

**MINUTES
FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Hewett called on Fire Chief David Herndon for the invocation. Present for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, John Howard, Chris Hewett, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was City Attorney, Bobby Melton, and City Manager, Janice Hall.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

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

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENTAL POLICY FOR FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS REGARDING SAFE HAVEN – CHIEF DAVID HERNDON

Fire Chief, David Herndon, reviewed O.C.G.A Title 10 stating that State Law now includes police and fire departments as locations babies less than 30 days old can be left without detaining the mother and without requiring any information. Chief Herndon stated that this policy will be exact for the police and fire departments with the exception of the procedure to follow if the child is older than 30 days old. If a baby older than 30 days old is left at the fire department, the police department will be contacted. If a baby older than 30 days old is left at the police department or if the fire department contacts the police department regarding a baby left at the fire department that is older than 30 days old, the police department will contact DFACS. Mr. Stroud asked if this has happened in Monroe County and Chief Herndon stated that not that anyone can recall but that DFACS reports that it has happened seven times in Bibb County.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the departmental policy for the fire and police departments regarding Save Haven. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO CLOSE A PORTION OF JAMES STREET AND BENJAMIN STREET ON JULY 20, 2019 FROM 10:00 AM TO 10:00 PM FOR A JAMES STREET COMMUNITY REUNION

Ms. Hall reviewed the application and map stating that the requested street closure will begin just below the driveway entrance to St. Luke Church and will include Benjamin Street as it is a one-way street coming toward James Street.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the street closure as requested. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY ALCOHOL PERMIT FOR THE SALE OF BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR FOR MONROE COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ON APRIL 13, 2019 AT THE MONROE COUNTY CONFERENCE CENTER

Ms. Hall pointed out a change in the application that now list the alcohol to be provided and this applicant has marked beer, wine, and liquor.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the temporary alcohol permit request for Habitat For Humanity for April 13, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Howard, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH TUNNELL, SPANGLER & ASSOCIATES (TSW) FOR LANDSCAPE DESIGN SERVICES

Ms. Hall reviewed the contract stating that Mr. Melton has reviewed the contract and the only recommended change was the court venue in the case of litigation and TSW has agreed to make the change to Monroe County. Ms. Hall reviewed the exhibits included in the contract. Mr. Stroud asked the timeframe for completion and Ms. Hall stated 12 weeks.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the contract with TSW. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TRAVEL FOR MAYOR WILSON TO 2019 ECG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

Mayor Wilson stated that this is a summit that he does not attend every year and the last year he attended was 2016. Mayor Wilson stated that Ms. Pierson will be attending as well.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the travel request. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO PURCHASE TWO INVESTIGATOR VEHICLES

Ms. Hall reviewed the request from Chief Harris including the information for vehicles to be purchased and those being replaced. Ms. Hall stated that the hybrid will be reassigned to admin for a vehicle to be used travel.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the purchase of two cars for the investigator department. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AMENDMENT #3 TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPANT CONTRACT RELATING TO POLE ATTACHMENT SERVICES WITH ELECTRIC CITIES OF GEORGIA

Ms. Hall reviewed the contract stating that Johnny Hodges, Electrical Superintendent, attended the ECG meeting wherein this was reviewed and he recommends signing the amendment. Ms. Hall stated the amendment changes the way ECG will bill cities for the pole attachment service primarily due to the increased number of pole attachments AT&T has for their broadband service.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing Mayor Wilson to sign Amendment #3 to the IPC with ECG relating to pole attachment services. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

AWARD ENGINEER FOR CDBG PROJECT

Ms. Hall reviewed that the DCA recently changed the requirement for engineering for CDBG applications in that this must now be bid out, not just an appointment of the current city engineer. Ms. Hall stated that bids for CDBG engineer were due in today and the Regional Commission accepted and reviewed the submissions. Ms. Hall reviewed the evaluation from the Regional Commission as Hofstadter & Associates score of 70.5; Watkins & Associates score of 64.5; and Falcon Design score of 45.5. Ms. Hall recommended awarding the CDBG engineering to Hofstadter & Associates.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to award the engineer for the CDBG to Hofstadter & Associates. Seconded by Mr. Howard, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY ALCOHOL PERMIT FOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENT MARCH 2, 2019 AT THE CONFERENCE CENTER

Ms. Hall reviewed the application pointing out again the change in the application with this applicant requesting beer, wine, and liquor.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the temporary alcohol permit for the Chamber of Commerce for March 2, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$468,177.45

Ms. Hall reviewed invoices for approval by department for a grand total of all invoices \$468,177.45. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the accounts payable invoices as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000

ADC – captor (dechlorinating solution to remove chlorine from discharge water - \$7,484.40

Kenny’s Repair – SCAG mower for cemetery crew - \$10,750

Kenny’s Repair – SCAG mower for public works crew - \$10,750

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the requisitions greater than \$5,000 as presented and Mr. Hewett seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion regarding the life span of the mowers, quality of the equipment, when the last mowers were purchased, and why we purchase SCAG mowers, the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Hall stated she would research and provide answers to the questions asked.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Hall offered the following report:

- The amendments to the ordinance regarding naming of city owned buildings or properties is being advertised; I have provided everyone with a draft copy with suggestions for possible amendments; please review those and let me know if you have any questions; Section 2-163 is the criteria section and I have taken liberty to provide 2 separate recommendations
- Alcohol district – provided draft of proposed ordinance; this follows exactly as City of Monroe ordinance; need feedback before moving forward
- Tree Board planted 7 dogwoods along W Johnston on Friday for Arbor Day; PW removed the diseased dogwoods and Tree Board provided the trees
- Tree Board will work to replant appropriate trees on S Lee where the diseased trees were removed by GDOT; also sidewalk crew will add S Lee to their schedule now that trees have been removed
- Speed bumps have been installed on Newton Memorial in effort to slow down school traffic cutting through from backside of BOE; if doesn’t slow traffic down may have to look at blocking off end of Newton Memorial at end of city street; receiving numerous complaints regarding speed, driving through cemetery and racing in the area
- RFP for Solid Waste was sent out last week; responses are due by 3/15
- Job announcement for payroll/AP clerk was posted last week; applications with resumes are due to me no later than EOD 3/8
- Surveys mailed to property owners in area for CDBG application for water line replacement in Blount Street area; encourage anyone that you know that lives or owns property to please respond by sending the survey back in or speaking with the RC when they come around to each

house this week; will have representative from water department with the RC rep in case the resident has questions about the water; need to know if any elected official has a financial interest in any property in the area

- 2017 audit submitted to the state on 2/11; working with Charles and Wayne Driver on 2018 audit
- Meeting with architects next week to discuss new location and plan for city hall; buildings are finally cleaned out; asbestos testing being scheduled
- Eddie still working with GDOT on the Jake-brake signs to get signage with wording as they require and permission to place on their signs and ROW
- Variance request from Dipak Patel and Jay Anand Corporation to allow gas pumps in the front area of store will come before council on 3/4 ; this is for demolition and rebuild of Valero station at Lee/I75
- MS Events begin in April Kite Day April 13
- Forsythia Festival – 5k , Hello Yellow, and Food Truck Frenzy is this Saturday; 3/1 is Lettermen concert at Fine Arts; 3/2 Greatest Night at conference center; 3/5 Business 2 Business at Connie Ham Realty; then all the regular Forsythia events 3/8-3/10
- Have only been flushing line from Bunn Road until last week; instructed UP to begin flowing the lines in case they are needed; they are slowly introducing water through the lines to valves just below Hamlin Hills, monitoring for leaks on the line; planning to run the station on Wednesday
- Annual water audit is due March 1; Craig is working to finalize a few of the sections; Bentley Cox is certified to sign off on the water audit and will do so this week so Craig can submit it
- Sanitary Survey on system conducted 2/6; no major deficiencies, just a few minor issues to correct
- Received complaint from business on E Main about parking; would like to offer parking on new city property at building until time that we begin demolition/construction
- Restroom remodel – doors & frames received were incorrect, had to return them and should have correct ones delivered this week; partitions installed; will finish painting after doors & frames are installed

Mr. Hewett stated the street lights in Betsy Lynn subdivision have been repaired.

Mr. Hewett asked if we could do something about the recycle center and sawmill on Highway 41 and how they look from the roadway. Ms. Hall stated that this is included in the goals for 2019 to beautify all entrances to the city.

Mr. Hewett stated that he received a complaint regarding Herbie Johnson parking his business vehicles in the cemetery and along the road between the cemetery and Chambers Street. Ms. Hall asked if this complaint was recent because she had received a complaint when American Tank was working on the water tank and it turned out that the vehicles belonged to them and not to Johnson Plumbing. Ms. Hall stated she would speak with Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Hewett stated that flowers are being discarded along the edge of the city cemetery and not getting picked up by the workers. Mr. Dodd stated the road around the cemetery is not a city street but is used by public as one.

Mr. Stroud asked if we can have the Splashpad open for Spring Break and then close it back until the beginning of summer. Ms. Hall stated that we have to work with the Health Department to complete the annual application and once we pass inspection, we need to keep the Splashpad open or the chemicals

will have to be balanced again. Ms. Hall asked when Spring Break is and Mr. Stroud responded the first week of April. Ms. Hall stated that she would work with the Health Department and Montego Pools to see if we can have it opened by then.

Mr. Lawrence asked if it is okay to install speed bumps and Ms. Hall stated that the ones installed on Newton Memorial were approved by city council and the School Superintendent. Ms. Hall stated that she is aware that Mr. Lawrence has received requests to install speed bumps in other locations. Mr. Howard stated that some are needed on Blount Street as well.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilson offered the following report:

- AED has been installed in Aldermen Hall and three council members were certified/recertified in CPR last weekend
- Award banquet for Hofstadter & Associates will be February 23 if anyone is interested in attending
- Gave the State of the City address to the Merry Hearts today and received good feedback from them regarding how the city is operating and the areas of concentration for 2019
- Mr. Hewett asked Mayor Wilson if there is office space available for council members to use a computer for research and Mayor Wilson responded that council can use his office for research or meetings. Mr. Lawrence asked if the file cabinets are still in his office and Mayor Wilson responded that they are.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Lawrence thanked Mayor Wilson for the CPR training.

Mr. Dodd commended the Tree Board for their work stating that they are the hardest working board that we have.

Mr. Howard stated that he would like mayor and council to go together and donate money to the family of the employee that passed away recently. Mayor Wilson stated that anyone wishing to donate can do so with Ms. Hall and she will provide the donations to the family.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (MAYOR WILSON TO REVIEW RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Chris Eady, a member of the 2019 Monroe Leadership Class, addressed council stating that the Leadership Class is looking for beautification projects and requested suggestions from council. He stated the class would be meeting again on February 25 if suggestions could be received before then.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Howard offered a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of personnel matters. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried and council adjourned into executive session at 6:58 pm.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting back into open session at 8:00 pm.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Monroe County to transfer ownership of the city canine and bite suit from the City to the County with the stipulation that the City receive 10% of all seized funds up to \$10,000, from the use of the canine in both the City and County, above what we would normally receive, for a period of 24 months from the time the County puts

the canine into service. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Wilson stated that the city will continue to receive 100% of all misdemeanor funds within the city limits.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Manager