

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 6, 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. Hewett gave the invocation. Present for the meetings was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Greg Goolsby, John Howard, Chris Hewett, and Melvin Lawrence.

Councilman Julius Stroud was unable to attend the meeting; therefore all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes for (Dodd, Goolsby, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2016 council meeting as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

HOUSE DISTRICT 141 REPRESENTATIVE DALE WASHBURN

Newly elected Representative Dale Washburn came before council to thank Monroe County for their support during the recent election and that he looks forward to working with Forsyth and Monroe County. Representative Washburn provided his cell number and email address.

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST – TAMMIE PIERSON

Mrs. Pierson, Main Street Director, came before council to review street closures needed for this Saturdays Lip Sync Challenge video. Mrs. Pierson requested to close Jackson Street, between Main and Adams, and Johnston Street between Lee and Phelps. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the street closure request. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR AN APPLICATION FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (BEER AND WINE) BY THE PACKAGE – APPLICANT NARENDAR KAUR – LOCATED AT 37 SOUTH JACKSON STREET

Mr. Melton reviewed the application for beer and wine package license at 37 S. Jackson Street; advertisement was run in the July 25 and August 1 issues of the Reporter; application packet appears to be in order; and a beer and wine application license has been held at this location for a number of years. Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the application. Applicant Narendar Kaur was present but made no comments. Hearing no comments for or against the approval of the license application, Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing. Mr. Howard offered a motion to approve the beer and wine package license for 37 S. Jackson. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

CVB QUARTERLY REPORT – GILDA STANBERY

Ms. Gilda Stanbery, CVB Director, and Mrs. Kerri Swearingen, CVB Board Chair, came before council to provide the quarterly report for the CVB. Ms. Stanbery reviewed that hotel tax revenue appears to be up again this year and CVB website use is steadily increasing.

APPROVAL TO CANCEL SEPTEMBER 3, 2018 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AND SCHEDULE CALLED MEETING DUE TO LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Mrs. Hall stated that the first Monday in September is on Labor Day and there are several public hearings to be advertised for the first meeting in September. After discussion of several possible dates, Mr. Howard offered a motion to cancel the September 3 council meeting and hold a called council meeting on September 6 at 6:00 pm to handle all business that needs to come before council at that time. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Hewett stated that he would not be able to attend on that day.

APPROVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT, REPORTING AND SUPPORT SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE EDA GRANT PROJECT FOR ELECTRICAL UPGRADE IN THE MONROE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK

Mrs. Hall stated that the \$30,000 in the services contract is included in the grant. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the Professional Services Contract with the Regional Commission. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

ANIMAL CONTROL AGREEMENT WITH MONROE COUNTY FOR 2018

Mrs. Hall stated that the last agreement approved for Animal Control services included increasing the annual amount from \$5,000 to \$7,500 however, the county has continued to invoice the city at the \$5,000 rate. Mrs. Hall stated that this agreement has the \$7,500 annual amount along with increasing the per dog picked up amount from \$15 to \$22. Mr. Dodd stated that this is another example of double taxation on city residents. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the annual contract with the county at the new amounts. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried with four (4) votes for (Goolsby, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence) and one (1) vote against (Dodd).

APPROVAL TO AMEND BUDGET FOR FIRE CAPITAL OUTLAY

Mrs. Hall stated that the recent sale of the fire truck and approval to use those funds to purchase a new pickup truck for the fire department requires an increase in the budget for the fire capital outlay. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to increase the budget line item for the fire capital outlay line item. Seconded by Mr. Howard, the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT PRELIMINARY 2018 MILLAGE RATE

Mrs. Hall provided council with printouts of the millage rate for 2006 to 2017, the 5-year history report, along with estimates of property tax revenue with various millage rates from 3 mils to 1 mil. Mrs. Hall stated that she met with the county representatives today to review any roll back on city taxes and the city millage rate could be increased from 3 mils to 3.001 without having to hold additional public hearings. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to set a preliminary 2018 millage rate at 3 mils. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Hall reviewed that council voted 2 years ago to use the ad valorem tax for special projects and we have installed the skatepark and Splashpad, and currently advertising for the rehab of the restrooms at the Splashpad. Mrs. Hall reminded council that she has previously reported the need to use some of those funds for the maintenance of the new projects. Mrs. Hall stated that she hopes to have a presentation prepared for the next meeting to review the needs and potential for each park.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$374,765.43

Mrs. Hall reviewed the totals for each department and stated that \$1,300 was added to the totals today so the grand total reviewed was \$376,065.43. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the accounts payable invoices. Seconded by Mr. Howard, the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mrs. Hall offered the following report:

- Splashpad continues to have damage – signs destroyed, valves being turned off and causing system to go down, shower broken off at ground; we have employees signing up to sit at the Splashpad on their days off just to monitor
- Working with Hofstadter to see if we can use 2019 LMIG to resurface Country Club Drive from Meadow/Ensign intersection to golf club and entrance into park; does anyone have any objections to this
- RFP for restroom rehab due 8/27
- Meeting with Railroad to discuss crossings; they are working on several options to present
- Met with company doing the ROW clearing for GDOT to discuss trees on S Lee; put them in touch with Tree Board to decide which trees should remain and which should be removed
- Notice sandbag wall in front of Welcome Center; trying this to see if solution to water entering front of building would be building a wall along the edge of sidewalk
- Restructuring several departments internally; will have full report at next meeting
- Plans for Volume Chevrolet and Hospital are available for review if you would like to see them
- Will have public hearing for variance requests from Otis Ingram for loft apartments above Minori's – will install fire escape stairway and block a portion of Jackson Street sidewalk, will have 430-530 sq. ft. apartments and code calls for a minimum of 700 sq. ft.
- Freshway is changing their name and will require a new alcohol package license; this is being advertised and will come before you on 8/20 for public hearing
- After joint meeting Bobby and I discussed the annexation of the two county properties; annexation requires an ordinance to be adopted to annex the properties so that requires advertising and a public hearing; the advertisement will begin now that we have a date for the 1st meeting in September
- Due to the continued issues that we are experiencing at the sewer plants and a recent break on the digester, UP has suspended dumping from plumbing companies and notified all local companies and also requested that we limit the number of dump tickets that we allow local plumbing companies to purchase to 1 per week when the digester is repaired until the issues at the sewer plants are resolved
- Received the final draft of park master plan from the RC on Friday; will review and present to council at 8/20 meeting
- Information for the 2020 SPLOST referendum was delivered by the county attorney to the election superintendent for the November election

Mr. Lawrence reported vandalism at Kynette Park restrooms and that it appears those doing the vandalism are using a credit card to break into the restrooms. Mr. Lawrence requested that the locks be changed to those that have the metal plate across the lock to prevent this from continuing.

Mr. Hewett stated that the Housing Authority has requested an additional code enforcement officer for the apartment complexes.

Mr. Hewett state that GPSTC can assist with painting vehicles and Mrs. Hall stated that they have painted several city vehicles and saved us money in doing so.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton stated that the process for the annexation of the two county properties is moving forward and the current zoning for the Recreation Complex is Commercial and the Justice Center is Industrial. The comparable city zoning would be Institutional for both properties.

Mr. Melton suggested possibly offering rewards for reports for vandalism to city property to see if that would help with the vandalism that is being done.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilson offered the following report:

- Reviewed the One Monroe Joint Meeting and how the annexation of the Recreation Complex would help with the confusion surrounding the polling places for city elections.
- Monroe County School system reported that they are now ranked 18th in the State out of over 180 schools
- Monroe County Development Authority announced their new project at the Rumble Road Industrial Park of the Five Below Distribution Center
- Reviewed installation of electric car charging stations was another tool to bring visitors into the downtown. Mr. Hewett requested that we ask GDOT to install signage on I75 advertising the charging stations.
- Reviewed meeting with GDOT to discuss roundabout at Indian Springs Business Park

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Howard stated that council approved the recruiting bonus and the other recruitment tool needed is salary and asked Mrs. Hall where we are on that. Mrs. Hall stated that it was agreed to work with the Regional Commission to update the salary study that was done several years ago and that is on the list to be done.

Mr. Howard stated that a motion was passed to suspend parking tickets on Sunday and asked Mr. Melton if a council motion can override a State Law as most parking tickets are written on State Law not city ordinance. Mr. Melton stated that the motion essentially allows a free pass on parking during the specified hours. Mr. Melton stated that council cannot tell officers how to do their job but council can control parking. Mr. Howard asked if council can tell officers not to enforce State Law. Mr. Melton stated that the intent of the motion was to allow people to park closer to church buildings on Sundays. Mrs. Hall asked if council would be receptive to an alternative plan and council agreed that they would. Mr. Melton stated that an alternative plan could include identifying specific streets and installation of signage such as “no parking except on Sunday” with specific times on Sunday. Mr. Hewett stated that Savannah and Rincon do not issue parking tickets on Sundays.

Mr. Hewett stated that the Housing Authority has invited the Mayor and City Manager to their October meeting where they will be meeting with all apartment managers regarding the upkeep of all complexes.

Mr. Howard stated that the One Monroe meeting was his first and questioned if the city had any dealings with the infrastructure needs for the development at Rumble Road and stated that he would like to see the County Development Authority include the city in future discussions.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Don Daniel stated that in his travels in north Pennsylvania there were signs on the interstate for the electric charging stations and he visited them and saw that none of the 12 vehicles at the charging station were from Pennsylvania.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was not needed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Manager