

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 17, 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. Dodd 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, and City Manager, Janice Hall. Councilman Howard was absent.

Councilman John Howard was not present for the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Hewett, and Lawrence).

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 DECEMBER 3, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

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

INTRODUCTION OF SHERIFF BRAD FREEMAN

Mayor Wilson welcomed newly elected sheriff, Brad Freeman. Sheriff Freeman told the group that he is here to serve. He also said to let him know if there is anything that is needed. Sheriff Freeman said that his department works well with the Forsyth Police Department and the Forsyth Fire Department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RECOGNITIONS – CHIEF DAVID HERNDON

Fire Chief, David Herndon recognized City employees Captain Eddie Bowden, Sergeant Daniel Fullmore and Fire Fighter Tyler English for their life saving skills on September 12, 2018 at the Little Store at 110 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Chief Herndon and Mayor Wilson presented all three employees with a Life Saving Award.

Mayor Wilson reviewed several other fires and medical calls that this shift has been on with great results and thanked the entire department for their hard work and thanked them for their exemplary service to the City of Forsyth.

Chief Herndon recognized City employees Chris Elliott and Clay Duckworth for their life saving skills on November 4, 2018 when they assisted Monroe County personnel on I-75. Chief Herndon stated that these employees are not present tonight but thanked them for their service.

PRESENTATION OF CEMETERY GUIDE – CVB AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Gilda Stanbery, Conventions Visitors Bureau Director, presented City Council with the Cemetery Guide that was made possible by the Georgia Humanities Grant that was applied for as a joint project between the CVB, the City, and the Historical Society. Mr. Ralph Bass, Historical Society, acknowledged that there are others involved in the project and thanked all those involved for their contribution to making the Cemetery Guide a possibility.

APPROVAL OF STREET CLOSURE REQUEST FROM OBGYNE BIRTHING CENTER TO CLOSE A PORTION OF BROOKWOOD DRIVE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 FROM 2:00–6:00 PM FOR THEIR GRAND OPENING/RIBBON CUTTING

The City has received a request from the new Birthing Center to close Brookwood Drive on December 22nd from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. for the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Celebration. There

will be a tent in the parking lot that will take up most of the parking area. Guests will have to park elsewhere. The Birthing Center has spoken with Chief Harris to request an officer to direct traffic. The request was amended to close the lane of the street next to the Birthing Center. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to close one lane of traffic of Brookwood Drive in the area of the Birthing Center as requested. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously for one side of the street only to be closed closest to the center.

APPROVAL TO CLOSE A PORTION OF PHELPS STREET BESIDE GALLERY 51 BUILDING FOR DUMPSTER PLACEMENT FOR INTERIOR DEMOLITION

The owner of Secure Self Storage, Wes Cone, has requested a street closure for Phelps Street. Mr. Cone stated that the downstairs storage area is full and work needs to take place upstairs to add more storage units. Demolition of the interior upstairs will require a dumpster on Phelps Street. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to close a portion of the street requested. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF STREET CLOSURE REQUEST FROM PICKLED OKRA TO CLOSE JACKSON STREET FROM JOHNSTON TO ADAMS STREETS ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29 FROM 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM FOR A WEDDING RECEPTION

The owner of The Pickled Okra has requested a street closure for Jackson Street from Johnston to Adams Streets for a wedding reception on Saturday, December 29th, from 8:00 A.M. until 11:00 P.M. There will be a tent across Jackson Street covering approximately three parking spaces on each side of the street. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to close the street requested. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried with four (4) votes for (Dodd, Stroud, Hewett, and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Goolsby)

PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPLICATION FOR SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR 35 WEST JOHNSTON STREET, PICKLED OKRA – NEW OWNER JASON TURNER

Mr. Bobby Melton, reviewed the application submitted by Jason Turner, new owner of Pickled Okra for beer, wine and liquor pouring; the public hearing has been properly advertised; and a notice has been placed in the window of the establishment regarding the liquor pouring as required by city ordinance. Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the alcohol pouring license. Hearing no comments, Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the application. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION FROM LEADERSHIP MONROE CLASS

Mrs. Taylor Bittick and Ms. Kayleigh Sullivan with Leadership Monroe handed out fliers for their Foxhunt project. The project has been completed and they want the Foxhunt to continue and presented to the City for continuation of the project. The foxhunt project came in under budget and a check for the balance of the funds in the amount of \$6,200 was presented to City Council to be used to continue the project. Ms. Sullivan reviewed the goals of the project, stated the website is free but the city can change that and register a domain at the city cost, and reported that Lisa Lee is writing a children's book to correspond with the project. Mayor Wilson commended the class for their work on the project. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to accept and continue the project. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Dodd asked who would maintain the project. City Manager Janice Hall stated that either the CVB or Main Street will work to keep the project maintained.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH UTILITY PARTNERS, LLC. FOR WATER/WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Mrs. Hall reviewed the changes with the contract with Utility Partners, LLC, for water/wastewater management stating that the cost for 2019 will remain the same as 2018 and all changes requested by the city have been incorporated into the final contract. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the contract. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd asked what the withdrawal permit limit is for the Boxankle Plant and Mr. Barry Walker, Utility Partners, stated that it is 2.1 mgd.

APPROVAL TO AMEND AGREEMENT WITH BROOKS-BERRY-HAYNIE & ASSOCIATES TO INCLUDE RAMP LIGHT MAINTENANCE

Mrs. Hall reviewed the approval to amend the agreement with Brooks-Berry-Haynie & Associates to include ramp light maintenance. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to amend the agreement with Brooks-Berry-Haynie & Associates to include ramp light maintenance. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously for the agreement to be amended.

PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND THAT ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CODE REGARDING SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY THE DRINK ON SUNDAY

Mr. Melton reviewed the changes advertised for alcoholic beverage code regarding the sale of alcoholic beverages by the drink on Sunday from 11:00 A.M. to Midnight on Sunday for 50% gross sales from on premise food sales; this has been properly advertised in the December 5 and December 12, 2018 issues of the Reporter; and is before council as a result of the Referendum on the November 2018 ballot. Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments for or against the amendment of the alcoholic beverage ordinance. Hearing no comments, Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing. Mr. Melton stated that the votes on the Referendum were 1168 votes for and 568 votes against. Mr. Stroud offered a motion to amend the ordinance as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously for the ordinance to be amended. Mr. Stroud commented that this ordinance amendment is only for businesses that have a pouring license in the restaurant, not for package stores and Mr. Melton stated that he is correct.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH COURTWARE FOR COURT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOFTWARE

Mrs. Hall reviewed the contract with Courtware for Court Management System Software stating that all cost for the software is paid through traffic citation fees and there is no cost to the City. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the Courtware Management System Software. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MIDDLE GEORGIA CLEAN AIR COALITION AS A PROCUREMENT AGENCY FOR CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

Mayor Wilson reviewed the need for the resolution and a meeting recently attended by him, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Johnny Hodges, and Mr. Craig Helms. Mayor Wilson and Mrs. Hall stated that this resolution is to designate the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition as a procurement agency for possible lighting projects and that other entities will be adopting the same resolution so that all can benefit from purchasing at a lower cost due to larger orders being submitted. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the Resolution. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED 2019 BUDGET

Mrs. Hall presented the proposed budget for 2019 reviewing overall totals for each department and fund; all changes made since the first presentation of the budget in October; and stated that this

budget includes a 5% across the board raise for all city employees. Mayor Wilson requested Ms. Hall to look into the City paying a portion of dependent insurance coverage. Mr. Melton reviewed that this matter has been properly advertised in the November 21, 28, December 5 and 12, 2018 issues of the Reporter and this is the second public hearing for the budget. Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments for or against the adoption of the 2019 budget. Hearing no comments, Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2019 BUDGET

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the Resolution adopting the 2019 budget. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$255,930.73

Mrs. Hall reviewed all invoices before council for approval by department with a grand total of \$255,930.73 stating that the total does include invoices to Dodd Builders Supply. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the invoices as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried with four (4) votes for (Stroud, Goolsby, Hewett, and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Dodd).

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mrs. Hall offered the following report:

- Weather has delayed work on the cemetery water tank; have had several inquiries regarding people on the tank; sandblasting the interior of the tank, then filling in spots that need it before painting the interior. Would like to give them a color for the exterior so that they can do both and not have a mobilization fee to come back to paint the exterior. Since moving city hall, are we ok with repainting with the aluminum paint or still want to change to another color.
 - o Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to keep the same color of paint. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried with four (4) votes for (Stroud, Goolsby, Hewett, and Lawrence) and one (1) vote against (Dodd).
- Board appointments
 - o Review list of those that want to continue to serve
 - Will have vacancy on P&Z and CVB; and elected official seat on CVB, Chamber Advisory Board, and Golf Board
- City Hall admin offices will close at 3:00 pm on Friday, all offices will be closed Monday & Tuesday for Christmas and reopen at 9:00 am on Wednesday December 26. All offices will be closed on Tuesday, January 1 as well. Garbage pickup will be delayed as well as they are off Christmas Day and New Year's Day. All pickup will be pushed back one day to accommodate.
- Restroom renovation update Concrete floor and patio was poured last Thursday; framing the roof and porch this week and should be able to get all trusses set and roof decking installed by Friday; new doors and frames will not be here until mid-January. Even with the door & frame delay we should be complete by the end of January; about 10' from the building sewer line is collapsed and blocked, Renfro is preparing an estimate to replace the bad sewer line
- New Year's Eve ball drop on 12/31 beginning at 9 pm – Swain & the Highway Souls will be performing
- Wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilson reminded everyone of the New Year's Eve ball drop which will be the third annual event and will be good entertainment. Mr. Stroud suggested for the City to consider renting heaters because that seemed to be the biggest complaint in the cold weather at the past ball drops.

Mayor Wilson discussed his attendance at the recent Electric Cities of Georgia's Annual Conference. He said it was a good conference with good speakers. One important topic discussed was the advanced metering system that was presented.

Mayor Wilson proposed that Monroe County could be the designated downtown entertainment area. Cups could be sold to patrons to carry alcohol outside if in a City cup. Other communities operate in this method. This would require a change of ordinance.

Mayor Wilson shared that he has been approached to name a city building for someone that is still alive. The current ordinance requires a timeframe that someone should be dead before something is named after them. Mr. Stroud added that he would be in favor of amending the ordinance. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to amend the ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously to begin the process of amending the ordinance.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mr. Hewett stated that several street lights not working in Betsy Lynn Subdivision; need to be replaced
- Mr. Dodd reviewed information regarding a coyote problem in town. They are running the creeks. Citizens in his neighborhood are hearing the howling on Mornside and Hillsdale and coyotes have been seen during the day. Many cats have been killed. Mr. Stroud stated that his property abuts that area and he has seen them too. After a lengthy discussion regarding what can be done, council requested that Mrs. Hall contact the DNR and get cost estimates on having the coyotes trapped.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Monroe County Commission Chairman Greg Tapley brought greetings from the County. He stated that the County has two meetings left in 2018. These meetings are budget adoption meetings on December 20th and December 27th at 9:00 A.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adjourn into executive session for land transactions and to include Mrs. Tammie Pierson and Mrs. Denise Buff. Seconded by Mr. Stroud, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 7:30 pm.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting back into open session at 8:15 pm.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Manager