

Minutes
Forsyth City Council Meeting
July 7, 2020

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation and Roll Call

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Howard gave the invocation. Present for the meeting in person was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Chris Hewett, Melvin Lawrence, Greg Goolsby, City Manager, Janice Hall; City Attorney, Bobby Melton and City Clerk, Regina Ivie. Present for the meeting by video conference was Councilman John Howard and Julius Stroud. All members of Council were present for the meeting therefore all unanimous votes will be six votes (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Hewett, Howard, and Lawrence).

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes from the June 15, 2020 Council Meeting

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

Approval of alcohol beverage license for Royal Refreshments J LLC @ 325 Cabaniss Road

Mr. Melton stated the license application for Royal Refreshments J LLC at 325 Cabaniss Rd is a beer and wine package; advertised in the Monroe Reporter on June 24, July 1, and July 20, 2020.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the alcohol license. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of amendment of intergovernmental agreement regarding electric service for Blockstream USA and approval of resolution authorizing execution of delivery and performance of amendment to the intergovernmental agreement

Mayor Wilson stated the amendment provides price security for Blockstream and protects the revenue stream for the seven entities through October 31, 2020.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the amendment to the intergovernmental agreement for Blockstream USA and to approve the resolution authorizing execution of delivery and performance of amendment to the intergovernmental agreement. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of agreement with Forsyth Country Club, Inc. – tabled from June 1 and June 15, 2020 Council Meetings

Ms. Hall stated the agreement is for repayment for upfront expenses relating to the land, water, and conservation grant that was recently awarded in the amount of \$100,000; the grant is a 50/50 grant. The City will cover the initial \$50,000 and invoice the Golf Club; the agreement does not specify repayment terms currently.

Ms. Hall recommended all funds be repaid at the end of the project of December 31, 2022. Ms. Hall further stated the City applied for the grant at the request of the Golf Club.

After some discussion regarding the repayment terms Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the agreement with a repayment in full date of December 31, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of maintenance agreement with Cummins Inc. d/b/a Cummins Power South

Ms. Hall stated the agreement is to add the K.B. Sutton lift station for inspection and full service yearly in the amount of \$1,331.42

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

2020 MEAG Power Annual Election

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to submit Mayor Wilson as the voting delegate for the 2020 MEAG Power annual election. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Establish fee and bond amount for Micro-brewery with growlers

Ms. Hall recommended the City set the bond amount for micro-breweries with growlers at \$1,000.00 with an annual license fee amount of \$400.00.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to set the bond amount at \$1,000, with an annual license amount of \$400.00. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval to reopen City facilities – tabled from June 15, 2020 Council meeting

Ms. Hall has requested the agenda item be tabled until quotes for cleaning the facilities could be obtained.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to table the agenda item until necessary quotes for cleaning services could be obtained. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Requisitions Greater than \$5,000

- i. Georgia Fire & Rescue - \$18,089.00 – 2020 SPLOST
- ii. Calibration Automation Inc. - \$5,525.39 – 2014 SPLOST

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

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

- o Roberts Hauling & Pipeline were provided notice to proceed for August 3, with 180 days to complete the CDBG project for waterlines on Blount Street.
- o We moved speed detection sign from Indian Springs to Jones Street to monitor traffic. Getting software update for the signs to provide reports and also getting price quotes for solar signs. Once we have the reports showing speeds on Jones Street, will bring back to you with recommendation regarding need for speed bumps.
- o Council approved removal and replacement of a portion of sidewalk on Harris Street at the Fox City Brewery. Somehow this got misrepresented to other business owners on the street as removal of sidewalk and installation of handicap parking space. I met with Mr. Emami and discussed his plan which only consist of raising sidewalk at new entrance on Harris Street and sloping that area so that it meets ADA regulations. No handicap parking spaces are being added on Harris Street. The existing ramp at the old entrance will be used and the area in front of that will be restriped but that was already existing.
- o Alcohol license for Lucio Castillo was completed this week and submitted to Mr. Melton for review and advertising. Should come before council for a public hearing at 1st meeting in August. This will be for beer, wine and liquor pouring in the old Bluetick Mercantile building for a Mexican restaurant.
- o Previously reported that Mr. James Green had asked that several properties along Highway 83 South be rezoned from Neighborhood Shopping to Highway Business. As previously stated I presented this to P&Z requesting, that they review what is permitted, conditional and prohibited in Neighborhood Shopping rather than rezone these properties to Highway Business which is the least restrictive of all commercial zones along with my recommendation that this would not be a good zoning change in that area due to several neighborhoods being

along the route that was being requested to be changed. Planning & Zoning brought this up at the June meeting and will review again at their July meeting for a recommendation to council for any changes to the types of businesses allowed in Neighborhood Shopping.

- Annexation for H&H Timberlands will come before council on July 20 for a public hearing. This went before P&Z at their June meeting; they recommend approval.
- The Backlot Players held their check presentation last week for the grant funding received to refurbish the marquee sign. Huge thank you to the Backlot Players for allowing the sign to be used to display the 2020 senior pictures.
- Job opportunities for city positions are currently being advertised on GMA Marketplace, Facebook and the City website.
 - electric lineman
 - laborer in the public works department
 - facilities maintenance position
- Notice is running this week and next week in the Reporter for the water and sewer plant upgrades. This is a requirement of the USDA that the notice and maps run for 2 consecutive weeks in the legal organ.
- Contracts for LMIG should be received tomorrow and once we execute them, we will hold a preconstruction conference with the contractor and provide them with a notice to proceed.
- Specifications for Highway 41 waterline project have been completed and advertisement should go out soon; will advertise for 30 days and come back to council to award the bid.
- A leak at the intersection of Chambers/Jackson was repaired today. Will need to cut down Jackson Street to determine how far the erosion under the roadway goes and repair that as well.
- Governor Kemp and Dr. Toomey spoke during the weekly conference call today with GMA participants. As you know, Governor Kemp initiated a “wear a mask” tour and visited several cities throughout the state. He and Dr. Toomey repeated several times today that the Executive Orders in place should be sufficient and do not recommend mandates for mask in public but also stated that the Executive Orders include enforcement measures and local agencies can enforce the Orders or report violations to the State for them to enforce. Some takeaways from the conference call today were:
 - Varying opinions regarding mask but it has been proven proper wearing of a mask helps stop the spread of the virus
 - Raise public awareness regarding social distancing, wearing face mask and proper handwashing before imposing mandates
 - Encouraged use of all social media outlets to get the message out regarding this
 - Continually monitor businesses to ensure they are following guidelines in place for their type of business and if not, use enforcement in Executive Orders
 - Hold everyone accountable to do what is right and work together and not let pandemic politics get in the way and always put people first
 - State of Emergency put in place yesterday by Governor Kemp was a result of the dramatic increase in gun shot wounds/deaths over the weekend, not due to the pandemic
 - Some test sites are running out of supplies due to increase testing before and after the holiday since testing sites were closed several days for the holiday and Dr. Toomey committed that this will not happen again as far as testing sites closing for the holidays
 - Difficult to change people’s actions and adjust to the new normal but must depend on officials to lead by example and follow and enforce the guidelines in place
 - An investment in our future means a sacrifice now
- I emailed the Enforcement section of Governor Kems latest Executive Order to everyone today for your information and review.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton stated H&H Annexation should be presented to Council at the July 20, 2020 meeting; County was sent a certified letter in accordance with law; it was delivered on June 25, 2020. He further stated the ABC application will be presented to Council at the August 3, 2020 meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson stated that as elected officials we should encourage the public to do the right thing with regard to the current pandemic. Three best practices that has been proven to be effective to reduce the spread of the virus are to wear and encourage others to wear a face masks, social distancing, and frequent handwashing. We need to utilize social media as much as possible to encourage the public to follow those guidelines; discourage behaviors that don't lend to doing the right thing. Mayor Wilson further stated that the City can't go beyond Governor Kemp's executive order; we can enforce his order locally; City can't have an ordinance that goes exceeds the executive order.

Council Board Reports

Mr. Dodd expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Golf Board to City Manager, Ms. Janice Hall and Council for working to obtain the grant for the Golf Club. Mr. Dodd inquired about the Golf Club using certain fields for a driving range. After some discussion Mayor Wilson expressed concerns that if the Golf Club began using the fields what would occur when the City is ready to move forward with the comprehensive park plans.

Mr. Howard stated the CVB board will request the assistance of the Regional Commission to create policies for the CVB.

Additional Business

Mr. Goolsby stated that after further thought he feels that the City missed an opportunity to help other downtown businesses with the advertising and the mural Jonah's presented at the last meeting. Planning & Zoning, Design & Review both approved what was requested in the application.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the application as it was presented to Planning & Zoning; and Design & Review Board with advertising to include downtown merchants only. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried with four (4) votes (Goolsby, Dodd, Hewett, Lawrence). Mr. Howard and Mr. Stroud voted in opposition of the motion.

Public Comments

No one came forward for comments.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.