

**Minutes  
Forsyth City Council Meeting  
Aldermen Hall 6:00 p.m.  
August 19, 2019**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation & Roll Call**

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Hewett gave the invocation. Present for the meeting was Mayor Wilson, Councilmembers John Howard, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, Mike Dodd, Melvin Lawrence, and Chris Hewett. Also present was City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Manager, Janice Hall; and City Clerk, Regina Ivie.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Mayor Wilson stated an amendment was needed for the accounts payables total to \$169,234.04.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the agenda with the revision of the accounts payables total. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes of the August 19, 2019 Council Meeting**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2019 Council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing & Consider Zoning Variance Application for 20 E Adams Street – Reginald Pope as representative of the property owners**

Mr. Melton stated the property subject to this request (tax parcel #F26012) has requested a variance to operate a car wash at the location. Over the years it has been operated as a car wash; there has been a lapse in time. Currently it's not an allowed business in this commercial business district. Advertisement dates in the reporter were June 30th, Aug 4th and Aug 17, 2019. Planning and Zoning recommend approval.

Mayor Wilson opened the floor for public hearing.

Ms. Pierson stated Mr. Pope came before Planning and Zoning on July 22, 2019. Planning and Zoning approved continued operation of the Car Wash.

Mr. Pope stated he would like to operate a hand car wash. Mr. Castleberry is leasing the location to him. The electricity has been updated per Ms. Pierson's recommendations.

Mr. Edge stated he is in favor of the zoning variance to allow the car wash.

Mayor Wilson closed the floor for public hearing.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the zoning variance application for 20 E Adams Street. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing & Consider Beer & Wine Pouring Application for Marcos Pizza @ 279 N Lee Street**

Mr. Melton stated the application for license to sell beer and wine; a pouring application at Marcos Pizza 279 N Lee Street (tax parcel F34081A). Advertisement dates in the reporter were Aug 7<sup>th</sup> and Aug 14, 2019. No information is lacking on the application.

Mayor Wilson opened the floor for public hearing. No one came forward for or against the application.

Mayor Wilson closed the floor for public hearing.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the application for Marco's Pizza @ 279 N Lee Street. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing & Consider Beer & Wine Package Application for Siyouni Enterprise LLC @ 33 S Jackson Street**

Mr. Melton stated the application is to sell beer and wine by the package at 33 S. South Jackson Street in Forsyth (tax parcel # F27040). Advertisement dates in the reporter were Aug 7<sup>th</sup> and Aug 14, 2019. The property has been operated in the past for the sale of alcoholic beverages. Mr. Melton makes reference to Steve Coleman's letter enclosed in the council packet regarding a store front part time church named Divine Grace Ministries located about 125 ft south of the front door of 33 S Jackson, this "church" may not be active at this time. Mr. Melton further stated that meetings, and charitable functions may be held at that location. The gap of operation is due to a fire at the premises.

Mayor Wilson opened the floor to the public.

An audience member questioned the number of liquor stores in the area. Mayor Wilson stated this is a beer and wine package similar to a convenience store.

Another audience member questioned who has submitted the application, the owner or operator? Ms. Hall stated the application is from the operator who is leasing the property.

Mayor Wilson closed the floor for public hearing.

Mr. Howard offered a motion to approve the application. Seconded by Mr. Hewett.

Mr. Goolsby requested that the approval be tabled so that due diligence could be done to determine if the Church is an active Church.

Mr. Melton makes reference to Mr. Coleman’s letter and it states it’s about 125 feet south of the front door from 33 S Jackson. The church may not be active at this time.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to table the application until the next meeting to allow City Attorney, Bobby Melton time to determine how the premises are used at the Divine Grace Ministries. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing – Amendment to Zoning Ordinance Article VII Corridor Overlay**

Mr. Melton stated this a text amendment to the zoning code to properly define an overlay district. Hwy 83 S from Adams Street to Railroad Avenue overlay district is the current designation. The zoning would be amended to reflect that as Hwy 83 South from Adams Street to City Limits Overlay District. Amending section 7.3 of the Zoning Code. Advertisement dates in the reporter were July 24<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>, Aug 7<sup>th</sup> and Aug 14, 2019. Planning and Zoning met June 24<sup>th</sup>; they recommend approval. No zoning change involved to properly designate the overlay district.

Mayor Wilson opened the floor to public. No one came forward to speak for or against the amendment.

Mayor Wilson closed the floor for public hearing.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the change to the zoning ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

**CVB – Quarterly Update by Gilda Stanbery & Kerri Swearingen**

Mrs. Swearingen and Ms. Stanbery provided an update of the recent CVB events and activities. A video was also presented to council that will be broadcast in 2020 in 11 regional welcome centers throughout the state.

**CVB Board Appointments**

Ms. Hall stated an hotelier, and a restaurant owner or worker is needed to feel the vacant seats on the CVB. CVB has submitted recommendations to Council. Navid Kapadia is the recommended hotelier. Maria McDaniel is the recommended restaurant owner.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the recommendations. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Street Closure Application – First Baptist Church**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the application. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Street Closure Application – Jonah’s on Johnston**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the application. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Accounts Payables Invoices \$169,234.04**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the accounts payables invoices as stated. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Requisitions over \$5,000**

- i. Core & Main, LP \$15,750.00
- ii. TMT Utilities LLC \$8,500.00

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve both requisitions as stated. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

## City Manager Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

- Need to approve payment to Monroe County for 5 months of E911 dispatch. You will recall that in 2017 we agreed to combine the city and county dispatch and the county would hire 3 additional dispatchers to handle the increase in call volume. The County did not hire dispatchers or have the software in place to dispatch and run reports for city calls until September 2018. The annual cost invoiced by the county for 2018 is \$99,000 and 4 months of that fee would be \$33,000. I would like approval to process payment for the 4 months to the county which should clear that year and then we will begin working on the 2019 cost.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to pay the invoices to Monroe County. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

- The county approved an IGA for booking and boarding of city inmates that we made changes to and presented to council for approval which was done. The county has suggested additional changes to the IGA, so we are working on those changes and will hopefully have a final document to bring back on 9/3.
- Census Workers have begun verifying addresses so you may see them out in neighborhoods. Each Census Worker will have identification on them showing that they are a Census Worker. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call and request that an officer come and confirm they are census workers.
- ClarkNexsen came out last Friday and took additional samples in the old building to be demolished for City Hall. Civil should have spec package completed this week to send out for bids to remove asbestos and demolish the buildings. Regina and I have had several conference calls with ClarkNexsen to get the interior laid out as we feel it should be. Architects will be ready to present revised timeline, cost estimates, and interior plan at next meeting. I need to know if Council want that as part of the council meeting or as a work session before the council meeting.

Mr. Stroud stated he would like a work session prior to the next council meeting. Council agreed to a 5pm Work Session September 3, 2019.

- The DDA adopted a Resolution creating a Downtown Strategic Plan. I have added a copy of the Plan that was created as part of the application process for Rural Zone. The RC developed the Strategy Plan and they did a really good job on this. If you would like, after reviewing, to have them come and review the Plan I can schedule that.
- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in September has been rescheduled for September 3<sup>rd</sup> and we have public hearings for millage rate and amendment to retirement plan and review of 2018 audit.
- Information received last week, looks like 2020 SPLOST Bond will require called meetings to approve in 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September.
- Hotel tax payment process is on website. Hoteliers have the option to calculate their tax due and make the payment online or just calculate the tax due. The main change to this process the credit card fee is paid by the hotelier.
- Had hoped to have the rental agreement for city facilities written and fee schedules ready to be presented tonight, but those are not completed so will have them ready for the 9/3 council meeting. Working on the speed bump policy as well.
- Spoke with DOC regarding partnering to paint tank on DOC campus. Discussed that several have commented over the years that they want it to remain as it is because that is how it has been for so long others want it painted to give a fresh appearance. Cost to remove lead paint and repaint was estimated to be at least \$250,000; cost to encapsulate and paint estimated at \$75,000; DOC has tank tested every 3 years and it is safe; DOC is open to taking for approval to partner with City to paint tank but cannot use as advertisement – suggested the Public Safety Capital logo or just Forsyth but cannot use as other tanks are used for advertising of school or industry
- Working on attendance records for all appointed boards and amendments as needed to either bylaws or ordinance governing the board to add wording regarding attendance and absences of board members. P&Z has also requested a change to the residency requirement and will present all of this at one time for advertisement for ordinance amendment.
- Interior work at City Hall Annex stopped while the contractor investigates the water supply for the sprinkler system. Holding off on interior work until sprinkler work is completed so as to not damage any new flooring or paint.

- Working with all bidders for Dog Park fence to get alternate quote on some changes from RFP; also getting information on septic tank location and water line size and location. Also received draft master plan for parks from TSW on Friday. Will meet with them to review and have them make presentation to council – looks like it will be a 10-year project!
- Public Works crew started today on driving range. Electric crews are working this week to get the net hung at the driving range as well.
- Department Heads have all submitted their 2020 budget needs and those have been entered; we begin the process with a surplus of \$51,000 but this does not include pay increases for employees – waiting on pay scale from RC which should be completed mid-September; will go ahead with individual meetings with department heads to review their budgets to make sure we have everything before we present the budget to council for review and adoption. Along with the 2020 budget, we will be presenting several changes regarding processes such as collection of unpaid bills, payroll, budget/bank reviews, approval of invoices and possibly several other areas.
- Letter submitted to EPD requesting that the Consent Order for copper violations be lifted as the City has met all conditions of the Consent Order.
- Steve Butler was able to work with Mason Tractor and get the tractor computer problem covered under warranty; we were waiting on part to be delivered which has now happened; waiting on Mason Tractor to pick up tractor and take it to their shop to be repaired
- As previously approved, we will close Newton Memorial Drive before all MPHS home football games and reopen it before the end of the game.

#### **City Attorney Report**

Mr. Melton had no further business to report.

#### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Wilson stated he will be attending the Robert Knox Institute next week.

#### **Council Comments**

Mr. Stroud inquired about the census worker's schedules. Ms. Hall stated she is unaware of the schedules, suggested advertising.

Mayor Wilson stated the workers are surveying property this year. Post cards will be sent out next year.

Mr. Stroud stated he would like for the Council to revisit the process of issuances of keys to the City.

Mayor Wilson recommended an application process for a Key to the City.

Mr. Howard suggested perhaps members of the community determine who would receive a Key to the City.

Mr. Stroud stated he would like Council to continue to work on annexation within the City.

Mr. Lawrence stated Business after Hours is Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Chamber of Commerce meeting is this week.

#### **Public Comments**

Linda Sherman @ 40 Hillsdale Road stated the City Cemetery isn't being taken care of properly. Tire marks from the zero turn mower are still on the grave. A large limb has fallen on top of several graves.

Sam Edge @ 165 Country Club Drive stated recently when he visited the cemetery he saw that Vernon O Neal's who is a Purple Heart recipient, his footstone had been knocked around. He would like for the care of the cemetery to be addressed.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to install gates at all city cemeteries with hours posted. Seconded by Mr. Howard.

After an in depth discussion amongst Mayor, Council and Ms. Hall a motion was offered by Mr. Hewett for Ms. Hall to prepare a RFP for gate installation at all City cemeteries. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried unanimously.

**Executive Session**

Mayor Wilson stated there was no need for an Executive Session.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p. m.