

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 16, 2018

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

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

All unanimous votes will be five (5) votes (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Hewett, and Lawrence).

Mayor Wilson reviewed with everyone that we would take care of the required agenda items tonight, then move into the Town Hall meeting. Mayor Wilson stated that the Town Hall meeting is being held as a part of Georgia Cities Week and that the first plantings for the Community Garden were done tonight prior to the Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

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

APPROVAL TO CLOSE JAMES STREET ON JULY 21, 2018 FROM NOON TO 8:00 PM FOR COMMUNITY REUNION – APPLICANT EVELENE CALLOWAY

Mrs. Hall reviewed the application to close James Street on July 21, 2018 from noon to 8:00 pm for a community reunion. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the street closure as presented on the application. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$222,679.83

Mrs. Hall reviewed the accounts payable invoices by department for a total of all invoices presented of \$222,679.83. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to pay the accounts payable invoices as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000

J&M Displays for fireworks - \$6,000 and Calibration Controls Automation – repairs to lift station at Super 8 - \$5,066.74

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve both requisitions presented with totals greater than \$5,000. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

TOWN HALL MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, OR INPUT

County Commission Chairman, Greg Tapley, was in attendance and Mayor Wilson recognized him and thanked him for attending the Town Hall meeting.

Ronald Bearden stated that he had spoken with the owner of 100 Conifer Drive and had been asked to report to council that the drain pipe had been blocked and the city had promised to return and make additional repairs that have not been done. Mayor Wilson asked Mrs. Hall to check on this and she stated that she would.

PRESENTATIONS BY:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief, Eddie Harris, made a presentation to council on how citizens should properly report crime or suspicious activity to the police department. Chief Harris stated that the department needs community input and it takes a community to protect a community; signs will be posted in neighborhoods; reports can be made anonymously; and reviewed the “See Something – Say Something” slogan. Chief Harris stated that any neighborhood wanting to start a Neighborhood Watch program can contact the police department.

Chairman Greg Tapley added that an arrest was made today for the person responsible for stealing signs around the county and this arrest was due in part by an anonymous tip received by the Sheriff’s Department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief, David Herndon, reported that the fire department received 439 calls for assistance; 11 structure fires; city and county departments work well together; 5 city firefighters received the Cardiac Save Award; working on a Cancer Prevention Policy for the department to enhance the state law recently passed to require additional cancer policy coverage for all firefighters; working to improve our ISO II ranking; reviewed the “Turn Your Attention To Fire Prevention” program and Nancy Patten’s work with all the schools on fire prevention. Mr. Hewett asked Chief Herndon what an average response time is within the city and Chief Herndon responded 2-3 minutes. Mr. Stroud reviewed the professionalism of the firefighters at a recent fire at his mother’s home. Mr. Lawrence asked Chief Herndon what the firefighters would do if a train is blocking the track. Chief Herndon stated they would first determine the direction of the train and then determine the next crossing beyond the train and further stated that this does not happen often but is always a part of their training. Chief Herndon thanked the Mayor, Council, and City Manager for their support of the department.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Craig Helms, Utility Partners Project Manager, presented information on how citizens can conserve water. Mr. Helms began by thanking the citizens for responding when notices are sent out requesting conservation efforts due to a line break. Mr. Helms reviewed that by reducing shower times, reducing rinsing of dishes, fixing leaking pipes, washing only full loads of laundry, reducing outside watering to once per week and only during 4 pm – 10 am times, installing rain sensor on irrigation systems, and using a broom to remove debris rather than a hose could reduce water consumption by up to 100 million gallons per year if all citizens followed these conservation measures. Mr. Helms encouraged citizens to regularly read their meter to check for an increase in consumption. Mr. Lawrence asked how it is determined if a leak is repaired by the city or the customer and Mr. Helms responded that any leak up to and including the meter is the city’s responsibility and any leak past the meter including the connection to the meter is the customer’s responsibility.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

Electric Superintendent, Johnny Hodges, presented information regarding common causes of a high electric bill, proper settings and functionality of a heat pump, and how a utility audit can provide possible ways to conserve electricity and lower the electric bill over time but is not a tool to immediately reduce consumption. Mr. Hodges and Mrs. Hall encouraged citizens to sign up for “budget billing” at city hall.

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

CVB Chairperson, Kerri Swearingen, and CVB Director, Gilda Spraybery presented the quarterly report for the CVB and reviewed current CVB projects.

MAINSTREET

Main Street Coordinator, Tammie Pierson, stated that this Town Hall meeting is a part of Georgia Cities Week events. Mrs. Pierson reviewed recent and upcoming Main Street events. Mrs. Pierson reviewed information she has compiled for immediate work on the American Legion Hall building, which is roughly estimated at \$10,000. Council agreed that the work needed to be done and the building preserved. Mrs. Hall stated that we will get quotes for bare minimum of work to be done and for full remodel of building. Mr. Hewett stated that the building should be on the Historic Register if it is not already.

CITY MANAGER

Mrs. Hall thanked the department heads for the presentations made and thanked council for allowing the presentations as part of the Town Hall meeting. Mrs. Hall reviewed the Quick Facts sheet regarding garbage pickup as to what Advanced Disposal will pick up and on what days. Mrs. Hall stated that the Splashpad will open once the Health Department receives all paperwork for the permit renewal and an RFP for the remodel of the restrooms will be going out soon. Mrs. Hall encouraged citizens to use SeeClickFix to report street lights outs, pot holes, anything of disrepair that needs to be brought to the city workers attention. Mrs. Hall asked if council has a preference as to when and where to begin the Walk With an Elected Official and council agreed to leave it to Mrs. Hall to schedule.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business to discuss.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall
City Manager