

**Minutes
Forsyth City Council
January 6, 2020**

Call to order by City Clerk

In accordance with Section 2.18 of the City Charter, City Clerk, Mrs. Ivie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. At that time the meeting was turned over to Mayor Wilson to preside.

Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation & Roll Call

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

Councilmember Melvin Lawrence was not in attendance for the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes (Stroud, Goolsby, Dodd, Hewett, and Howard).

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 the minutes from the December 16, 2019 Council Meeting

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Mayor Pro-tem

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to appoint Mr. Howard as Mayor Pro-tem.

Mayor Wilson stated nominations do not require a second.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to close the floor for nominations. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried with four (4) votes for (Goolsby, Stroud, Dodd & Hewett). Mr. Howard abstained from voting.

Adoption of Parliamentary Procedures

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to continue with Robert's Rules of Order as our parliamentary procedures. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Board appointments for expired & vacant positions

Ms. Hall reviewed the vacant and expired positions.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion for the board appointments as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of 2020 Professionals

Mr. Hall reviewed the recommended 2020 Professionals.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to table the appointment of 2020 Professionals until the Council retreat on January 26, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Set qualifying fees

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to set the qualifying fees as \$375 for Mayor's Office and \$301.35 for Council. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

2020 Census Updated – Leighanne Mitchell

Ms. Mitchell stated she has been assigned to Monroe County to recruit numerators between now and end of the month. An additional seventy (70) workers are needed. The hourly rate is \$14.50 an hour plus mileage. Training facilities are needed for the numerators. Ms. Mitchell further stated Census workers should begin gathering information beginning April 1st. All census workers will be wearing an official badge, carrying a laptop or an Ipad with official census logo information. The majority of the gathering of the information will be done in the evenings, and on the weekends.

Resolution to adopt 2020 Budget

Ms. Hall reviewed the budget for 2020 with Mayor and Council. Ms. Hall stated the budget presented includes the increases that are part of the Pay Plan if adopted; and the general fund is a balanced budget.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the resolution for adoption of the 2020 budget as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of street closure - Forsythia Festival & 5k on March 14, 2020

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the street closure as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of temporary alcohol permit – The 1823 Artisan Guild on February 1, 2020

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the temporary alcohol permit for the 1823 Artisan Guild as presented. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

MCT Elections for off system sales and voluntary deposits

Ms. Hall recommended continuing to deposit the OFF System Sales and any Voluntary Deposits in the Municipal Competitive Trust Flexible Operating Account, Intermediate Extended Maturity Portfolio.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

- LMIG submitted for Johnston Street, Phelps Street, Pickney Circle, and Johnston/Tift College
- Dog Park – we will schedule a ribbon cutting once signs are installed.
- Schneider is coming to the next Council Meeting.
- Shop with a Cop – Great success with helping 16 children receive Christmas presents they might have otherwise have received – Huge Thank you to Chief Harris, the Police Department and Tammie Pierson for their work on this project.
- Pre-bid was held today with all 7 prequalified contractors for the New City Hall; bids due 1/27/2020 with award being made at 2/3/2020 Council Meeting; Construction tentatively pushed to 3/3/2020; revised timeline provided to everyone tonight.
- Review the Night market information; this would be working with a 3rd party to provide bands, food and craft vendors for one concert a month April – October or possibly November but not during December thru March; no cost to city except sound/lights, stage, advertising, porta-johns which are a cost we already incur. We can work on this to see how it goes if all are ok with the idea.

- Always provide previous retreat goals and objectives for all the previous retreats at the meeting but will have those ready if not before at the next council meeting. Council retreat is scheduled for Sunday, January 26 9am -2pm during the Mayor Day Conference in Atlanta.
- Request permission to work with a consultant on planning projects such as the CVL project but also to include other projects such as possibly the Park Plan, potential Streetscape IV and others.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to allow City Manager, Janice Hall to work with a consultant on various planning projects. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton stated at the next council meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 a zoning variance for 164 MLK, and the pay plan ordinance will be presented to council for approval; both are currently being advertised.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson expressed his appreciation for the progress on the various City projects coming to fruition from the Council retreats each year. This year's retreat will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Wilson reminded all that the Indian Springs Drive/South Crossover crossing will close on the January 8, 2020. The Julius Stroud Jr. Lane dedication ceremony was held a couple of weeks ago; it was a nice well attended ceremony.

Council Comments

Mr. Hewett stated he looks forward to working with everyone in the New Year.

Mr. Howard stated he is hopeful the City will accomplish many items at the upcoming retreat.

Mr. Goolsby stated he would like for the City attorney to look into the legalities and the requirements for the City to publish our legal notices. Mr. Goolsby expressed his displeasure in regards to an article in the Reporter where a young boy's name and picture were published on the front page of the section.

Public Comments

No one came forward for public comments.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjourn

There being no further business Mr. Stroud offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.