

**Minutes
Forsyth City Council
January 17, 2023**

Call to order

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

Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Dave Martin, and Roll Call.

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Dave Martin with the local ministerial association gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Greg Goolsby, Julius Stroud, Mike Dodd, Chris Hewett, and Melvin Lawrence. Also in attendance was City Manager, Janice Hall; City Attorney, Bobby Melton; and City Clerk, Regina Ivie. Councilmember John Howard was not in attendance for the meeting. There were five members of council in attendance therefore all unanimous votes will be five votes (Goolsby, Stroud, Dodd, Hewett, and Lawrence).

Approval of the agenda

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to amend the agenda; to add Monroe County Development Authority Presentation as a new number five agenda item. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Approve of the minutes from the council meeting hold on January 3, 2023.

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

Monroe County Development Authority Presentation.

Ms. Joyce White stated the Development Authority has been getting properties at Indian Springs Park appraised; as a whole, and by each parcel separately. A fortune 500 company has expressed interest and negotiations have begun. The company would bring 60 full time positions to the area. Ms. White further stated that phase three power is in the back of the property. The company's preference is the front of the property for the power. Mike Batchelor provided a high low estimate, high is \$58,500, the low is \$38,700 to Ms. White. Ms. White requested assistance from the city with the cost to move the power based on the estimate; with a cap at \$25k to \$30k.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to cover the expenses with moving the Phase III power with a cap at \$30,000. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Review and approval of a sewer extension agreement.

Mr. Tye Hanna provided a brief overview of the previously discussed agreement.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the sewer extension agreement as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of uninsured motorist coverage for the city's liability insurance coverage.

Ms. Hall reviewed the additional coverage needed for the city's liability coverage, uninsured motorists. The auto premium would increase an additional \$6,184, umbrella policy would increase by \$6,403. A total increase of \$12,587 to add the coverage. Ms. Hall further stated if the uninsured motorist's coverage is approved by council that approval to amend the budget would also be needed since this coverage was not a budgeted expense.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the additional coverage, and the budget amendment. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

2023 Board Appointments.

Ms. Hall reviewed the current vacancies on the boards and reviewed a possible appointee.

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to appoint James Freeman and Cindy Seymour to the Downtown Development Authority. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stroud offered a nomination to appoint Michael Brewster to the Planning & Zoning Commission. After some discussion regarding other possible nominations, Mr. Dodd nominated James Freeman, Mr. Goolsby nominated Bo Gregory. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to close the floor for nominations. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously to close the floor for nominations.

Mayor Wilson called for a vote for each nominee.

- Michael Brewster received three votes (Hewett, Lawrence, and Stroud).
- James Freeman received one vote (Dodd).
- Bo Gregory received one vote (Goolsby).

Michael Brewster is appointed to the Planning & Zoning Commission by majority vote.

Approval of surplus vehicles from electric & public works departments.

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

Approval of a street closure request from Monroe County Achievement Center on March 25, 2023.

Ms. Sarah Alford with the Monroe County Achievement Center requested a street closure for an annual event, 2023 would be the 6th year. The goal for participation this year is 150 runners. All proceeds go towards enhancing educational experiences for the students. Ms. Alford reviewed the route for the race.

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

Mr. Stroud offered an amendment to the original motion, to approve the street closure request as presented, and the city be a sponsor for the 5k race with a \$500 donation to the Monroe County Achievement. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilson called for a vote on the original motion; to approve the street closure request as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of requisitions greater than \$6,000

- i. **Altec Capital \$41,086.00**
- ii. **Brannen Motor Company \$20,532.84**
- iii. **Core & Main, LP \$6,707.36**
- iv. **Davis Plumbing \$9,120.00**
- v. **Motorola Solutions \$25,988.40**

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

City Manager's Report

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

- Kens Stereo came last week and worked on the audio for the meetings and hopefully that is now corrected. If those listening to the meeting online have issues with the audio, please let us know. Kens Stereo also added a feature so that we can include the presentation slides during the meeting so those watching Facebook will be able to see those as well.
- Councilman Howard asked about the Hotel/Motel Tax increase at the last meeting. In May 2022 I reported to council that the State had approved our request to increase the H/M tax to 7% but due to COVID, no action had been taken on our part. If council is ready to move forward with that tax increase, we can prepare the ordinance amendment and advertise for a public hearing.
A work session was scheduled at 4:00 p.m. February 6, 2023.
- Now that we have finished budget work and the LOST renegotiations, we are ready to work on the annexation project. Greg Boike and I recommend that we hold a work session to review the process for annexation and what is needed from City Council for this project to move forward. Greg can attend prior to the 2/6 council meeting but would have to leave by 5:30 or if there is another date that you would prefer.

- Several water leaks during freeze at Christmas; 2 remaining leaks (Pecan Circle and E Main) but locates have not been completed by other utilities on those yet; we will repair as soon as locates are completed.
 - All pay increases and evaluations for fulltime employees have been completed and those increases were included in this week's check.
 - New Main Street Coordinator, Takeimia (Kemie) Childs, started last Friday. We hope to use her knowledge of social media to help get all city social media accounts under one and increase our presence on all social media platforms.
 - Chief Blue is working on hiring process and structure of department; should have new hires soon and will review department structure once that is completed.
 - Kubota tractor and Grapple truck are down with mechanical issues; working with vendor to have repairs made to all trailers to repair/replace fenders and ramps.
 - Public Works employees have been working to clean up their building and lot; looks much better already.
 - Electric crews will be working one evening per week until all streetlights have been inspected; they will work from 6-11 pm on Thursday evenings. As they find streetlights that are out, they will replace those. If you know of streetlights that are not working, please call City Hall at 478-994-5649 to report the outage.
 - Electric crews also working on N Frontage Road Street lighting; will cut back trees that are blocking some of the lighting and will add one light along the roadway.
 - With the retirement of Steve Jones, Mike Batchelor is looking to reorganize the public works departments and move people around in that department. We are currently 3 short in the department, so if you know of anyone wanting a job, please send them our way
 - Submitted a TA to the Regional Commission to work with Chief Bunn to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant
 - Everyone should have received their new health insurance cards for Cigna.
 - We are working with local contractors (especially plumbing companies) to ensure that our specifications/regulations are followed especially when road cuts are required.
 - Continue to encourage customers to sign up for text and email notifications to receive not only billing notifications but also for announcements from the city; we have less than 300 signed up.
 - Councilman Howard asked at the last meeting about a vehicle for the police chief. We are working to get pricing for the Fire and Police Chief. Those are unbudgeted items but will bring those back to you as soon as they have the quotes.
 - Just as a reminder, the department project list is a separate spreadsheet from the council retreat spreadsheet that I provide to you each year after your retreat.
 - We sent fire and electric crews to Griffin and Jackson to help with storm cleanup and power restoration. Both cities were hit hard by the storms Thursday and still working to get all power restored and debris cleaned up.
- Zoning Project Updates
- Benson Ham Road – truck parking area; developer has been notified that fence is within easement of water line and must be moved.
 - Fox Run Subdivision – working to change location of water tie-in from Highway 41 to Thornton Road; clearing is almost complete; roads and infrastructure have not been installed; no construction on homes will be approved to begin until infrastructure is in place and inspected.
 - Lovers Lane Townhome Project – working with developer to replace storm drain on Jackson as a joint project; presented approval tonight for replacement of manhole that will serve this project.
 - Atlanta Gas line replacement project – working with AGL to get timeline for completion of line installation and repairs to roadway and sidewalks on Tift College Drive and Hillsdale.
 - Drivers Services building in Industrial Park – work is beginning on this project; we had 4 manholes that needed lids/repairs and H2O completed those last week.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Melton stated applications for Moose Lodge, and Outdoor Ventures to sell alcoholic beverages is being currently advertised for the February 6, 2023, council meeting. The ordinance to change the meeting dates when a holiday occurs on the first and third Mondays of each month is also being advertised for February 6, 2023.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wilson had no further business to report.

Additional Business

Mr. Lawrence stated he will be attending a Convention & Visitors Bureau meeting on January 27, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The Chamber of Commerce no longer has board members but are welcome to attend meetings.

Public Comments

No one came forward for public comments.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.