**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council**

**December 18, 2023**

**Call to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Marlyn Tucker Merritt, and Roll Call.**

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Marilyn Tucker- Merritt gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers John Howard, Chris Hewett, Greg Goolsby, Charles Wilder and Mike Dodd. Also in attendance at the meeting was the City Manager, Craig Mims, the Assistant City Manager, Regina Ivie, and the City Attorney Bobby Melton. Five members of council were in attendance for the meeting, all unanimous votes will be five votes (Howard, Hewett, Goolsby, Wilder, and Dodd).

**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 council meeting held on December 7, 2023.**

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

**Public Hearing to consider amendments to Article 37 (Administration) Section 3.**

Mr. Cody Ellis, the Community Development Director, proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to the Administration portion of the Ordinance. The proposed changes would be specifically for the Zoning Administrator.

Mayor Wilson Advised the public hearing for the proposed amendments had been advertised and opened the public hearing for comments in favor of or opposition to the amendments to Article 37 (Administration) Section 3.

There being no comments in favor of or opposition to the amendments to Article 37 (Administration) Section 3, Mayor closed the public hearing.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the amendments to Article 37(Administration) Section 3. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Eagle Scout Project by Nicholas Firster.**

Nicholas Firster advised he wants to achieve his rank of Eagle Scout by adding a metal projection sign that would be shown in both directions so that citizens know where Lee Street Park is located and by adding a wooden trash can cage. He advised the total cost of the project is $1425.00.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the Eagle Scout Project by Nicholas Firster and for the city to cover the funding of the project. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of a service agreement with Interactive Utility Communications.**

Mr. Mike Batchelor, the Utilities Director, proposed a one-year service contract with Interactive Utility Communications to handle all non- emergency after- hour calls for the City of Forsyth including electric, water, sewer, and public works.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the service agreement with Interactive Utility Communications. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the issuance of a temporary permit for the sale of alcoholic beverages by El Dorado Mexican Restaurant on December 31st.**

Mrs. Regina Ivie, the Assistant City Manager, advised that El Dorado Mexican Restaurant applied for temporary permit to participate and sale alcoholic beverages at the New Year’s Eve ball drop on December 31,2023.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the temporary permit for the sale of alcoholic beverages by EL Dorado Mexican Restaurant on December 31, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried unanimously.

**Walter Goodson**

Mr. Walter Goodson came before the council regarding the right of way between Powell Street and Sharp Street. He presented information from his point of view.

After a brief discussion Mr. Cody Ellis, the Community Development Director advised that one of his roles of zoning administrator is to determine boundary disputes; he would meetwith David Bennett after the beginning of the year and report back with legal representation determining the matter.

**City Manager’s Report**

Mr. Craig Mims, the City Manager, advised that:

-The Utilities Department completed installation of new LED light fixtures in the public safety parking lot.

-The Police Department open house will take place on Wednesday, December 20th at 6p.m.

-Staff will participate in the Shop with a Hero event on 12-20-23.

-City Hall will be closing early on Friday, December 22, 2023, at noon, observing Christmas Holidays on Monday, Dec. 25th and Tuesday, December 26th.

-The New Year’s Eve festivities will start at 8p.m. Activities include food trucks, music, and the ball drop.

**City Attorney Report**

Mr. Bobby Melton, the City Attorney, had no business to report.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He recognized Councilman John Howard being that it was his last meeting and thanked him for his dedication and service to the city.

**Additional Business**

Mr. Goolsby advised he was honored to have served as Mayor Pro-teem. He thanked Walter Goodson for being compassionate about his community.

Mr. Hewett advised that the Hospital Authority will be meeting on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 5:30p.m.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Walter Goodson advised that some people in the community are c concerned about the person that was hanged and advised them to investigate the case.

**Executive Session**

No executive session needed.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:01p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Shayla Furlow, Executive Administrative Assistant