

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 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. King gave the invocation. Present for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Greg Goolsby, Dexter King, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was City Manager, Janice Hall and City Attorney, Bobby Melton.

Councilmembers Julius Stroud and Chris Hewett were not present for the meeting; therefore all unanimous votes will be four (4) votes (Dodd, Goolsby, King, and Lawrence). City Clerk, Kristal Dunn was not present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

There were no minutes available for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

There were no minutes available for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

There were no minutes available for approval.

SWEARING IN OF NEW PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER – CHIEF EDDIE HARRIS

Chief Eddie Harris introduced Peter Spahn. Mayor Wilson administered the Oath of Office and welcomed Officer Spahn.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CORPORALS – CHIEF EDDIE HARRIS

Police Chief Eddie Harris stated that he has promoted Wade Kendrick and Kimberly Barnett to the rank of Corporal. Mayor and Council congratulated both on their promotions.

PUBLIC HEARING – ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR LIQUOR POURING – 26 E JOHNSTON STREET - APPLICANT DAVID M BARKER

Mr. Melton reviewed the application and stated that the location currently has a beer and wine pouring license and the application is to add a liquor pouring license to the same location. Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the liquor pouring license. Hearing no comments for or against the request, Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the application for a liquor pouring license for 26 E Johnston Street. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – VARIANCE – PARCEL F44 012 – 445 TIFT COLLEGE DRIVE – NICK PATEL FOR OWNER SHREE RAMDEV LLC

Mr. Melton reviewed the application for a variance to the setback requirements to expand the current building at this location. Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the variance request. Hearing no comments for or against the request, Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the application for a variance to the setback requirements. Seconded by Mr. King, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING FROM CENTRAL BUSINESS TO HIGHWAY BUSINESS – PARCEL F26 108 – 51 W. ADAMS STREET – OWNER BIG PEACH PROPERTIES AND TODD RIVERS

Mr. Melton reviewed the application received for rezoning. Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments for or against the approval of the rezoning request. Hearing no comments, Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the rezoning request and Mr. Dodd seconded the motion. Mr. Dodd stated that if the building is in the Historic District they need a variance rather than to rezone the property so as to not affect the outward appearance of the building. Mr. Martin Presley, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission, stated that this was not considered by the Board when reviewing the rezoning request due to the City not having an active Historic Preservation Board. Mr. Dodd stated that P&Z should have considered the historic designation of the building in their review. Mr. Todd Rivers, developer for the project, stated that they are only cleaning up the building and not changing anything on the outside of the building. Mr. Melton stated that HPC does not have any members, so there is no control over the historic district and that council should consider making appointments to that board. Mr. Presley stated that the P&Z Board considered this as improvement to the building and approved based on conditional use for this owner only but would revert back if sold. Mr. Dodd stated that changing the zoning changes what can be done in the zone and would prefer to give a variance rather than to rezone. Mr. Dodd asked why this needed to be rezoned and Mr. Presley stated that storage units are not allowed in Central Business District. Mr. King asked how many storage units they would have and Mr. Rivers stated 33 in the basement. Mr. Rivers stated that he was told that storage units were not allowed in the district that the building is in and that it would require rezoning. Michael Norris, Economic Development Director, stated that the property is located in the local historic district but not in the National Historic District. Mayor Wilson reviewed the motion on the table is to rezone the property from Central Business District to Highway Business and called for the vote. The motion failed with two (2) votes for (Goolsby and Lawrence) and two (2) votes against (Dodd and King). Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve a variance to allow climate control storage units in the existing building and Mr. Goolsby seconded the motion. Mr. Dodd stated that the zoning would remain CBD and the owners agreed. Mayor Wilson asked if the variance would apply to the current owners only and Mr. Melton stated only is the motion includes such a restriction. Mr. Dodd stated that he was not including that restriction in his motion. The motion to allow a variance carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES – AMENDING AND RESTATING – CHAPTER 11 (FIRE PREVENTION CODE), CHAPTER 14 (NOISE CONTROL) AND THE ZONING ORDINANCE – AMENDING PORTIONS OF – CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION)

Mr. Melton reviewed the proposed ordinances for amendments. Mrs. Hall stated that the Planning & Zoning Board has requested that the 10 acre requirement in Mixed Use be removed. Mr. Melton asked if this was a substantial change to the ordinance and it was decided that it was not and could be included without additional advertisement. Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments for or against the adoption of the amendments to the ordinances. Hearing no comments, Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing.

Mr. King offered a motion to adopt the ordinances as amended. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FEE SCHEDULE FOR FIRE ORDINANCE

Mrs. Hall stated that the fees listed in the schedule are the fees that were previously listed within the ordinance. Mrs. Hall stated that removing the fees from the ordinance will allow changes to be made to the fees as needed without having to amend the ordinance. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adopt the fee schedule as listed. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ENGAGEMENT LETTER FOR HOPKINS AND ASSOCIATES

Mrs. Hall stated that council reappointed Buckley & Hopkins at the Organizational Meeting and reminded council that she stated then that the name of the business would be changing but she was not sure at that time what the new name would be. Mrs. Hall stated that Buckley & Hopkins is now Hopkins and Associates. Mrs. Hall stated that the engagement letter needs to be approved for the 2017 audit. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the engagement letter with Hopkins and Associates for the 2017 audit. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TAKE HOME VEHICLE POLICY

Mrs. Hall reviewed the proposed changes to the City Personnel Take Home Vehicle Policy to provide all fulltime police officers with at least one year of law enforcement service a take home vehicle. Mrs. Hall stated that this should improve moral, be a hiring tool, and reduce maintenance cost for the vehicles. Mr. King offered a motion to approve the amendment as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FIREWORKS RESOLUTION

Mrs. Hall reviewed the changes made to the State Fireworks Law in that if adopted would allow more than 70 days that fireworks could be detonated each year. Georgia Municipal Association is working with the Legislatures to try to change the proposed law to provide local control over the day's fireworks can be detonated and they have requested that cities approve the resolution. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the resolution. Seconded by Mr. King, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Melton stated that if approved, this would give local control with ordinances.

APPROVAL OF DUES FOR I75 CORRIDOR COALITION

Mayor Wilson reviewed the work that the I75 Corridor Coalition is trying to accomplish, stating that the committee began to meet over a year ago. They committee is looking at ways to promote the I75 Corridor in

Central Georgia. Mayor Wilson stated that there are three levels of participation with each level having an increase in opportunities but the lowest level does not provide for voting. The levels are \$500, \$750 and \$1,000. Mayor Wilson and Mrs. Hall recommended joining at the \$1,000 level. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to join the I75 Corridor Coalition at the \$1,000 level. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR STREETScape III – ATKINS

Mrs. Hall reviewed the contract extension received from Atkins for engineering services on Streetscape Phase III. Mrs. Hall recommended approval of a not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000 rather than the additional \$38,000 in the agreement. Mrs. Hall stated that she and Mr. Randall will watch the project very closely and that all work should be complete and final paperwork submitted to DOT by the end of February. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve a not-to-exceed extension in the amount of \$30,000 and Mr. King seconded the motion. There was discussion regarding the repeated request for additional funds from the engineer. Mr. Lawrence stated that he would like to see this extension remain below \$25,000 and Mrs. Hall stated that she would do her best to keep the cost at a minimum. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF DENIAL OF A DESIGN REVIEW APPLICATION FOR THE BACKLOT PLAYERS, INC./THE ROSE THEATER THAT WAS TABLED AT THE NOVEMBER 6TH MEETING

Mrs. Hall stated that this project was tabled until the second meeting in January but the Backlot Players are not ready to bring a new proposal to council yet. Mrs. Hall requested an extension until the first meeting in March. Mr. King offered a motion to table the matter to the first meeting in March. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF STREET CLOSURES FOR FORSYTHIA FESTIVAL AND 5K EVENT

Mrs. Hall reviewed the street closure request from the Chamber of Commerce for the Forsythia Festival and the Forsythia Festival 5K race. Mrs. Hall stated the road closures are the same as previous years with the exception of the request for additional closures on East Johnston Street from Lee Street to Kimball Street. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the street closures as requested. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY ALCOHOL PERMIT FOR THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mrs. Hall reviewed the temporary alcohol permit request from the Chamber of Commerce for their Annual Meeting. This is a one-day event. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the temporary alcohol permit. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF QUOTE FROM GMA FOR FIREFIGHTERS' CANCER BENEFIT COVERAGE

Mrs. Hall reviewed the new law that went into effect January 1, 2018 and the quote received from Georgia Municipal Association. Mrs. Hall stated the 2018 budget includes \$6,300 for this coverage and the quote received is for less than that but will change on a quarterly basis because of the wording of the law that fulltime and part-time firefighters are to be covered but if they work for another fire department the cost is shared by the two agencies. Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the coverage through GMA for the firefighter's cancer coverage. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES

Mrs. Hall reviewed invoices for approval by department and stated the grand total for all invoices to be approved is 458,192.63 and reminded council that invoices were not approved at the first meeting in January so this total includes all invoices received since the middle of December. Mr. King offered a motion to approve the invoices. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000

DITCH WITCH OF GEORGIA – MINI EXCAVATOR - \$26,935.00 – Mrs. Hall stated that this purchase is included in the 2018 budget and that we do not normally make large purchases at the beginning of the year but the ditch-witch is in the shop and the cost to make the necessary repairs will be in excess of \$2,000. Ditch-Witch of Georgia has offered a trade-in of \$18,000 on the ditch-witch with the purchase of the mini excavator. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the requisition to purchase the mini excavator. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mrs. Hall offered the following report:

- Weather briefing tonight at 8:00 pm; Monroe County BOE has cancelled school tomorrow due to prediction of snow and/or ice
- Historical Society window replacement cost was approved in the 2018 budget; Mr. Melton advised that a contract would be appropriate between the City and Historical Society and has written a contract that I have presented to the Historical Society; waiting on their review of the contract before bringing before council
- Reviewed list of items for council to review at the retreat
- Welcome Food Mart at 37 S Jackson is changing business owners and have submitted an alcohol license to be advertised
- Illegal parking is becoming an issue and the police department is enforcing the parking laws; it is illegal to park against the flow of traffic or where parking spaces are not marked; read letter from Chief Harris
- Reviewed issue with vehicles blocking the alleyway behind U-Save-It and blocking their employees in the parking lot; public works has painted yellow hash-marks and signage will be installed to prevent people from parking in this area
- Recent occurrences of vehicles being broken into; encouraged citizens to lock vehicles and remove valuables from their vehicles
- Fire and Water departments conducted flow test on water hydrants in Blount Street area today for possible submission for 2018 CDBG grant
- Cold weather is causing numerous small water leaks on our system; Utility Partners working as they can to repair those; leak at Lee Street/Johnston Street intersection will be repaired this Sunday

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton stated that he appreciates the reappointment as city attorney for 2018 and apologized for his absence at the last meeting due to illness.

Mr. Melton stated that the Historic Preservation Commission has no active members and suggested that council review this board as there is currently no enforcement.

Mr. Melton stated that longtime City Administrator for the City of Barnesville, Kenny Roberts, has retired.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilson stated that he is looking forward to the Georgia Municipal Association Mayor's Day Conference and Council Retreat to be held the weekend of January 19, 2018. Mayor Wilson reminded council to bring their ideas for the 2018 plan of work.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Dodd asked Mrs. Hall to review her list of items for the retreat and Mrs. Hall read her list.

Mr. King reported that there has been vandalism at the Skatepark and Mayor Wilson stated that there had been and also in the residential area close to the park.

Mr. Lawrence reported that he attends the Regional Commission meetings which are held every 2nd Thursday of the month in Macon.

Mr. Lawrence commented on the good service and ceremony that was held in Forsyth yesterday to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss land acquisition, disposal, and lease. Seconded by Mr. King, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 7:23 pm.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting back into open session at 8:00 pm.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Manager