

MINUTES
Forsyth City Council Meeting
October 7, 2019

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation and Roll Call

Mr. Goolsby gave the invocation.

Present for the meeting was Mayor Wilson, Councilmembers Greg Goolsby, Julius Stroud, John Howard, Chris Hewett, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was City Manager, Janice Hall; City Attorney, Bobby Melton and City Clerk, Regina Ivie.

Mr. Dodd was recovering from surgery and unable to attend the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes (Stroud, Goolsby, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence).

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the agenda as stated. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from the Sept. 16, 2019 & Sept. 25, 2019 Council Meetings

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

Audit Review Fiscal Year 2018 – Gene Allen

Mr. Allen briefly reviewed the prepared audit report. He stated the audit had been accepted by the state.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to accept the audit report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Utility Partners – Water Conservation

Mr. Helms reviewed a Tobesofkee Creek Reservoir report he had prepared. He stated due to the rate of decline and lack of rain that the reservoir has approximately 57 days of water remaining. The interconnection daily flow is 250,000 gallons a day. He's requested the City approve a Level 2 Water Conservation Notice.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to initiate the Level 2 Response Conservation Notice immediately. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

Police to review requests to close certain streets at specific times

Chief Harris introduced a new employee, Amy Hudson. She's the department's new office assistant.

Chief Harris requested approval to close certain streets, East Chambers, Plum Street, and Newton Memorial due to heavy school traffic during the time of 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. And 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Howard offered a motion to approve the street closures. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval to renew & extend scope of maintenance agreement – Design, Install & Maintenance LLC.

Ms. Hall reviewed the scope of the current maintenance agreement with DIM @ \$477 a month. Ms. Hall further reviewed the extended proposed scope of a new maintenance agreement at @ \$1,255 a month.

Mr. Howard offered a motion to bid out the landscaping. Seconded by Mr. Stroud.

Mr. Howard amended his motion to approve the contact at \$1,255 a month in the interim until an RFP could be awarded.

Mr. Howard rescinded his motion.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion for a request for proposal to be done for the landscaping services to include the newly added streetscape, and during the interim we award a temporary contract to Design, Install & Maintenance, LLC in the sum \$1,255 until the project bid process is complete. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval to advertise amendments to Article II, Section 2, Forsyth Planning & Zoning Commission

Ms. Hall reviewed the proposed changes recommended by the Forsyth Planning & Zoning Commission that has been requested.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve to advertise for public hearing the amendment changes. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Electric Cities of Georgia Board Nomination

Ms. Hall stated 3 seats are due to expire at the end of the year, 2019. The voting delegate is Mayor Wilson, and Mr. Dodd. Nominations are due to Electric Cities by November 8, 2019. A resident or an employee of the City could be nominated.

Mr. Lawrence offered a motion to table the nomination until the next council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to keep the voting delegate the same, Mayor Eric Wilson, and Councilman Michael E. Dodd. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval to refund year end settlement & Contract Payment Reimbursement - Electric Cities of GA - \$5,844.08

Ms. Hall reviewed the different methods for payment of the year end settlement to be paid to the City. Ms. Hall recommends a check be issued to the City as it has been done in the past.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to have a check issued to the City. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Continuation of Administration – City of Rome, GA

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the continuation of administration by J. Anderson Davis of Brinson, Askey, Berry, Seigler, Richardson & Davis, LLP of Rome, GA. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Fire and City Hall departmental policies

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the departmental policy changes. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of travel request for Mayor Wilson – MEAG Mayor Summit & Electric Cities of GA Meeting

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve both travel requests for Mayor Wilson. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Accounts Payables Invoices \$421,876.54

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to pay the accounts payables invoices. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Requisitions Greater than \$5,000

Calibration Controls Automation Inc. \$5,873.80

Federal Eastern International \$16,877.00

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

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

- **2020 Budget Presentation.** Rather than add to this meeting, I have placed a 2020 budget report on your iPads for you to review; still waiting on the pay plan from Regional Commission so no salary increases are in the budget for 2020 yet; meeting later this week to discuss the Block stream project and how that will affect revenues and expenses for 2020; still a work in progress.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to schedule the Budget Presentation on October, 21, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. as a work session. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

- SPLOST bond closed on Thursday; funds have been deposited in a separate account; Forsyth bonded amount is \$2,327,887.74 plus closing cost & expenses for total bond of \$2.49 million. HWY 41 may be one of the first projects we do.
- TSW will attend the 10/21 council meeting to present their Master Plan for all City Parks.
- Resolution will come before you after advertised for public hearing to approve Athens Housing Authority issuing bonds to acquire and improve Forsyth Garden Apartments

- Public Hearing for street name change is being advertised and will come before you for a public hearing on 10/21 to rename a portion of Country Club Drive to Julius Stroud, Jr. Lane.
- Public Hearing for a sign variance will be held on 10/21; sign variance is for an interstate sign for Zaxby's and BP.
- Advertising for Public Hearing to adopt an ordinance regarding Electric Pole Attachments not until November.
- Plan First Projects for renovation of Bluetick Mercantile building was submitted to DCA in 2018 and renovation of this building was submitted to DCA in 2019 for success stories and both were awarded as success stories.
- We submitted applications for the 2019 CDBG for water lines in Blount Street Area and for Rural Zone Designation and have been awarded both of those; awards dinner will be next Wednesday and Mayor Wilson and Councilman Hewett will attend to accept the awards; Regina and I will attend the CDBG training on next Thursday in Newnan.
- Annexation update; met with Regional Commission staff to discuss and the meeting brought up several concerns that I have so we are working on some background information to present to council before sending out letters regarding the annexation; Phase I of project is Bibb Mill Village area out to Carey Bittick Drive, around to property beyond the back 9 of golf course that was recently purchased, to include all properties within this area that are not currently inside in the Meadow Drive area. We are researching to provide number of properties and households included in this area to be annexed and what that would mean to fire, police and public works services. One area of concern is the fire ISO rating – annexing these areas increases our response time and that could jeopardize our rating. We are working with someone to do a study to provide how annexing this area could affect our ISO ranking; also need to know number of additional households for fire and police protection but also for yard debris pickup. Those are some of the areas that we will research and provide information back to you before moving forward with notifying the property owners.
- Distributed Generation and utility rate study should be complete for presentation to council at next meeting but at least no later than 1st meeting in November.
- G-DOT is apparently restriping lane lines through town; this was one of the recommendations that came out of their May 2017 safety audit.
- Bids for demolition of building at new city hall location are due 10/15; building tour conducted 9/30 with 8 contractors attending; received requests from 20 contractors for bid package.

Upcoming Ribbon cuttings:

- October 8 at noon Momentum Christian Church 175 N Lee Street
- October 15 at 10:00 a.m. MC Hospital ER
- October 17 at 11:00 a.m. Georgia Bob's BBQ 114 E Johnston
- October 19 at 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 pm with ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:30 am Five Below
- November 5 at 5:30 p.m. Volume Chevrolet 450 N Lee Street

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton stated the advertisement for the street name change will come before you on October 21st. Zaxby's has a sign variance that's been approved by Planning and Zoning it will also come before you on October 21st.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson stated he received an email from Georgia Department of Transportation stating they are accelerating four of their major mobility projects. They are projecting to start construction in 2024 and completion date of 2028. He further stated he forwarded the email to our state representatives. He expressed to them we wanted to make sure our voices are heard in Forsyth, and that we have input through the process because it will have a major impact on Forsyth. Currently it doesn't show what parcels will be affected. There's a lot of speculation as to what properties it will affect.

Mr. Hewett provided a spreadsheet to council indicating what the possible impact to the City could be.

Mayor Wilson stated we need to remain vigilant and any meetings that are scheduled we need to be in attendance to make our voices heard.

Public Comments

Mr. Stroud discussed with Council his conversation with Ms. Lisa Lee. Ms. Lee is on the Monroe Reads committee. It's part of the FERST Foundation. Ms. Lee approached Mr. Stroud about the City making a monetary donation to Monroe Reads. Parents receive a book in the mail every month, it increases parent-child bonding and literacy.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion for the City to donate \$750.00 to Monroe Reads Program. Seconded by Mr. Hewett.

Mr. Melton recommends an agreement be entered into with Monroe Reads to partially fund that program for the benefit of literate citizens.

Mr. Stroud withdrew his previous motion.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to enter in an agreement with Monroe Reads to partially fund the program in the amount of \$750.00. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

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

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to adjourn into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously. Mayor and Council adjourned into executive session at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting back into open session at 8:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.