**Minutes**

**Forsyth Council Meeting**

**March 20, 2023 6:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Cleveland Jarrell, and Roll Call.**

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Revered Cleveland Jarrell gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Greg Goolsby, Julius Stroud, John Howard, and Chris Hewett. Also, in attendance was the City Manager, Janice Hall and Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, Regina Ivie. There were five members of council in attendance therefore all unanimous votes will be five votes (Dodd, Goolsby, Stroud, Howard, and Hewett).

**Approval of the agenda.**

Mr. Hewett made 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 March 6, 2023.**

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

**Convention & Visitors Bureau Quarterly report by Gilda Stanbery**

Ms. Stanbery reviewed various marketing tools in circulation since the quarterly update; discover Forsyth passport, 200 years of Her Story guide and tour. Included in the 200 years of Her Story is the Forsyth’s City Manager, Janice Hall. She introduced a kickoff initiative for the city’s bicentennial and provided notes to council from the 2023 annual planning meeting. Ms. Stanbery also reviewed the hotel/motel tax revenues; $544,812 was received from 12 hotels and one KOA campground of which 40% goes to the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

**Approval to change the signatures for Municipal Competitive Trust.**

Ms. Hall recommended updating the signatures of the Municipal Competitive Trust to Mayor Wilson and Regina Ivie, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to change the signatures as recommended by Ms. Hall. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of year end 2022 budget adjustments.**

Ms. Hall provided an overview of the necessary budget adjustments by department for a balanced budget.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to approve the year end budget adjustments for 2022. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of request for traffic signal with Georgia Department of Transportation.**

Ms. Hall reviewed the request for a traffic signal at the north bound entrance - exit ramp at Royal 7. Formal approval is still needed by Georgia Department of Transportation; our application packet/agreement is needed prior to GDOT’s review and final approval. The cost will be provided by GDOT unless the city wants black mast arms. The city will pay for electricity for the light as we do for all others in the city.

Mr. Dodd made a motion to approve the application/agreement by GDOT as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of an agreement with and payment to i3-SSI.**

Ms. Hall reviewed a renewal agreement for software the police department uses for citations, Synergistic Software Inc aka SSI. The prior agreement’s fees from 2018 associated with each citation issued were not added the total citation cost into the system in error. Those fees are due to SSI dating back to 2018 in the amount of $45,800. Ms. Hall recommended the city renew the agreement with i3-SSI, formerly Synergistic Software Inc aka SSI, and process payment for those fees due.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the renewal agreement and payment to i3-SSI as recommended. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Requisitions Greater than $6,000**

**Interceptor Public Safety Products $6,739.57**

**Billings Welding LLC $6,079.00**

**Industrial Chemicals $15,187.50**

**Davis Plumbing $11,740.00**

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

**City Manager’s Report**

Ms. Hall provided the following report:

* Held 1st Step follow-up meeting with George Emami to determine best location for supplying water to Fox Run Subdivision for Phase 1A. Waterlines will exit subdivision at entrance off Thornton, follow Thornton down to location of 12” waterline at approximately Charles Way. The sewer for this phase is already in place and will be served from the sewer line in Thornton Road.
* Held 1st Step with Otis Ingram to review Senior Living Community project. All permits and approvals have expired, so will essentially need to start over. Will go ahead now and submit E&S Plan to Athens for approvals, then once letter received from bank on his financing, he will submit other requests for approvals. Once our areas are completed, the project will be turned back over to the joint city/county building department for an initial inspection before permitting begins.
* Received unofficial word that county is upgrading their phone system for 911 which seems to be the cause of their phones lines being down so often lately. The estimated cost that we are hearing is $515,000.
* Quote received and sent out to everyone from Daddy Rabbit Aviation Inc for aerial mosquito spraying. Cost would be $237,100 per year with a five-year contract. Any additional applications during the 20-week period would be at an additional cost of $1,340 per week. Recommendation is that we do not move forward with this quote.
* The mini-Excavator that was approved at the last council meeting should be delivered within the next week. We have several projects that we are holding off on due to this piece of equipment being needed to complete and make those a better finished product.
* Receiving regular complaints about the condition of the apartments at Union Hill Apartments. As those are received, I am sending them to the owners in Alabama. As far as I know, they are handling those complaints as they receive them and they are working to do complete remodel on those apartments.
* Forsythia Festival had a good concert Friday night and good day on Saturday but was rained out on Sunday.
* The Fire department will begin the testing of our fire hydrants that are outside city limits. Notices will go out as we test different areas.
* The revised City Personnel Policy Manual that we have been working on for quite some time was emailed out to everyone. This will be placed on the April 3 agenda for adoption by the council.
* Advertisement for City Manager has been posted on various websites and will advertise until April 14. Anyone interested in applying should follow instructions within the advertisement and submit resume to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission – a specific email address has been setup to accept all resumes.
* The Charter amendment for Section 2.35 passed the Senate and has been submitted to Representative Dale Washburn for submission in the House.
* Forsyth Tree Board gold tournament will be April 21 at Forsyth Golf Course. You can sign up by contacting Lyn Standifer at City Hall 478-994-5649 to register.
* Main Street will hold a Community Visioning Meeting on April 18 at 6:00 pm and April 19 at noon. These will be 2-hour discussions to obtain input from citizens as to what they want to see downtown. Please mark your calendars to attend to provide your input.
* Georgia Cities Week is April 23-29. Kemie is working with the schools to schedule events with each of the schools, but they are having testing that week. She has a meeting with Alicia Elder tomorrow and will get events and dates scheduled. Kemie will attend the 4/3 meeting to review and present the Resolution for Georgia Cities Week.

P&Z – Public Hearings

* Rezoning from R-3 to NS, building setbacks, and natural buffer variance requests for Dollar General Store at intersection of MLK and Kynette Street
* Final plat approval for Phase 2 Section 2 of Juliette Crossing subdivision.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson stated he had received a text from Representative Washburn indicating the charter amendment had passed; it’s awaiting Governor Kemp’s signature for finalization. Mayor Wilson reviewed a recent Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia board meeting he attended. Vogtle unit 3 was very close last Wednesday night to being connected to the grid. It’s expected to be online by May or June. Also, he mentioned transformers in 2019 had a 50-week lead time, now the lead time is156 weeks. Mayor Wilson also reviewed that coal at Plant Sherer is up to 68 days, 70 days is full capacity. Due to physical limitations no more coal can be accepted once it reaches 70 days; they aren’t burning coal like they were. The units aren’t running like they used to be largely in part to the decrease cost of natural gas; it’s cheaper to use. Mayor Wilson in closing mentioned a water and a heating assistance program available through Georgia Communication Action Agency; the city has signed up for both.

**Additional Business**

No additional business was brought forward.

**Public Comments**

Mr. James Green stated he’s in favor of Dollar General being at the proposed location. However, he doesn’t agree with the location of the entrance/exit coming off Blount Hill. He would like to speak to planning and zoning about the matter. He feels that deliveries with the large trucks would be difficult. Mr. Green in his opinion feels that Hwy 83 is a better option for an entrance/exit to Dollar General.

**Executive Session**

Mayor Wilson stated an executive session is needed for personnel, land acquisition/disposal.

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to enter executive session at 7:10 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to adjourn the executive session at 7:37 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.