**Agenda**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**March 6, 2023**

**Call to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Bishop Evans, and Roll Call**

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

**Approval of the agenda**

Mr. Stroud made a motion to amend the agenda, to add a street closure request for Mr. John Walton on March 25, 2023 after the requisition’s agenda item. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the minutes from the council meeting held on February 6, 2023 and February 20, 2023.**

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

**Laura Mathis with Middle Georgia Regional Commission.**

Mrs. Laura Mathis, Executive Director of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission reviewed the job description as well as the job posting for the city manager position that will be vacant May 31, 2023.

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to allow Middle Georgia Regional Commission to move forward with advertising the position. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public hearing of an ordinance to amend section 22-25 (imposition and rate of tax) of Article II (Hotel/Motel Tax).**

Ms. Hall reviewed the proposed ordinance to amend section 22-25; to set the hotel/motel tax in the amount of 7%. She further stated the effective date would be January 1, 2024 and the distribution between the city and CVB would change at that time. The public hearing notice was published in the Monroe Reporter on February 22, 2023 and March 1, 2023.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance. There being no comments in favor of or opposition to Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing. Mr. Hewett made a motion to approve the ordinance; to amend section 22-25 of Article II, to set the hotel/motel tax at 7% with an effective date of January 1, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public hearing of an ordinance to amend the alcoholic beverage code at section 4-21 with regard to definition of a micro-brewery.**

Ms. Hall reviewed the proposed ordinance; to amend the alcoholic beverage code with regard to the definition of a micro-brewery. She further stated the state’s law is set to not exceed more than 10,000, the city’s is currently at 15,000. The city’s number of barrels needs to be changed to match the state’s requirements.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment. There being no comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing. Mr. Hewett made a motion to approve the ordinance amendment as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval and acceptance of roads and infrastructure for Manor at Montpelier Phase 2.**

Ms. Hall stated the acceptance is for Phase II only. The maintenance bond and acceptance of the infrastructure were not done timely due to no fault of the contractor. The checklist the city required has been completed. Part one of Phase II was completed a year and half ago; he’s currently working on part two of Phase II.

Mr. Cody Ellis, Economic Development Director identified the roads to be accepted by the city as Presidents Way, Barbara Court, Dolly Drive, and James Madison Drive.

Mr. Dodd made a motion to approve and accept the roads and infrastructure for Manor at Montpelier Phase II has presented. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

**Ron Everidge with Daddy Rabbit Aviation review of program for mosquito spraying.**

Mr. Everidge with Daddy Rabbit Aviation reviewed a program for aerial mosquito control for the city. An organically grown product would be used for a minimum of twenty weeks to combat mosquitos. Mr. Everidge also stated the product used is safe for animals, fish, humans, and plants. Mr. Everidge was asked to provide a proposal to Ms. Hall to further review.

**Walter Goodson**

Mr. Walter Goodson spoke about an incident in October involving code enforcement at his property. He spoke further about a house that was torn down, wood was stored in or at the location of the house. He referenced Mr. Zellner and his sister regarding the issue with the wood that was removed.

Mr. Goodson stated that the wood was not being protected; it’s over $40,000 worth of wood, all hardwood. Mr. Goodson contacted the police department; no one would assist him with the issue. He stated he’s tried for 2 months to get the wood back. He feels someone should accept responsibility for the loss of the wood either Mr. Zellner, his sister, or the city. He feels the wood should have been better protected. Mr. Goodson also mentioned his need for a bias crime report.

**Approval of appointment of Sam Patel to the Convention & Visitors Bureau.**

Mr. Stroud made a motion to appoint Sam Patel to the CVB Board as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of agent for SEPA renewable energy credits.**

Mr. Hewett made a motion to approve MEAG as the city’s agent for the SEPA renewable energy credits. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

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

**Davis Plumbing - $28,111.00**

**Mason Tractor & Equipment $90,850.00**

**Davis Plumbing $16,734.00**

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

**Approval of a street closure request for Saturday, March 25, 2023 for John Walton.**

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

**City Manager’s Report**

Ms. Hall provided the following report to council:

* Forsythia Festival this weekend. Street closures begin Friday morning for food vendors and concert Friday night. Food vendors will not be open to serve during the concert but several of the downtown restaurants will be open.
* I am honored to be included in the 200 Years of Her Story as part of the timeline as the first female city manager. Very humbled to be included with the great women of Forsyth and Monroe County that have gone before me.
* Working with RC on the Annexation Project. We have run into a couple of issues that will require research/investigation on our part. We will work to resolve those by end of next week but if have not resolved all, will ask to reschedule the work session from March 20 to a later date.
* Would like to include Hofstadter & Assoc in work session on 3/20 to review options for Montpelier Road
* Charter amendment had to be rewritten to exact wording required by the Legislative counsel and readvertised. This was completed and advertised in last week’s paper with the affidavits submitted to the Legislative counsel for review and hopefully moving forward today on Crossover Day.
* GMA Annual Conference is June 23-27. Mass registration will be March 30 so Lisa C needs registration and reservation information no later than March 24.

**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

As stated in previous reports, the various Department Heads will be making presentations to you reviewing their respective departments, accomplishments in 2022, and plans for 2023.

Cody Ellis, Economic Development/Zoning Officer, will be the first to make a presentation. Chief Blue and Chief Bunn will present at the March 20 council meeting.

As Cody comes forward for his presentation, a little background information on him:

* + Hometown is Oxford Ga and currently resides in Monticello.
  + Served in US Army for 6 years as a Signals Intelligence Analyst
  + Graduated from UGA in May 2020 with degrees in Economics & Classics with minor in Classical Culture
  + Enjoys hunting, fishing, coaching youth baseball, and is active in his Church.
  + Hired as City Economic Development/Zoning Officer in April 2022
  + The organizational chart shows the current structure of this department.

**City Attorney Report**

Mr. Melton was not in attendance.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson had no further business to report.

**Council Board Reports**

Mr. Stroud stated the Housing Authority is looking into GIG housing; requirements needed for the process. GIG housing is awarded to cities to identify, and fix housing that has been deemed to have issues.

Mr. Lawrence stated he attended the last Convention & Visitors Bureau meeting; more space is needed at their current location.

**Additional Business**

No additional business was brought forward.

**Public Comments**

Mr. James Green expressed his concerns regarding the proposed location of the Dollar General; he’s specifically concerned about the flow of traffic with large trucks from Hwy 83.

**Executive Session**

No executive session was held.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.