

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 16, 2018

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. Howard gave 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

Motion by Mr. Stroud; 2nd by Mr. Hewett; approved unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 2, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

Motion by Mr. Hewett; 2nd by Mr. Lawrence; approved unanimously

DISCUSSION & REVIEW WITH AMERICAN TANK REGARDING CHANGING PAINT COLOR FOR CEMETERY WATER TANK

Mrs. Hall stated that Mr. Dodd asked at a previous council meeting that the color of the water tank in the cemetery be considered since the new city hall building will be built on the adjacent property to the tank. Mrs. Hall stated that she met with representatives of American Tank and Mr. Brad McConnell is here tonight to make a presentation on various color options and cost estimates to make the color change. Mr. Brad McConnell provided a PowerPoint presentation that included pictures of the other three city water tanks before and after pictures of the inside and outside of the tanks, pictures of the cemetery tank, and pictures of other tanks that American Tank has painted to provide options for council to consider. Mr. McConnell also reviewed the cost associated with changing a logo (artwork) on a tank and stated that if they were to price painting the existing logo it would be in the \$10,000 to \$12,000 range. After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Wilson stated that the consensus of council is to let the architects for the new city hall guide us in the process of deciding on a color for the water tank. Mr. Stroud stated that he likes that we honor Mary Persons High School with the logo on the cemetery tank. Mr. McConnell agreed to provide renderings of what the current wording and emblem would look like on different colors. Mayor Wilson stated that we need to figure out the color of the new building and then get renderings to see what best matches.

MIKE HOWELL – PARK PLACE HOMES WATER BILL – REQUEST FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Mr. Mike Howell came before council to request assistance with the large water bill that he received for his property on Montpelier Road, Park Place Homes. Mr. Howell stated that he had a leak earlier in the year and repaired that only to have another large leak in May where the end pipe blew out and it took him a long time to find the leak. Mrs. Hall reviewed the account stating that the account used almost 3 million gallons of water for May and June and the bill is over \$25,000. Council reviewed the information provided which showed that the account should have been disconnected March 4, 2018 but was not. Mrs. Hall explained that the person responsible for disconnecting accounts was not doing their job at the time, was written up for that and that disconnects are now being done. After a lengthy discussion regarding Mr. Howell's request, Mr. Goolsby reviewed that if the account had been disconnected on March 4, 2018 as indicated in the system, Mr. Howell would not have experienced the large leak in May or June.

Motion by Mr. Goolsby to adjust bill to what it was when it should have been disconnected on March 4, 2018 and bill the next three bills based on a twelve month average prior to the leak in May 2018; 2nd by Mr. Howard; approved unanimously

APPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH FORSYTH GOLF CLUB – RICK SCHULZ AND LAMAR RUSSELL

Mr. Lamar Russell came before council to request a three year agreement between the City and the Golf Club for the management of the golf course. Mr. Russell reviewed several items that the Golf Club would like the City's assistance with. Mr. Russell explained that the Grounds Superintendent resigned and they have someone that they want to offer the position to but cannot make an offer with having only a 6 month management agreement with the city.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to contract with the Golf Club for 36 months effective August 2, 2018 and Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Mr. Goolsby requested that the City Manager meet with the Golf Club to go over the requested changes that they would like to make to the current agreement.

Mr. Stroud rescinded his motion. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the Management Agreement for the period of February 2, 2018 through August 2, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to extend the Management Agreement for 36 months at the expiration of the current agreement which will be August 2, 2018. The 36 month agreement will begin August 3, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sam Freeman asked about the utility bills that are included in the Management Agreement and Mayor Wilson stated that this should be included in the discussion with the City Manager regarding changes to be brought back to council.

APPROVAL TO CLOSE N. HARRIS STREET ON JULY 28 FOR BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT – APPLICANT TYREE SMITH AND PASTOR JONATHAN LOWDER AND THE MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH OF BOLINGBROKE

Pastor Jonathan Lowder and Tyree Smith came before council to request permission to close Harris Street between Johnston and Adams Streets as they have for the past two years to hold a back to school event. Pastor Lowder stated that they will provide free haircuts, school supplies, and bounce houses for the kids to play on. The hours of the event will be 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Mr. Stroud thanked Pastor Lowder and Mr. Smith for what they do for the community.

Motion by Mr. Stroud; 2nd by Mr. Lawrence; approved unanimously

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$263,735.14

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoices by department.

Motion by Mr. Hewett; 2nd by Mr. Dodd; approved unanimously

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000

a. ADC – chemicals for SWWTP - \$7484.40

b. Reed & Shows Meter Repair & Supply – rebuild of large meter and replace small meter at GPSTC - \$10,239

Motion by Mr. Hewett; 2nd by Mr. Lawrence; approved unanimously

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mrs. Hall offered the following report:

- Reminder that two zoning issues will be presented to P&Z on 7/23 – Ingram Entities for remodel of loft apartments and permanently block a portion of Jackson Street for new fire exit from 2nd floor and Vaughn’s request to rezone property on Juliette Road between Village Oak Apartments and Evergreen Subdivision
- Preparing for noncriminal fingerprint audit by GBI; Nancy Patten in city POC for all noncriminal fingerprint reports; fire dept. audit is this week and city hall audit is 7/24
- Good information received at the MEAG Annual meeting especially how to promote our community; will be working with APPA to get on their mailing list and to get templates for information that they provide
- MEAG & ECG are holding a cybersecurity workshop in Forsyth on 9/17
- Waiting on final inspection from GDOT for Streetscape Phase III to close out that project then we can remove all the work signs
- Montego Pool getting pricing to change out filter at Splashpad; working with installer to see if any of the issues that we are experiencing are covered under warranty; getting additional signage for proper attire, no animals, no water balloons, no glass
- Servers for Incode and Court have outlived their life expectancy and will need to be replaced; IHS has patched them as much as they can

- Advanced Disposal has submitted notice that they will be passing on a cost for recycling; their provider, Attaway Recycling, has notified them that they will begin “charging a fee for transportation and processing of single stream recyclables and other materials”; the fee of \$30/ton for materials delivered to Attaway Recycling will be charged to AD and they will pass this cost on to us; passing this cost on to us is covered in Index 5.3 of the agreement for other service fee adjustments; in June the city recycled 22.72 tons so the additional cost based on that amount would be \$681.60
- The Movers & Shakers Group (chamber, DAMC, MS, CVB, city) is working with RC to develop a survey to put out to the community to get feedback on how the residents see the community and what best represents the community; hoping to have it finalized by the joint meeting 7/31
- Water main break this morning on Country Club Drive; basement of one home received water damage, home owner requested that foundation be inspected to ensure no foundation damage; working with insurance company to get inspection; Boil Water Advisory issued for Country Club Drive between Meadow and Johnston; will flush hydrants tonight, take water sample to Macon Water Authority in the morning and hopefully have results back on Wednesday
- Next One Monroe meeting will be July 31 at 5:30 pm; location may change
- Concert August 4 on the square – Sandy & the game

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Wilson reviewed information that he had received from Mayor Pippin of the City of Jackson regarding how they are handling blight and stated that he plans to meet with her and get additional information to bring back to council.

Mayor Wilson reviewed Forestry Association meeting he recently attended.

Mayor Wilson stated that he will be attending a meeting on Thursday with the G-DOT Board member.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE AND ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORTS

Police Ad-Hoc Committee

Mr. Howard reviewed that the committee held two meetings; discussed how council can help the police department by reviewing what is working and what is needed.

Mr. Howard offered a recommendation from the committee to have the City Manager work with GMA on a cost study to amend the retirement age for all city employees and a separate study for public safety employees. Mrs. Hall stated that the study is \$1,200 and GMA recommends waiting until after the 2017 valuation is complete to have more recent salary information on the employees. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Mr. Howard offered a recommendation from the committee to offer a referral bonus for police department employees for new hire referrals. This referral program would pay an employee a bonus of \$250 for referring a non-certified officer after their completion of mandate and field training or a bonus of \$500 for referring a certified officer after completion of field training. Mr. Stroud stated that this will allow our officers to paint a positive picture of their department. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Additional Council Reports

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to terminate writing parking tickets from 6:00 pm on Friday to 6:00 am on Monday and refund any fines already paid. Mr. Goolsby asked how far back would we go to issue the refunds and Mr. Hewett stated a couple of months. Mayor Wilson asked if Mr. Hewett was referring to all parking violations and Mr. Goolsby stated that if this is just for those attending church, why not make it for Sunday only. Mayor Wilson reviewed some parking issues that he is aware of on Adams Street at Circle of Care where people are parking on both sides of the street and this prevents a fire truck from passing through the street. Mayor Wilson stated that parking in fire lanes and at fire hydrants

falls under parking citations as well and asked if Mr. Hewett was including those in his motion. Mr. Howard stated that we should have the Police Chief and City Manager discuss to bring back a recommendation rather than tell the police department what to do as this may cross the line and set a precedent for council doing away with citations after they are written. Mr. Hewett rescinded his motion. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to terminate writing parking citations from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on Sunday but not to include fire lane and fire hydrant violations. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stroud stated there is graffiti on the basketball court at Kynette Park that needs to be taken care of.

Mr. Stroud stated that he would like the city to eventually get more involved on social media, stating that communities with small social media presence do not do well. Mr. Stroud stated that the city website needs to be upgraded to a more modern look and increase our digital footprint.

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

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was not needed.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Stroud; 2nd by Mr. Hewett; approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Manager