

**Minutes
Forsyth City Council
Aldermen Hall 6:00 p.m.
September 3, 2019**

Call to Order

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Wilson stated the account payables total needed to be amended to \$152,995.18.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the agenda with the amended payables total. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of the August 19, 2019 Work Session & Council Meeting

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the minutes for the Work Session & Council Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing – Adoption of an ordinance & Amended Adoption agreement for the City of Forsyth’s Defined Benefit Retirement Plan

Mr. Melton stated this was advertised in the reporter on August 21, & Aug 28, 2019.

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

Ms. Hall stated this had been adopted by council at the August 5, 2019 Council Meeting.

Public Hearing – Set Millage Rate

Mayor Wilson opened the floor for public hearing. No one came forward. Mayor Wilson closed the floor.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to set the millage rate at 3 mills and use those funds for Special Projects. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence.

Ms. Hall read a previously approved resolution from December 3, 2018 that all prior, current and future ad valorem property taxes will be set aside in a Special Projects Fund to be used for Special Projects.

Mayor Wilson called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Beer & Wine Package Application for Siyouni Enterprise LLC @ 33 S Jackson Street – Tabled at 8/19/19 Meeting

Mr. Howard offered a motion to approve the beer & wine package application for 33 S Jackson St. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Parks Rental Agreement – Monroe Co. Amateur Radio Society Jan 25-26, 2020 and June 27-28, 2020 for overnight use of park

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the rental agreement for Monroe Co. Amateur Radio for the requested dates. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Fee Schedule for Rental of City Buildings

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the fee schedule. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Street Closure Request –

X. MPHS 2019 Homecoming Parade, XI. First Baptist Church of Forsyth, & XII. Main Street

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve items X, XI, and XII. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

Award Bid for Dog Park Project

Ms. Hall reviewed with Council that Middle Georgia Fence submitted the low bid of \$7,000 for the RFP but also submitted alternate bids for aluminum fencing with puppy pickets.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to install 4' commercial gauge aluminum fencing with puppy pickets. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Accounts Payables Invoices \$152,995.18

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the accounts payables invoices. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried with 5 (five) votes. Mr. Howard stepped out of the room.

City Manager Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

- Clay Davis will be sitting for Judge Lovelace 10/3 and 11/7; will need to be sworn in before then. Also Jefferson Adams has submitted resignation as Public Defender due to accepting position with the State. Looking to find someone to fill position to end of year.
- 2020 budget – met with all department heads; working on final numbers and ways to balance the General Fund.
- (pictures on Google Drive) Gates in cemeteries – couple of scenarios for Council to consider
 - If leave city streets open will require 16 gates; looking at double aluminum arched gates, 6' at peak, with each side being 8' wide – estimate cost \$3,000/gate
 - 16 x \$3,000 = \$48,000
 - If close city streets will require 9 gates; looking at same double aluminum arched gates, 6' at peak, with each side being 8' wide – estimate cost \$3,000/gate
 - 9 x \$3,000 = \$27,000
 - Could add solar powered timers to open and close at \$3500/gate
 - 9 x \$6,500 = \$58,500
 -

Mr. Stroud requested the City to work with Regional Commission to provide alternatives for limiting access to the city cemeteries.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to withdraw his motion to do a RFP to install gates. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hall stated a Technical Assistance request could be submitted to the Regional Commission.

- Energy Economic Consulting working on utility rate study; should have by 1st meeting in October
- Eggs & Issues tomorrow at 7:30 am at El Tejado
- New feeder for Industrial Park should be up and running by 10/1; pouring concrete either this week or next week, then installing and testing equipment.
- City Hall staff will take vacation days to be closed ½ day on Wednesday before Thanksgiving and all day on 12/23 for additional time off for Christmas.
- Still waiting to hear from county on bond closing for 2020 SPLOST bond.

- Technical Assistance Request sent to Regional Commission to pick back up on Annexation project after last council meeting; added the 2018 draft document to Google Drive for you to review.
- Audit RFP is due 9/20 by 5:00 pm.
- MEAG Roundtable meetings notice sent out last week – being held in Monroe, Newnan, Cartersville, and Crisp County.
- Electric panel issue this weekend at RWTP; working to get parts replaced; hope to have repairs completed this week.
- CDBG application awarded for Blount Street; approximately \$600,000 project; huge Thank you to Regional Commission, David Herndon and Craig Helms for going door-to-door to get surveys completed to submit with application.
- Large tree fell yesterday on Country Club Drive – Thank you to Fire staff who stayed onsite until All Seasons could arrive to remove tree.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton had no further business to report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson thanked Council for allowing him to attend the Knox Institute class. It was a very good learning experience. The class challenges you to learn the dynamic of the team you work with and your leadership style.

The Adel project is moving along. The City should begin receiving the rewards of that project beginning this month.

We are receiving hurricane Dorian evacuees currently. We filled approximately 1000 welcome bags for the evacuees. Welcome bags are provided to help evacuees feel welcome in the City.

Council Comments

Mr. Stroud mentioned he received a compliment, and appreciation from a resident of Gray, GA. The gentleman enjoyed the vibe of the City on a Friday night, stated the City was clean and fun.

Mr. Goolsby asked if we had a contract to maintain the planters at the businesses. Ms. Hall stated D.I.M. is contracted for the bump outs only.

Mr. Dodd stated on behalf of the Golf Club he would like to thank the electric department for their assistance with recently completed work at the Golf Club. The City is blessed to have a good concrete crew. Travis Huff and his crew did a great job on the concrete; and he'll do a great job on the stonework too.

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to add two additional stop signs at Clayton English and Freeman Rd to make it a 4 way stop at that intersection. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hewett asked about the cleanup at several corners in the City that the Housing Authority mentioned in a letter. Ms. Hall stated the tractor has been down for several weeks. Once it's operational again the corners will be addressed.

Public Comments

Mr. Ronald Bearden @ 441 Sunset Circle requested that speed limit signs be updated to reflect the same speed traveling either direction on Tift. He mentioned his concerns regarding the issues at the cemetery in regards to the slabs being hit with the lawnmowers.

Executive Session

Mayor Wilson stated the need for the executive session was to discuss personnel and pending litigation.

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel and pending litigation. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously. Council adjourned into executive session at 7:33 p.m.

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

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to rename Country Club Drive to Julius Stroud Sr. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hall stated a form is necessary for changing a street name within the City.

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 8:19 p.m.