

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 5, 2018

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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 meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Greg Goolsby, Dexter King, Chris Hewett, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was City Manager, Janice Hall, and City Attorney, Bobby Melton.

Councilmember Julius Stroud was not present for the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five (5) for (Dodd, Goolsby, King, Hewett, and Lawrence). City Clerk, Kristal Dunn, was not present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. December 4, 2017

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the December 4, 2017 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

b. December 18, 2017

Mr. King offered a motion to approve the December 18, 2017 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

c. January 2, 2018

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the January 2, 2018 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. King, the motion carried unanimously.

d. January 16, 2018

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the January 16, 2018 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR 2016 AUDIT

Mayor Wilson read the press release and thanked Mrs. Hall and her staff for their work on the 2016 audit.

APPROVE REQUEST FROM GOD’S CHURCH OF REFUGE TO CLOSE JACKSON STREET FROM MAIN STREET TO KING STREET FOR CAR & BIKE SHOW ON APRIL 7, 2018

Mrs. Hall reviewed the application submitted requesting to close Jackson Street from Main to King. There was a lengthy discussion regarding why a church located in Barnesville was requesting to hold their event in Forsyth. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to table the matter to allow Mrs. Hall to obtain additional information. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion to table carried unanimously.

REVIEW INFORMATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING CLOSING OF UNNAMED STREET – REQUEST FROM WALTER GOODSON DECEMBER 18, 2017

Mrs. Hall reviewed the information received from Mr. Melton regarding Mr. Goodson’s request during the December 18, 2017 council meeting. Mr. Melton stated that the street is not abandoned as there are homes located on the street. There was a lengthy discussion regarding why the street was never maintained, how to go about maintaining the street, that abandoning or closing the street would landlock the middle property, and the house closest to Sharp Street appears to encroach on the street. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to not sell or close the street until it can be determined how to maintain the roadway. Seconded by Mr. Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Hall stated that the information she previously provided to city council regarding the Housing Authority Board terms and number of members required was incorrect. Mrs. Hall reviewed the correct term limits of the current board members and stated that Mr. Melton has provided information regarding the number of members the board can have. There was discussion regarding the lack of a quorum at several of the monthly meetings. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to leave the board member number at five (5) and have a called meeting to set a new time/date for future meetings. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - \$419,671.81

Mrs. Hall reviewed the invoices for approval by department and stated that included in the invoices are the April 2017 – December 2017 invoices from Monroe County for fuel, animal control, and the library contribution which were received on January 8, 2018. The invoices for approval included \$185.98 for Dodd Builders Supply. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the invoices as presented. Seconded by Mr. King, the motion carried with four (4) for (Goolsby, King, Hewett, and Lawrence) and one (1) abstention (Dodd).

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000

Ditch Witch of Georgia - \$26,935 for mini excavator

Wastebuilt Step-Id Parts – gearbox for grapple truck - \$5,236

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve both requisitions greater than \$5,000 as presented.

Seconded by Mr. King, the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Rezone of property on Railroad Avenue for George Emami will be March 5 council meeting
- Several businesses with alcohol license are changing hands and as soon as a complete application is received on those, the advertisements will begin for the public hearings
- Lighting inspection was supposed to take place today on Streetscape Phase III but had to be rescheduled for this Thursday
- Planfirst presentation tomorrow at Capitol at 9:00 am
- Due to losses in last 2 years, agent could not get an additional company to bid on property/liability coverage. Renew with Travelers – 2017 was \$109,323 and 2018 will be \$119,969. GMA has asked to submit bid for 2019 renewal

Follow-up from retreat

- Working with city engineer to schedule meeting with SDS committee (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby)
- Rate study initial meeting with ECG is February 13
- Phit America application has been submitted; waiting to hear back from them
- Request submitted to CVB director for information on hotel tax increase
- Working with Regional Commission for presentation on annexation to Annexation Committee (Hewett, King, Lawrence)
- Mrs. Pierson asked if council would like to hold a Town Hall meeting as part of Georgia cities week April 22-28. Council agreed to do this.
- Mrs. Hall called on Mrs. Pierson, Main Street Director, to review upcoming events. Mrs. Pierson reviewed the Masquerade Ball being held by Habitat for Humanity and asked that council consider purchasing a table for the event.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton offered the following report:

- Public hearing for George Emami property on Railroad Avenue is being advertised

- Reviewed resolution for February 19 agenda for Piedmont Apartment remodel project stating that this is an overall \$65 million project across the state and \$7 million project for Piedmont Apartments in Forsyth. Mr. Melton stated that the resolution requires Housing Authority and City Council approval to allow the project to work through the Macon-Bibb County Housing Authority
- Asked Mrs. Hall if the alcohol application for Welcome Mart is ready to be advertised and Mrs. Hall stated she is still waiting on answers from the applicant to the questions that Mr. Melton asked regarding the information submitted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilson offered the following report:

- Monroe County Day at the Capital was last week and city and county entities were all well represented.
- Tomorrow is PlanFirst Community designation at the Capital
- City received the Golden Nail award at the Chamber Annual banquet for work at the Splashpad

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Lawrence

- The monthly Regional Commission meeting is this Thursday
- Need to look at installing a light on Highway 83 North at Frontage Road due to heavy traffic

Mr. Hewett

- Need to look at 15-20 minute parking spaces around the square
- Need to look at not writing parking tickets or giving fines for improper parking after regular business hours or on weekends

Mr. King

- Asked if Stuart and Shaw Avenues have city sewer. Mayor Wilson stated that those areas are outside the city and receive city water and those are the areas that the Annexation Committee needs to look at for possible annexation.
- Asked if city could partner with DOC to install sidewalks on Patrol Road between DOC and Ingles as students from DOC walk along that area at night and it is dangerous without sidewalks

Mr. Goolsby

- Stated that he would like to resign from the DDA to allow for a different council member to serve on the DDA; Mr. King stated that he is interested but needs to determine if his work schedule would allow him to attend the meetings

Mr. Dodd

- Reviewed conversation he had with Mr. Freeman regarding Memorial Hills Cemetery and the need for additional cemetery lots

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

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss land acquisition, lease, and/or disposal. Seconded by Mr. King, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 7:00 pm. Mr. George Emami was invited to attend the executive session.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting back into open session at 8:05 pm.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Manager