

**MINUTES**  
**FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JANUARY 7, 2019**  
**CALL TO ORDER BY CITY CLERK**

In accordance with Section 2.18 of the City Charter, Janice Hall, City Clerk/City Manager, called the meeting to order. There were no oaths of office to be administered; therefore, Ms. Hall turned the meeting over to Mayor Wilson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION, AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Howard gave the invocation. Present for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmen Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, John Howard, Chris Hewett, and Melvin Lawrence. Councilmen Dodd and Stroud arrived approximately 10 minutes late during review of Board Appointments for Expired and Vacant Positions. All unanimous votes prior to their arrival will be four (4) votes for (Goolsby, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Wilson requested that the agenda be amended to include a temporary alcohol permit request from the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Mr. Howard, the motion carried unanimously.

**APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO-TEM**

Mr. Lawrence stated that council decided several years ago to give each councilman an opportunity to serve in the role of Mayor Pro-Tem and that this year would have been Dexter Kings' time to serve. Mr. Lawrence nominated Mr. Hewett as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2019. Mayor Wilson called for additional nominations, and hearing none, Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to close the floor for nominations. Seconded by Mr. Howard, the motion carried unanimously to close the floor for nominations. Mr. Hewett was approved unanimously with four (4) votes

**ADOPTION OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES**

Mayor Wilson reviewed that council has previously adopted the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order as parliamentary procedures for meetings.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to adopt the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order for all meetings. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously with four (4) votes.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR EXPIRED AND VACANT POSITIONS**

Ms. Hall reviewed each of the expired and vacant positions on each board. Mayor Wilson called for a vote for each expired or vacant position by board. Mr. Dodd and Mr. Stroud arrived during Ms. Halls review; therefore, all unanimous votes for the remainder of the meeting will be six (6) votes (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence).

Planning & Zoning to reappoint Martin Presley motion by Mr. Goolsby, Second by Mr. Dodd and unanimously approved.

Planning & Zoning to discuss nominations at the retreat motion by Mr. Goolsby, Second by Mr. Hewett and unanimously approved.

Downtown Development Authority to reappoint Otis Ingram and Kerri Swearingen motion by Mr. Dodd, Second by Mr. Goolsby and unanimously approved.

Convention & Visitors Bureau to reappoint Amy Knight and Kerri Swearingen motion by Mr. Hewett, Second by Mr. Lawrence and unanimously approved.

Convention & Visitors Bureau to discuss nominations at the retreat motion by Mr. Goolsby, Second by Mr. Stroud and unanimously approved.

Convention & Visitors Bureau annual appointment for City Council representative motion to reappoint Mr. Dodd by Mr. Hewett, Second by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Stroud asked Mr. Dodd if he wanted to serve again or if he wanted to allow Mr. Howard to serve in that role since he was previously a member of the CVB before being elected to City Council. Mr. Dodd stated that he would be fine with Mr. Howard serving in that role. Mr. Hewett withdrew his motion and Mr. Lawrence his second. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to appoint Mr. Howard as City Council representative to the CVB Board, Second by Mr. Hewett, and the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Hewett, and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Howard). Chamber of Commerce Advisory Board to reappoint Mr. Lawrence motion by Mr. Hewett, Second by Mr. Dodd, and five (5) votes for (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Howard, and Hewett) and one abstention (Lawrence). Housing Authority to reappoint Mrs. Jane Pennington whose term expired May 2018 and Mrs. Lynch whose term will expire May 2019 to discuss at retreat motion by Mr. Stroud, Second by Mr. Goolsby and unanimously approved.

Regional Commission Board to reappoint Mr. Lawrence motion by Mr. Goolsby, Second by Mr. Stroud and approved with five (5) votes for (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Howard, and Hewett) and one (1) abstention (Lawrence).

Golf Board new appointee for City Council representative on the board motion to appoint Mr. Dodd by Mr. Goolsby, Second by Mr. Stroud and approved with five (5) votes for (Stroud, Goolsby, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Dodd).

#### **2019 APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONALS**

Mayor Wilson reviewed the list of professionals to be reappointed for 2019. Mr. Stroud asked for additional information on the Public Defender and Probation appointees. Ms. Hall reviewed that both have been in place for a number of years and both are doing a good job. Chief Harris agreed with Ms. Hall. Mr. Dodd asked why the Auditor position is blank and Ms. Hall reviewed that the 2017 audit that was due June 30 still has not been submitted by the auditor and requested additional discussion at the retreat.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the appointments as presented. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **SET QUALIFYING FEES**

Mayor Wilson reviewed qualifying fees as 3% of the current salary; therefore, the qualifying fee for Mayor will be \$375 and for Council will be \$301.35.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the qualifying fees as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT RECOGNITIONS – EDDIE HARRIS**

Police Chief Eddie Harris came before council to introduce the newest member of the police department, Shenita Bell. Chief Harris stated that Officer Bell completed mandate in November and has already been sworn in by Mayor Wilson. Everyone welcomed Officer Bell to the police force.

Chief Harris recognized Officer Bruce Hughley, stating that Officer Hughley has been on the police force for 9 years and is being promoted to the position of Corporal. Chief Harris presented Corporal Hughley with his Corporal badge. Everyone congratulated Corporal Hughley on his promotion.

**APPROVE CHANGES TO FIREARM POLICY – EDDIE HARRIS**

Chief Harris called on Officer Glyn Corbitt to review the changes to the police departmental policies. Officer Corbitt is a fulltime instruction at GPSTC and works part time for the Forsyth Police Department as the Training Officer. Officer Corbitt came before council and stated that the changes approved by council for the Use of Force Policy required several small changes throughout the department policy so that all terminology was the same throughout the entire policy manual. Officer Corbitt reviewed the changes to the firearm policy stating that Section 3 of this policy is new and relates to off-duty carry of firearm. Mr. Hewett asks if this puts the city on good legal ground and Officer Corbitt stated that these changes meet with state law and training that the officers receive.

Mr. Howard offered a motion to approve the policy changes and addition as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

**REVIEW PROPOSALS AND AWARD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT FOR PARK PLAN**

Ms. Hall reviewed the proposals submitted including the rankings provided by the Regional Commission and the cost submitted in each proposal. Ms. Hall reviewed possible considerations for council as to how to move forward with an award of the project including her recommendation that council have 2 or 3 of the companies make a presentation to council. Mr. Howard offered a motion have the top 2 recommended by the Regional Commission make a presentation to City Council and Mr. Stroud seconded the motion. Mr. Stroud stated that one of the other firms list that they have done work with several small towns and would like to consider including them in the presentations. Mr. Howard amended his motion to include Falcon. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously. Council discussed when to have the presentations and agreed upon the first council meeting in February. Ms. Hall will contact Lose, TSW and Falcon to have them attend the first meeting in February and make their presentation.

**APPOINTMENT OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR GMA MAYOR’S DAY**

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Lawrence as voting delegate for GMA Mayors Day. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Howard, and Hewett) and one (1) abstention (Lawrence).

**APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR CONSUMPTION ON PREMISES – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Mayor Wilson reviewed the application received from the Chamber of Commerce to sale alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises for January 25, 2019 at the Monroe County Conference Center, 475 Holiday Circle for the Chamber Annual Awards Banquet.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the temporary alcohol permit. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES \$234,164.92**

Mrs. Hall reviewed all invoices before council for approval by department with a grand total of \$234,164.92.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the invoices as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000**

- a. ADC - 990 gallons captor chemical - \$7484.40
- b. Etheridge Heating & Air – install heat pump - \$6,600
- c. Core & Main – residential meters - \$7,760; business meters \$2,931.60 - \$10, 691.60
- d. DRMP – consultation on railroad crossings – not to exceed \$7,900

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the requisitions greater than \$5,000 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Ms. Hall offered the following report:

- Fire Chief/Soil & Erosion Officer has 4 open E&S plans; no major violations on any; some do have maintenance issues but those are being addressed as they can but difficult until this week due to the large amount of rainfall we have had in the last month; open plans are for Senior Center development, Volume Chevrolet, old Regency Inn development, and county fire station; chief monitors weekly and after every ½” rainfall event
- Hofstadter & Associates received Engineering Excellence State Award for Bunn Road water interconnectivity project and will receive the award on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency Hotel and all are invited to attend and Hofstadter & Associates will cover all cost
- Public hearing for variance request to allow an 83’ silo in HB will come before council 1/22
- Public hearing for petition received from Norfolk to close Indian Springs Drive crossing will be 1/22 at 5:30
- Public hearing for beer/wine pouring license for new owner Jonah on Johnston 1/22
- Received quote from a trapper regarding the coyote problem; cost for 14-day would be \$4165 with a \$1400 deposit and not responsible for domestic animals that may get trapped; we can only trap on city property so this will limit the area we can use unless we obtain permission from the property owner; local DNR referred me to Ft. Valley Game Management – they do not provide any assistance but said there is no closed season on shooting/trapping coyote. Mr. Stroud stated that this needs to be studied further before deciding how to move forward. Mr. Dodd stated that we need to do public awareness regarding leaving food out for pets before moving forward as well.
- Approved requisition for DRMP for consulting on RR crossings; previously reported that the City of Royston had a similar situation with the railroad that we have and I have contacted the consultant that they used which is Mark Jones (now with DRMP); not-to-exceed proposal is to evaluate 3 crossings (Indian Springs, Lee, and Johnston); if they cannot obtain traffic counts for these areas, there will be additional cost to get a traffic count; I recommend having a meeting with the consultant once they have completed their evaluation of the crossings prior to the public hearing
- Regional Commission has accepted the Technical Assistance request for updating the pay plan completed in 2011 that was never adopted; meeting this week to begin that process
- Request submitted to GMA to do the retirement study to change retirement to age plus years – will do separate study for all city and just for public safety
- Retreat is setup for Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am -1:00 pm; will have several guests attending to provide updates on projects
- Several new businesses are in the process of going through 1<sup>st</sup> Step and then P&Z
- Renfroe is a little behind schedule due to the rain keeping them from installing the roof; worked this past weekend and hope to have roof on by end of this week; looking at mid-February now for completion date; will begin work with Montego in March to get Splashpad ready for inspection to open
- David Herndon handling the work on the Legion Hall for restroom and kitchen; will bring those up to code so we can start renting building as we have inquiries almost weekly to rent the building
- Tammie Pierson handling outside work on old city hall/annex; should begin work within next week to remove stucco; plumbing & electrical work already being done; Scoops owner working on interior of old city hall
- Architects have contracted with surveyor to have site & utility survey done which should be complete next week; working to get environmental survey done; will be ready in couple of weeks to meet to discuss new building location. Mr. Hewett asked that the architects look at buildings on the new location for possible asbestos.

- A joint GMA\ACCG workshop on the 2020 Census will be held at the RC on March 6; please let me know if you would like to attend
- Shop With a Cop was a great success again this year with 12 children receiving \$150 to shop with
- NYE ball drop a great success this year with good weather and great turnout

#### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report. Mayor Wilson asked Mr. Melton about changing the ordinance to allow for naming public property. Mr. Melton stated that he needs additional information to proceed. Mr. Stroud stated that we need to remove the requirement that a person has to be deceased to have a building or property named after them. Mr. Stroud offered this as a motion. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously and Mr. Melton stated that he would submit a draft to council.

Mr. Melton thanked council for the reappointment as City Attorney.

#### **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Wilson offered the following report:

- Good New Year's Eve event, better than last year with better weather and attendance, estimates of over 500 in attendance
- Hosted a Mayor's Luncheon for all former mayors on Friday before Christmas and hope this continues as an annual event
- Introduced Holden Lee who is a medical student at Mercer University and is working on a community project

#### **ADDITIONAL REPORTS/BUSINESS**

Mr. Stroud stated that the New Year's Eve ball drop was awesome and that he liked the idea of a tent being available. Mr. Stroud spoke to several families in attendance at the event and all agreed it was a great event but wished there was something for the children to do.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – (MAYOR WILSON TO REVIEW RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one came forward for public comments.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An executive session was not held.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Manager