

**Minutes**  
**Forsyth City Council Meeting**  
**Aldermen Hall 6:00 p.m.**  
**August 5, 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, Chris Hewett, Melvin Lawrence, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, and Mike Dodd. Also present was City Attorney, Bobby Melton; City Manager, Janice Hall, and City Clerk, Regina Ivie.

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes of the July 15, 2019 & July 26, 2019 Council Meetings**

Mr. Stroud made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 15<sup>th</sup> & July 26<sup>th</sup> Council Meetings. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of road closure request of portion of Jackson St for Kevin Williams Fundraiser, 8/16/19**

Ms. Hall stated the request is for closure of Jackson Street from Johnston Street to West Adams Street for Deputy Williams from 5pm to midnight with a large crowd expected.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to approve the road closure request as stated. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with Monroe County**

Ms. Hall stated the City has previously had this agreement; it's for Booking and Boarding of inmates at the Jail. Several years ago the City paid the greater of add on fees from Municipal Court or the actual booking and boarding fees. This agreement will reflect a change so that the City will now pay 10% of Court Fines along with \$40.00 per inmate per day that is boarded and \$15.00 per inmate that is booked. July to October 2018 actual cost was \$8145. Jan through June 2019 invoices are \$9395. An estimate for 2019 would be slightly over \$18k. Ms. Hall requested approval for the January to June 2019 invoices in the amount of \$9395 with the approval of the intergovernmental agreement with Monroe County.

Mike Dodd made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental agreement and to pay the January to June 2019 invoices with Monroe County. Seconded by John Howard; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Renewal of Annual Agreement for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program FY2020**

Ms. Hall stated that the payment approved by Community Care would come directly to the City rather than the utility customer. Previously payments were paid to the utility customer, it was their responsibility to pay the City.

Mr. Dodd made a motion to approve the annual agreement. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adoption of Ordinance to Amend the Retirement Plan Documents**

Ms. Hall reviewed an amendment to the retirement plan. A Rule of 75 with a minimum age of 55. Currently the normal retirement age is 65 with 5 years of service to the City to draw the retirement. You can retire early at 55 with 10 years of service with a 50% penalty. The penalty decreases with each year closer to age 65. With the Rule of 75 an employee's age plus years of service that equals to 75 would draw their normal retirement if they are at least 55 years old. Ms. Hall further stated there are two documents that needs to be approved. An ordinance adoption agreement and an addendum needs to be adopted. The effective date is August 5, 2019; the change includes all employees.

Mr. Stroud stated the Rule of 75 excludes elected officials.

Mr. Melton stated that this comes as an ordinance so it needs to be advertised. The effective date can remain August 5, 2019.

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to advertise for the approval of the ordinance to amend the retirement plan documents. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Set preliminary Millage Rate for 2019 & Schedule Public Hearing to establish 2019 Millage Rate**

Ms. Hall stated she provided a millage rate worksheet from 3.75 to 1.75 indicating what the property tax revenue would be. At a millage rate of 3 mils it would be a slight increase over projected revenue for 2018 which is \$335000, \$342000 for 2019.

Mr. Dodd made a motion to set the preliminary millage rate at 3 mils and to advertise for the hearing. Seconded by Mr. Hewett.

Mr. Howard stated he would have liked for the motion to be at 4 mils so that there could be some discussion to provide funding for pay increases for the police officers for retention and recruitment purposes possibly in a work session.

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to amend the original motion to include the language that these funds are to be used for special projects. Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion.

After much discussion by the Council, Mayor Wilson and Ms. Hall it was determined that the FY 2020 budget would have allowances so that the needs of the police department's wages could be adjusted.

Mayor Wilson called for a vote on the amended motion that was previously stated by Mr. Goolsby. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilson called for a vote on the original motion by Mr. Dodd to set the millage rate at 3 mils and to advertise for the hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Approval of Right-of-way Easement with Central GA EMC for electric service to lift station at T.G. Scott**

Ms. Hall stated the lift station electric service for T. G. Scott was attached to one of the buildings. EMC will have to build the electric service to the lift station. EMC is requiring this right of way easement from the City to Central GA EMC to run the service for the lift station.

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the right of way easement with Central GA EMC. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Approval of Amendments to the City Personnel Policy – Take Home Vehicle**

Ms. Hall stated the first revision is to remove the stipulation of living within a 30 mile radius of the city limits or to any county that neighbors Monroe County. The second revision is to allow full time certified officers a take home vehicle with at least one year fulltime law enforcement service with any law enforcement agency at the discretion of the Police Chief and Approval of the City Manager. Full time new hires that complete mandate will be assigned a take home vehicle at the discretion of the Police Chief, and Approval of the City Manager.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to approve the amendments to the travel policy. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Reschedule & or Cancel 9-2-19 Council Meeting**

Ms. Hall stated September 2<sup>nd</sup> is Labor Day. Millage rate is typically set with a public hearing at the first meeting in September.

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to reschedule the Council Meeting to Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 6:00p.m. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Approval of Accounts Payables Invoices \$436,468.47**

Mr. Hewett made a motion to approve the account payable invoices as stated. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the requisitions listed. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

### City Manager Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

- CVB will attend the 8/19 meeting to provide their quarterly update & they will make recommendations to council for appointees to the 2 vacant positions on the CVB board.
- Qualifying is August 19-23 at the Board of Elections office.
- Department heads working on 2020 budget needs; will have preliminary budget to council in October.
- Providing information to all appointed boards having met with all except the Housing Authority, reminding them of responsibilities for their respective boards and reviewing open records/open meetings laws. Want to remind you as well especially with the purchase of replacement iPads that these are city property and to only use for city business as these are subject to open records as they have city emails on them.
- 2 alcohol applications have been received and will be advertised for public hearings – Marco's Pizza and new occupant of Welcome Mart at the next meeting.
- Corridor Overlay amendments being advertised for public hearing on 8/19 to correct the Highway 83 Corridor as recommendation from P&Z. Also working on amendment to ordinance that governs P&Z board as to criteria for serving on the board and requirement for attendance at meetings
- Waiting on county for 2020 SPLOST bond agreement
- Conditional use public hearing will be held 8/19 for car wash behind Castleberry's
- Submitted letter to EDA to de-obligate funding for the EDA grant that we were awarded for the upgrade to the electrical distribution in the Industrial Park. ECG re-evaluated the project and found more cost-effective solution to meet the electric needs for the park.
- Good turnout for the first Battle of the Bands on Saturday night; waiting on feedback to see if everyone liked the event and if it is one that MS will continue; this was final concert of the year
- Each of you should have received email from Judy for RSVP for Chamber event 8/13; please let Judy or Chamber know if you will be attending
- You have been provided a project update for all projects that are currently being worked on or have been presented at least to 1<sup>st</sup> Step; after reviewing those, please let me know if you have any questions

Mr. Dodd discussed with Mayor and Council that the Golf Board is requesting assistance from the City to pour a 100' driving range; City to dig and pour the concrete needed. Golf Board would cover cost of all materials needed.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to allow city workers to perform the concrete work for the driving range at the Golf Course. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

### City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton stated he has four public hearings scheduled for the August 19<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

- Reginald Pope – Conditional Use
- Marcos Pizza – Alcohol Pouring License
- New Business in Welcome Mart Building – Alcohol Package License
- Corridor Overlay Amendment

### Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson stated the Battle of the Bands event was this past weekend. A diversity of bands with a good crowd in attendance. He attended the Board of Education Convocation recently. During the meeting he learned that Monroe County Schools is now 11<sup>th</sup> in the ranking, previously 19<sup>th</sup> in the state. Congratulations to Councilman Stroud he is a new employee with Monroe County School System. Also he attended the One Monroe meeting recently where good information was shared.

Mayor Wilson inquired with council in regards to scheduling a work session soon regarding salary adjustments with the Police Department. After some discussion it was decided amongst council that Ms. Hall would handle the salary adjustments within the budget preparation with Chief Harris.

**Council Comments**

Mr. Stroud stated he's concerned about the census and how it relates to the annexation capturing all citizens, and increasing our footprint of the City for all of those that receive city services. He further stated that now is a good time to promote the AMP program/budget billing for the citizens during the peak energy season.

Mayor Wilson stated we haven't had an increase in electric rates, or an increase in energy cost either in several years. The City's bills are all inclusive for electric, water, sewer and garbage whereas other electric customers in other cities with an EMC their bill only includes electric.

Mr. Hewett stated that the corner lot there at Ingles is in need of maintenance. As well as a lot of the street signs in the City needs to be fixed.

Mr. Lawrence stated that any issues within the City can be addressed to Judy who will then relay the information to Janice. He further mentioned several instances that were handled in that manner have all been fixed; that process works efficiently for him.

**Public Comments**

Don Daniel asked the Council what is the condemnation status of Anne's Deli? And what is the condemnation status of the old building behind the Chamber of Commerce? What is the status of demolishing the old store where the new City Hall will be built?

Ms. Hall stated she doesn't know that either of those are in condemnation. She further stated that ClarkNexsen, the City's Architects are working on an asbestos abatement. She was unable to obtain an update from them prior to tonight's meeting.

**Executive Session**

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

Mr. Hewett made a motion to adjourn into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 7:09 p.m.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting back into open session at 7:49 p.m.

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to authorize the City Attorney, Bobby Melton to advise Norfolk Southern Railroad that the City is willing to install crossing arms and other safety features at the Indian Springs Drive railroad crossing. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Hewett made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.