

Minutes

Forsyth City Council Meeting

June 4, 2018

Call To Order, Pledge Of Allegiance, Invocation And Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes Of The May 21, 2018, Council Meeting

Mr. Mike Dodd offered a motion to approve the May 31, 2018, council meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Chris Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing-Beer, Wine And Liquor Package License Application For 111-B MLK-Applicant Suhash Patel

Mr. Melton reviewed the application as a beer, wine, and liquor packaging application; was properly advertised in the May 23 and 30, 2018 issues of the Reporter; sign was posted in the window as required; Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the beer, wine and liquor packaging. Hearing no comments for or against the request, Mayor Wilson closed the public meeting.

Mr. Howard offered a motion to approve the application for beer, wine, liquor packaging for 111-B MLK and the motion was seconded by Mr. Goolsby.

Mr. Stroud stated that he is not for approval of this request as it doesn't enhance the community and that children live in the area and frequent the location. The area needs something positive, not a liquor store. Mayor Wilson asked would they still have the convenience store. Ms. Hall reviewed that the owner stated they would be adding the liquor store to the left side of the building that is currently used for storage. The doorway from the convenience store to the liquor store will have to be closed up and a separate entrance put on the front of the building all of which will require P&Z approve. Mr. Stroud stated that this is in a neighborhood so it is wrong. Mr. Dodd asked how many are allowed. Mrs. Hall answered four, and this being number four. Mr. Goolsby stated that the convenience store sells beer and

wine and Mayor Wilson, agreed yes. Mr. Howard said that he understood the concerns, but does not see how this would hurt the community. People have alcohol available already and in other places. Mr. Goolsby asked if council could approve beer and wine but not liquor. Mr. Melton asked what grounds there would be for not approving the liquor portion of the application and Mr. Goolsby responded to just not approve the liquor. Attorney Melton stated if meets zoning that is not a valid reason. Mr. Stroud stated that it is next door to the birthing center and that is not right. He stated that the other liquor store to be built is close to Forsyth Garden Apartments and this one next to Brookwood neighborhood. Mr. Melvin Lawrence stated that the stores we have now are in neighborhoods and no one came tonight in opposition so people don't care, and doesn't see where it will hurt anything. Mr. Lawrence asked if this can be tabled to research further? Mr. Melton stated that he understands the placement of the building and the way to handle this is through zoning code. Mrs. Hall clarified that a liquor store is not specifically named in the zoning ordinance and all other liquor stores are approved as retail and council must approve the alcohol license. Mr. Melton said he cannot be sure it's defensible if denied as we must have rational defined reasons for denial. Mr. Dodd said it is a zoning issue and all the others are in the commercial districts. We need to look at the zoning ordinance. Mr. Lawrence stated that if there are mixed feelings we need to table for more information. Mayor Wilson asked what would change if tabled? Mayor Wilson called for the vote and the motion carried with four (4) votes for (Goolsby, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence) and two (2) votes against (Dodd and Stroud).

Appoint Voting Proxy for GMEBS, GMA, WCSF, GIRMA, and DC Annual Meeting-June 25, 2018

Mr. Hewett offered a motion for the GMA Chairman to serve as proxy. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.

Approve Street Closure Request For Parson Street From Ramael Davis For June 23, 2018, For Forsyth Day aka Fox City Day

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the request to close a portion of Parson Street on June 23, 2018 and it was seconded by Mr. Hewett. Chief Eddie Harris said the only problem is with dirt bikes and four wheelers, and he has told them that those cannot be included. Mr. Mike Dodd stated that the name may create a problem and confusion with the Leadership project and it was decided that it will enhance the Leadership Monroe project. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve Street Closure Request For Jackson Street From The Pickled Okra For June 22, 2018

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the request to close a portion of Jackson Street on June 22, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Dodd, Stroud, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence) and one abstention (Goolsby) due to interest in the business, The Pickled Okra.

Special Election Results

Mrs. Hall reviewed the results of the May 22, 2018 Special City Election as John Howard II 248 votes, Ronald Bearden 218 votes, and 1 write-in vote. Mr. John Howard II was elected to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Dexter King. Council discussed the need to have one voting location for the City and the County. Mayor Wilson stated that he has briefly discussed this with the Election Board.

Approval Of Accounts Payable Invoices \$261,376.87

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the accounts payable invoices. Seconded by Mr. Chris Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval Of Requisitions Greater Than \$5000

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the requisitions greater than \$5000. Seconded by Mr. Mike Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Report

Mrs. Hall offered the following report:

- Storms last night knocked out electricity to intake at reservoir; this is served by Southern Rivers Energy and they restored power late this morning; tanks are refilling but will take 24-36 hours to get back to full; appreciate all those that conserved water during this time
- City power was out for hour or so last night due to the main feeders in to both our substations being knocked out but Ga Power was able to bypass and get power restored quickly; thanks to all that worked during the night to restore power
- Inspection for Splashpad is at 10 in the morning then it will be open for the season; times for Splashpad are same as parks 8 – 10
- Received report of ticks being really bad in country club park; we have rabon but not a sprayer since we stopped spraying couple of years back; Anita has agreed for county to use our chemicals to spray city parks
- Mr. Raina has submitted letter withdrawing his appeal on his alcohol denial

Mr. Chris Hewett inquired about additional repairs on the Legion Hall. Mrs. Hall said that Tammie Pierson is working on proposals for bare minimum repairs and a complete remodel of the building.

Mr. Goolsby asked why doesn't the City just turn on the valve at Bunn Road rather than ask citizens to conserve water when we have issues such as this weekend when the power was off at the intake due to storm related power outages. Mrs. Hall reviewed the process. Mayor Wilson stated that it needs a practice run. Mr. Chris Hewett asked if the size of the generator is large enough and Mrs. Hall stated that

it was until Hurricane Irma took it out of commission. Mr. Mike Dodd said there is a need to run city power to the intake.

Mr. Stroud asked about the delays in the sidewalk work on Tift College Drive and Mrs. Hall stated that the delays are due to the rainfall we have received lately.

City Attorney's Report

Mr. Melton asked if the withdrawal from Ashud Raina was in writing and Mrs. Hall provided him with the letter from Mr. Raina. Mr. Melton stated that is sufficient.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson offered the following report:

- There was a joint meeting last Tuesday without a City quorum. Group is now being referred to as One Monroe because not just city and county. Plan is to keep meeting quarterly but to have small group meetings monthly to create projects for the group.
- Status of New City Hall Building-The County offered joining the County but they have now decided not to move. Mr. Julius Stroud said the next step is a new building, and seconded by Mr. Mike Dodd. Mr. Greg Goolsby suggested not building additional building. Mayor Wilson added they are looking at property that the City already has and not SPLOST design build or construction manager for city building. Mr. Julius Stroud requested information on each to be educated as to which is the better option. Mr. Greg Goolsby added that the design build can make changes and not pay premium. With the construction manager method you have to pay to manage the project and the fee is based on the total cost. Mr. Mike Dodd added that the construction manager is part of the tame and can make changes. Mike Dodd said you will want someone that's not associated with the project if possible. The next architect meeting is June 12, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Mayor Wilson appointed Mr. Howard to the Annexation Committee.

Mr. Dodd stated the Service Delivery Committee has not met due to waiting on the County regarding the SDS Committee. Mayor Wilson stated that the County wants to leave percentage as is regarding SPLOST. The Mayor reviewed how SPLOST is broken down and discussed if using population or other method to develop percentage. Mr. Mike Dodd said he would like to see us fight for more percentage. Mayor Wilson said we need to be able to substantiate why we are asking for more. Mr. Dodd stated the infrastructure needs to be upgraded and we need money for that to happen. City Manager, Janice Hall said we need to use SPLOST dollars for what citizens can see and know is being done. Mayor Wilson said we need to decide on the projects to be done. Council Stroud said we need to do a

better job to educate the public on SPLOST. Janice Hall reviewed how the referendum is worded and said it is not specific. Mayor Wilson said we need a meeting to begin those discussions and create a project's list.

Additional Council Reports

Mr. Stroud stated regarding code enforcement the City needs to pay attention to both the old Colonial Store and Ann's Deli. We need to make the gateway to the community look presentable

Mr. Hewett had concerns regarding dilapidated housing.

Mr. Howard brought to the attention that break-ins are on the rise. There's no real proof to validate but crime does rise in the summer. The Police Department is short and we need to get them staffed. Would like to see Council and Chief meet together to see what can be done. Mrs. Hall reviewed meeting with Chief Harris to discuss what can be done to retain and attract new officers. Mayor Wilson appointed Ad Hoc Police Committee-Howard, Hewett, and Stroud. Chief Harris stated that even though Police Department is short staffed we still have to allow time for training and still have officers attending training. Mr. Stroud asked for the number short and Chief Harris stated just short staffed and would rather not advertise the number of officers that we currently are short.

Public Comments-(Mayor Wilson to Review Rules For Public Comments)

Public Comments

Mr. Ronald Bearden came before council and stated that citizens ask him about having a street light installed at the entrance to Manor at Montpelier. Mr. Bearden also asked for an update for 100 Conifer Drive and Mrs. Hall stated no update at this time.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Manager