

Minutes
Forsyth City Council Meeting
May 20, 2019

Call to Order:

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation, & Roll Call

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Stroud 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; City Manager, Janice Hall; City Clerk, Regina Ivie.

Approval of the 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 May 6, 2019 Council Meeting & May 14, 2019 Work Session with Architects

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the minutes for the May 6, 2019 and May 14, 2019 minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried with 5 votes.

5/6/19 Howard, Hewett, Lawrence, Goolsby, and Stroud with one abstention by Mr. Dodd.

5/14/19 Dodd, Stroud, Lawrence, Hewett, Howard with one abstention by Mr. Goolsby.

Presentation by Middle GA Regional Commission on Rural Zone/Strategic Plan

Ms. Landfried presented on the Rural Zone designation. Ms. Landfried stated it's a 5 year designation, given to 10 cities for a population of less than 15000 every year. It's a 2 year old program, currently in its third year. A couple of benefits mentioned are a \$2000 tax credit for each new full time job created max of \$40k. An investment tax credit if you purchase a building, 25% of the purchase price but not to exceed to \$125,000.00. A rehabilitation tax credit equivalent to 30% of qualified rehab costs, materials, labor not to exceed \$150,000. Proposed rural area would be historic commercial buildings, walkability to downtown, and buildings that are eligible for the credits.

Regional Commission will meet with the DDA board, and provide a SWOT analysis to get their feedback. Ms. Landfried has inquired as to the best way to communicate and gain the feedback from the public. She mentioned surveys being done, newsletters with the utility bills, meet at the Farmers Market, festivals, postcards, etc. Ms. Landfried requested feedback from council as to how best to engage the public. Ms. Landfried stated the plan doesn't need to be adopted by Council. It can be approved by the DDA board. City manager, Janice Hall stated that an insert could be sent out to all utility account holders.

Marissa Jackson stated that Perry has a rural zone now, they were designated in 2018. Eatonton will be in 2019, Hawkinsville will be in 2020.

Presentation by GMA on Alternative Retirement Plans

Michelle Warner stated the current retirement age is 65. For an employee to retire and receive benefits an employee must be 65 and have 5 years of service. We are considering an alternative normal retirement age, which will allow people to retire at an earlier age if they have enough service years. Some cities look at this specifically for public safety employees. With the early retirement option currently at the age of 55; currently there is a 50% reduction in their approved benefit. This change would take away that reduction.

Ms. Hall stated that employees who retire early must have at least 10 years of service or more to retire at age 55. Ms. Warner further stated two different scenarios will be presented. One for just public safety, and another option for all employees. The City's recommended annual contribution into the retirement trust

fund is just a little over \$273,000 which is 10.4% of your payroll. Additional cost would be \$34,000, additional 1.29% of payroll for public safety only. For all employees it would be an additional cost of \$70k, 2.65% of payroll. Total annual cost for Public safety only \$307,286.00, 11.69% of payroll. For all employees cost would be \$343,026.00, 13.05% of payroll. Unfunded actuarially approved liability would go from \$790k to \$1,000,041.00 for public safety only. And up to \$1,359,000.00 for all employees.

Ms. Warner stated the City's funded ratio is 86.95% which is very healthy. If the City decided to offer the 75 rule for public safety would go down to 83.5%. If you did for all employees it would go down to 79.5%. The liability is amortized over a 20 year period. It can be prefunded. Payments for the city would increase January 2021. The changes could become effectively immediately or it could coincide with the calendar year/fiscal year.

Ms. Hall stated 14 people today would qualify, 5 of those would be public safety employees.

Ballot for GMA District 6 Officers

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to enter Eric Wilson on the ballot. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Additional Architect Fees – City Hall New Construction

Janice Hall stated the expenses related to the additional architect fees.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the additional architect fees as explained. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Police Interceptor Master Lease

Janice Hall stated that the vehicle is assigned to one officer. \$25.00 of each fine that is collected goes toward the cost of the vehicle. This is an additional vehicle, an Explorer. The \$25 fee is easy to track in the court system, and paid to Police Interceptor.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the master lease as stated for the Police Interceptor. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Accounts Payables Invoices \$275,655.70

Ms. Hall amended the amount of invoices to \$281,230.70. Ms. Hall reviewed invoice totals for all departments for a grand total of all invoices of \$281,230.70
The revised total includes the Head Heating & Air invoice listed as a requisition.

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

Approval of Requisitions Greater than \$5,000

Mr. Howard offered a motion to approve the requisition as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carried with 5 votes; Howard, Hewett, Goolsby, Stroud, Dodd. One abstention by Mr. Lawrence.

Ms. Hall stated as to why requisitions for the vehicle and HVAC repairs are listed as an invoice and a requisition.

City Manager Report

- Adding Shred Day to the Farmers Market on the 1st Friday of each month. 1st day will be June 7 from 2-4 just to see how well it is received; if good response will continue and possibly increase the hours; will setup on Jackson on other side of King St; our cost is \$100/hour with a 2 hour minimum

- Splash pad – up and running; will work on replacing the solenoids but currently have everything working like it is supposed to; Davis Plumbing replaced the float inside the tank so the overflow now works – no longer have to go out every 2 hours and add water to the tank; chemical sensors are working as they should with small exception that they need to “wake up” in the mornings; requesting that we do not open until 10:00 to allow us time to get in, check the chemicals and get them stabilized, clean the restrooms and pad area before letting people in and because of issues today would like to open later on Mondays to give us a “maintenance day”; recommend Tuesday – Sunday open 10-7 and Monday open at noon

Mr. Howard offered a motion to allow the City Manager to set hours based on preventive maintenance needs. Mr. Stroud seconded the motion.

- Advanced Disposal replacement recycle containers may be delayed a couple of weeks due to the large number we will need but will definitely be delivered by July 1
- Devi Foods is changing ownership so alcohol license public hearing is being advertised and will come before council on June 17
- Summer Camps begin June 3; the camps are a joint project of the City and County – city funds them and county holds the camps; there will be 16 different camps this summer; register online at mocorec.org or by calling 478-994-7795
- Save the Children camp will be held the month of June at the County Rec; applications for camp can be picked up at Elder Manor Apartments or by calling Annette Luocar at 478-394-1085
- Working with Regional Commission to recommend changes to the Census blocks and tracks that the Census Bureau has for Forsyth; they currently show Forsyth divided into 7 different tracks; we have recommended to Census Bureau to reduce to 3; these blocks are used for grant funding to determine household income along with other various information
- Council members have requested speed bumps on Brentwood and Blount Street; had the same company go out and make recommendation as to number of speed bumps and placement and they recommend 1 on Brentwood and 2 on Blount at a cost of \$2050; as a word of caution, I want to mention when we discussed speed bumps and 4-way stops previously you did not want to end up with either of those all over town.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to move forward with the installation of the three speed bumps Ms. Hall stated previously. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carries unanimously.

- Meeting in the morning with Hofstadter to review several outstanding projects and get back on those; will be updating LMIG projects for 2018 & 2019 due to roads listed being eliminated from the list i.e. Kimball, Country Club and Golf Club entrance; will most likely finish up in Evergreen subdivision, add Pinkney Circle and not sure what other street may be added
- Agreed to continue with interior of city hall annex same as exterior; need to provide the funding to the DDA for them to cover the cost; will also replace the fire sprinkler system at cost of \$38,450 and looks like the flooring, painting, restroom repairs and moving doors, dropping ceiling in back room, etc. will come in around \$55,000.
- Looking at HB 371 which allows local governments to get an active list of businesses who remit sales taxes to see if this is something that we want to pursue; have to appoint one person and submit that to the State; cannot use the information to contact the businesses that do not purchase business license but checking to see if this is information that would be useful to us; if so will bring back the resolution for approval
- Writing guideline policies for proclamations and other awards and will bring that to you for review, amendments and adoption.
- MCPFA working on the bond for the 2020 SPLOST; should have all documents ready for adoption by 2nd meeting in June
- Residential garbage pickup will be pushed back 1 day due to Memorial Day holiday; commercial will run as scheduled

- We have an emergency project on old Brent Road; county replacing the bridge and city water line broke; had boil water notice, line broke again in less than 24 hours, electric department supported water line with a utility pole but that is not holding well; Pyles can move water line from under the bridge, 45 ft away from the bridge and then 45 ft back into the existing line, will also insert a valve as the closest valve is at the cemetery on Hwy 83; will use ductile iron pipe that should have been used rather than the PVC that you see in the picture; if line left as is, when it breaks will wash out the bridge/roadway; unfortunately this means that the houses on this line will be off again but at least this time we can notify them before we cut the water off so they can prepare – that is if the line holds until Pyles can get in to do the repair
- Finalizing the rental guidelines for all city facilities and will bring for approval when complete
- Downtown Entertainment District – cups have been delivered; only businesses with a valid alcohol license through the city or persons who live within the district can purchase the cups; those are sold by the Main Street department for \$5/25; it is up to the business whether they charge for the cup and if they allow people to refill the cup; the City is selling the cups to maintain control over who is providing alcohol; will provide copy of ordinance to those purchasing the cups and to the police department to make sure everyone is aware of what is allowed
- TSW still has not received the survey for Country Club Park from Coleman & Associates; I sent him an email today instructing that the survey be delivered to TSW and confirmation of such sent to me; I was advised on 4/30 that the survey would be complete that week, unfortunately it was not and 2 more weeks have gone by without the survey
- Tree Board replaced the trees recently on South Lee that GDOT removed with smaller trees, water bags will be placed on them.
- Next concert is June 1 with Velvet Runaway

Mr. Stroud mentioned that the right-of-way along Highway 41 from BOE to Achievement Center needs to be cut.

Mr. Dodd stated that Mr. Freeman has mentioned to him that we are running out of cemetery lots due to the rock. We need to look at expanding the footprint of Rest Haven and Memorial Hills cemeteries. The City cemeteries are basically full.

Mr. Howard spoke of the parking on the square and the complaints being received.

Mr. Stroud mentioned the intersection of Phelps and Johnston is very congested, almost impossible to make the turn. Mr. Stroud asked that the intersection be looked at for possible traffic solutions.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

Mayor's Report

No report was given by Mayor Wilson

Council Comments

Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Howard stated that a loitering problem at a local convenience store has been resolved.

Mr. Stroud stated that he would not be in attendance at the next council meeting.

Public Comments

No one came forward for public comments.

Executive Session

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purposes of pending litigation and personnel matters. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilson excused Ms. Hall for the personnel matters portion of executive session.

Council entered into executive session at 7:33 pm. Executive session adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Goolsby made a motion for Council to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Hewett, the motion carries unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Regina L. Ivie, City Clerk