall stated the total for their fiscal year 2019 which ends June 30, 2019; our total \$105,134.00, fiscal year 2020 expires June 2020 \$108,690.00. That’s an increase \$3,556.00 from FY 19 to FY 20. Services includes engineering, education and training, pole inspections, and outage tracking.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to approve the subscription with ECG for FY 2020. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Accounts Payables Invoices \$319,930.27

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the invoices. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Requisitions Greater than \$5,000

Mr. Hewett made a motion to approve both requisitions listed. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hall stated the need for the requisitions per Mr. Hewett’s request.

City Manager Report

Ms. Hall read aloud a letter she received from The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

Ms. Hall offered the following report:

- Update on waterline break of June 8 – air release valve on the line from the plant into town broke causing the break; valves in place on the line in the area were not holding so that the water could be turned completely off to allow a quick repair to the line; Utility Partners was able to make the repair even with water still flowing but at a much lower flow than normal; the air release valve and cutoff valves have been replaced; it did take a little longer than anticipated for the system to return to normal. A huge Thank you to Utility Partners for their work on this repair and also to the citizens on the city water system for their conservation efforts which not only allowed the system to fill back up but also minimized the area that completely lost water. Thank you to Leigh Anne Mitchell for volunteering to come in and assist with answering the phones.
- I would like to take this opportunity to ask all city customers to please contact city hall at 478-994-5649 or email me at jhall@cityofforsyth.com to make sure we have updated phone and/or email contact information for you; we will work with EMA on their call out so that when we have an issue such as this that we need to contact just city water

customers, so that we have that capability. This is separate from the EMA calls that go out regarding weather issues so even if you have signed up for those calls, we need the information in our billing system to pull just those accounts for calls.

- The changes to the Retirement Plan Document are being drafted by GMA. We will have those by the first meeting in August; these will come before council in the form of an ordinance, so we will advertise that for the August 5 council meeting. I will be meeting with the different departments to review the changes to the retirement plan.
- I am in discussions the DOC regarding Mr. Goolsby's idea of a joint project to paint the water tower on DOC campus but information gathered during the renovation of the campus indicated that this would be a very expensive project (well into the 6-digits) due to the integrity, age and lack of maintenance over the years on the tower.
- The sewer force main that runs from the jail lift station to the sewer plant needs to be relocated due to the stream that it crosses being washed out; additionally, this line runs through Mr. Bostick's property and in order for him to repair the stream crossing on his property, our line must be moved; Utility Partners is working on cost estimate to move the line and will bring that back when we have the cost. A picture of line spanning creek is provided.
- You will soon see changes in the uniforms for electric and public works; the uniform shirts that the employees wear are thick and heavy, so they wear T-shirts under them and leave the uniform shirts unbuttoned and then put reflective vest on top of that – wearing essentially 3 layers in 90' temperatures; changing to the neon yellow shirts with the reflective strip which will be cooler even if they also have to occasionally put on the reflective vests.
- EPD has approved the change requested to the DE chlorination system. We will change from a liquid calcium thiosulfate injection system to a gaseous sulfur dioxide DE chlorination injection system; Utility Partners estimates this will save thousands of dollars annually.
- Regional Commission continues to work on a Pay Plan which includes job descriptions for all positions, pay scale and organizational charts.
- I have had a couple of conference calls with the architects regarding interior layout of new city hall; I think we have made the final changes on that and should have a revised layout this week. They are working on the asbestos remediation plan to get that out for bid so the demolition can begin.
- GDOT consulting party for the I75 commercial lane project presented at last meeting, unless you say otherwise tonight, I will be submitting a letter to them stating that we want to be part of the consulting party on this project.
- I presented Proclamation Guidelines for your review at last meeting; are there any changes/additions after reviewing that document?
- I will be speaking at all appointed board meetings reviewing board appointments, conduct of board members, and oaths taken and what that includes. I have spoken with DDA/Main Street and will attend all others over the next 2 months.
- I am developing an informational sheet for businesses regarding seating and/or signage on sidewalks focusing on ADA requirements and that they are not allowed to block sidewalks
- Cost to run power for TG Scott lift station will be \$29,390.41; CGEMC is doing the work and we will connect at the lift station; would have been significantly more to run city

power down Montpelier to lift station for us to serve; CGEMC will require ROW easement and service agreement which we will get completed and returned to them.

- Fireworks July 3 at Monroe County Recreation Complex
- Next Shred Day will be July 5 from 2-4 at the Farmers Market then again in August.
- GMA is June 21-25 you should have badges, itinerary and class handouts tonight.

City Attorney Report

Bobby Melton had no further business to report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson had no further business to report.

Council Comments

Council had no further business to report.

Public Comments

No one came forward for public comment.

Executive Session

Mayor Wilson stated council needed to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation and land transactions.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and land transactions. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting back into open session at 7:27 p.m.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to file with Monroe County Superior Court a petition for judicial review of the DOT's June 5th decision on the rail road crossing and to stay the DOT decision until court makes a ruling. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to amend the original arrangement with the DDA for the loan up to \$125k for old City Hall and we amend that to \$84893.48 that they actually spent. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Stroud offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.