**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**April 3, 2023**

**Call to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Thomas Head, and Roll Call**

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Greg Goolsby, Chris Hewett, Melvin Lawrence, and John Howard. Also, in attendance was City Manager, Janice Hall; Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, Regina Ivie, and Interim City Attorney, Ashley Brodie. All members of council were in attendance for the meeting therefore all unanimous votes will be six votes (Hewett, Stroud, Howard, Goolsby, Dodd, and Lawrence).

**Approval of the agenda**

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

**Approval of the minutes from the council meeting on March 20, 2023.**

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

**Appointment of Ashley Brodie as interim city attorney.**

Mr. Hewett made a motion to appoint Ashley Brodie as interim city attorney. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing to consider a zoning and variance request of Duke R. Groover, agent of Teramore Development, LLC.**

Ms. Hall reviewed the re-zoning and variance requests for tax parcel F18 070. She stated that the request is to be rezoned from R-3 (Residential Moderate Density) to NS (Neighborhood Shopping), for a proposed small-scale retail (Dollar General Store). The variance request for building setbacks is that the minimum 40-ft setback be reduced to 15-foot setback and the additional variance request for a 3.5-foot natural buffer is that minimum 30-foot natural buffer be reduced to 11.5 feet with the installation of at least a six-foot opaque shadow box fencing along the north property line. The applicant for the rezoning is Duke R. Groover, authorized agent of Teramore Development, LLC. Planning & Zoning recommended approval at their February 27, 2023 meeting. The public hearing notice was advertised in the Monroe Reporter on March 15, 22, and 29, 2023.

Mr. Cody Ellis, Economic Development Director stated three items are to be addressed tonight. First is to rezone from R3 (Residential Moderate Density) to NS (Neighborhood Shopping) which fits in with what’s directly across the street from them currently which is zoned NS – Neighborhood shopping. They are here also for variances for natural buffer and fencing that’s required along the property line. Mr. Ellis further stated the requested setbacks are not for the entirety of the property line, it’s for sections only. Certain sections meet the requirement, and certain sections do not. Planning & Zoning unanimously approved the rezoning and variance requests at their February meeting, citing the quality of life and economic benefits to the area.

Mayor Wilson opened the floor for comments in favor of or opposition to the zoning and variance requests.

Mr. Duke Groover at 231 Riverside Drive Macon, GA stated he’s here on behalf of the applicant, Teramore Development LLC. He spoke in favor of the zoning and variance requests. He stated there are three application requests for the property: one for rezoning and two requests for small variances on the property if the rezoning is approved. Mr. Groover provided and reviewed a power point presentation regarding the property. It’s 2.4 acres total, tax parcel F18 070 at the northeast corner of Kynette and MLK. It’s currently zoned R3 (Residential Moderate Density), we are requesting a rezoning to NS (Neighborhood Shopping) and if approved we plan to build a Dollar General at the location. The property, tax parcel F18 070, has been vacant for about 30 years. Ms. Willis owns the property along with 5 other properties in the area. Mr. Groover further stated that the topography in the area slopes down about thirty feet, west to east, which is why a variance is being requested. He stated you can only build in a certain location on that property because of the slope. Mr. Groover reviewed a rendering of the Dollar General to show 40 parking spaces, 10,000 sq foot building, the detention pond is on the east side of the property, a landscaping buffer around it, and about 67% of the property would remain undeveloped and green space. At the border of MLK, a sidewalk is shown on the rendering; there would be egress and ingress from MLK on that sidewalk for pedestrians. The egress and ingress for vehicles would be on Kynette Street. There’s public access to water and sewer. On the northern boundary, a standard shadowbox 6-foot fence would separate the property and the residential area. The properties to the north are vacant or undeveloped and owned by the same owner as the subject property, Ms. Willis. Mr. Groover further stated that the development is trying to stay well within the parameters set out by the City of Forsyth, building height, square footage. He pointed out the development statistics require that only 15% of the square footage of the landscape be in landscaped area, here it’s 67%. It’s meant to be a non-intrusive, impermeable space. Mr. Groover also stated his presentation is fundamentally legal as well as factual. The constitution of the United States and the city’s own ordinances set out the factors; he’s tried in the application and to present those factors, and hopefully convince the council that this is an appropriate rezoning. The balancing test is between public health and welfare against the rights of the property owner to use the property how they wish. He also stated the city has done a really good job setting out thirteen rezoning factors that that has been addressed. In summary four factors that deal with the property subject to rezoning; what does the property surrounding it look like, what type of zoning does it have, would the rezoning adversely affect, or would it benefit that property. The current zoning map indicates a ball field behind the property; it’s zoned Institutional. Across the street is already zoned NS – Neighborhood Shopping going all the way to the hospital which is professionally zoned. The zoning map currently illustrates mixed use zoning in the area already. It is not a spot zoning situation, and not a situation where there is nothing surrounding other than residential, it’s already going commercial and industrial all around this piece of property. The impact of the current zoning on the property is very restrictive; it’s basically residential, it’s been vacant for 30 years and highly unlikely anyone will be building residential property there. That’s a factor in terms of rezoning. Mr. Groover further stated that it will be a benefit and not intrusive to the community, right now it’s nothing but a piece of vacant property that floods. Once it is developed with the detention pond which will draw in storm water from the other properties that will help the area. It will be a location that people can drop in as a retail store for household items. That’s one of the reasons from a demographic standpoint the store will built there, the surrounding residential area, it would be a convenient shopping place. It will generate about $80,000 in sales tax a year, with 8 to 10 jobs, a benefit to the community. If it’s not rezoned it would be a hardship to the owner, there’s nothing you can do with the property otherwise. The second concern has to do with marketability, the property as zoned now. It’s been vacant for 30 years; nothing will go there other than commercial as the surrounding has gone commercial. An additional factor is infrastructure, and questions we had. Is there adequate infrastructure in terms of utilities, roads, etc.? Mr. Groover stated utilities exist, water and sewer services are adequate, MLK is a well-traveled road. The road on MLK, this will not be a destination spot, there will not be additional traffic of any significance on MLK because of this store’s location. It’s meant to be a bypass spot where people drop in to somewhere else, either home, work, or whatever so it’s not going to be a problem. There’s also a tie in with the sidewalk in front I have already mentioned. He mentioned he had heard about concern about trucks accessing the property without egress, ingress on MLK. He stated when Georgia Department of Transportation was asked about an egress, ingress on MLK the request was denied due to spacing requirements. One hundred fifty feet is required between an intersection road, Kynette and a driveway off MLK; we don’t have the space. An email was received from GDOT on April 3rd denying the request. The only way to access the property is from Kynette. Mr. Groover addressed concerns regarding delivery trucks. He pointed out delivery trucks will come once a week, not on weekends, not during peak hours, usually in the early morning, or late evening. He further stated there’s no problem with the engineering design with trucks going on that property for delivery purposes. They will all stay on the right of way when they make deliveries. Mr. Groover posed the question what does the future land use map look like? How is the property developed? He reviewed a future land use map indicating a lot of commercial activity on the other side of MLK all the way up to the hospital. Mr. Groover quoted from the land use map on page 28 when you have smaller land parcels across the street or adjacent to existing commercial properties are generally suitable for commercial use. He further stated the land use map contemplates this type of development in that location. He requested for the purpose the of the rezoning application that council follow the planning and zoning commission recommendation and adopt the rezoning.

Mr. Groover spoke on the first variance application; natural buffer requirement. He stated under the city’s ordinance there’s a 30-ft minimum width natural buffer requirement between a commercial district and R3 district. He mentioned an exception to the ordinance; if a fence is built, the minimum requirement would be cut in half. A 15-foot buffer only would be required. The variance is being requested due to the restrictions on the property, the property has three streets that bounds it, a 25-foot set back on those streets, the topography issue with the 30-foot slope. The only place the building and parking lot can be is at that location. The variance request is only for a 3 ½ foot buffer which is next to Ms. Willis property. Mr. Groover further stated the variance request meets the city’s variance standards; the rectangular shape of the property creates an extraordinary, exceptional condition limiting the use of the property.

Mr. Groover spoke on the second variance application; building set back. The reasons are the same as the previous variance request; the topography of the area, we can’t build to the east because of the topography, the setback requirements on the three sides because of the roads. The site location must be in that location. It fits in with the city’s variance standards. It’s only 141 linear feet; bounded by a natural buffer and a fence on the north side.

All three parcels that the request would affect are owned by the same owner and are vacant. Mr. Groover requested the rezoning and variance requests be approved and to follow the recommendation of Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Stroud asked Mr. Groover how he would feel if someone put something in your neighborhood that you didn’t really want? He stated he’s irritated, he said no one knew about it; everyone felt blindsided about it. He wished people in the area had more input about it, they might would be more accepting of it. He doesn’t see how an 18-wheeler will be able to make the turn into the Dollar General. He also asked what economic benefit will it have to the community? Mr. Stroud further stated that workforce housing is more important than a Dollar General. In the past 18 – 24 months that location has been looked at for housing. He was told it would get low points due to the location, but the location behind Shoney’s would get more points because it’s considered an opportunity zone.

Mr. Groover stated some may not want anything there or a Dollar General in the location. He stated an engineer was hired; from an engineering standpoint the trucks could access the property in a conservative way. Deliveries would be done on the right of way and will only take 20 to 40 minutes.

Mr. Lawrence stated he’s totally against the Dollar General in the location. The children walk across the street every day; he doesn’t feel it is safe.

Mr. Groover stated the Dollar General isn’t going to make traffic worse in that area, it will not add traffic count to that road. People living in Macon aren’t going to drive to the Dollar General on Kynette Street. The traffic already driving down that road will be those that stop in the store. Mr. Groover reminded the council that this location, across the street, and up north is already zoned neighborhood shopping.

Mr. James Green spoke in opposition to the zoning and variance requests. Mr. Green stated he had someone come to him last year, January 2022 from the same company, Teramore Development LLC. inquiring about his property across the street. The property is zoned NS (Neighborhood Shopping). He stated he recently has tried to get it rezoned to HS (Highway Shopping). He stated Teramore Development LLC came and did research. He said he told them there’s a piece of property next to the 1.5 acres on the north side of the street. He doesn’t understand why the same company, Teramore Development LLC locked his property down in February to November 2022; an escrow account with $7,000. He was informed his property wasn’t going to be used. The funds in the escrow account he stated he received $10.00. He speculated where the funds of the escrow account went to, perhaps the lawyer. Mr. Green inquired when the Dollar General project began with the city. Mr. Green also stated he’s for the development and growth of Monroe County, and for the City of Forsyth. His issue is with bringing the traffic out on Blount Hill; he stated a setback could be done, then enter/exit onto Hwy 83 with a traffic light.

Ms. Linda Hampton at 419 MLK Drive spoke in opposition to the zoning and variance requests. She stated the community did not have any input as to whether a Dollar General was wanted in her community. She stated it’s already difficult to exit the church lot on Kynette Street. Other activities create traffic in the area. She stated there’s several Dollar Generals in Monroe County; she can walk to one in the area currently. Ms. Hampton inquired about the salary of the highest paid person employed at Dollar General. How would that increase economic growth: She also stated there’s a Dollar General robbed frequently. She asked the council to vote no on the zoning and variance requests.

Mr. Clarence Thrower, Pastor of Kynette United Methodist Church spoke in opposition to the zoning and variance requests. He requested that the council reject the zoning and variance requests. He also stated there are enough problems, and traffic in their community. A Dollar General is not needed in that location. He stated it’s difficult to exit the church parking lot currently during the middle of the day onto Kynette Street coming from Blount Hill.

Ms. Frida Wright at 235 MLK Jr. Drive spoke in opposition to the zoning and variance requests. She stated she lives directly against the proposed location and has lived 70 years. She feels it would be unsafe for children to cross the road to visit a Dollar General; some years back children stopped crossing the street to go to school. Ms. Wright further stated a survey should have been done to determine if the community wanted a Dollar General there. She feels if the Dollar General is approved for its request, she will need more security since she lives by herself. She is completely against the store in that location.

Mr. Raymond Shannon at 65 Blount Street spoke in opposition to the zoning and variance requests. He asked if the grade had been looked at Kynette Street. He feels the trucks will get stuck; there’s a five-foot grade. He asked where the drain off from the retention pond will be? He feels if the retention pond does drain off that it will flood the houses there. He feels drainage from the retention pond will hinder activities at the softball field.

Mr. Larry Stewart, a Monroe County resident, spoke in opposition to the zoning and variance requests. He asked the council to deny the requests based on several factors. He stated the entity, Teramore Development LLC, has not done a credible market analysis. He stated it will negatively impact the community that has been intact for a long time. Not only impact from a crime or an economic standpoint, but with a good community and business partnership. There’s no trust, it will negatively impact all the other activities noted. There’s been work done here but it’s been done in silence and secrecy. The external folks are coming here to take over. The community has indicated they do not want the Dollar General at that location.

Mr. Duke Groover of Teramore Development LLC responded to questions asked during the public hearing. He stated the neighborhood, and the citizens of Forsyth are completely within their rights to object to the requests. The owner of the property has the right to advocate for it, through me and through themselves. He stated that the city’s standards were met for both rezoning and variance. Mr. Groover referred to a prior question from the public, economic benefit. He stated it’s evidence, not speculation, that based on the size of the store of 10,400 sq feet it’s about $80,000 on average sales tax year based on information from Dollar General. It will have eight to ten people working in the store. He also stated there probably was no input, that is true from some of the people in this room about that location or some other location. Comments were made about not wanting a Dollar General in our neighborhood. A zoning decision is about the use of the property not about the end use, not about the vendor, not about the brand. Legally speaking whether it’s a suitable property for neighborhood shopping. Not about a Dollar General, or Family Dollar, or a Publix or anything like that; it’s about whether neighborhood shopping suitable. Whether the brand is something people don’t like is not a zoning factor, that’s a market setback. Mr. Groover further stated that he can assure the council that Dollar General is not going to put a store frivolously in this or any other location. They do a lot of market analysis. If the market does not bear it, they are not going to take the risk to build it; they have no interest in throwing away money. Mr. Groover addressed comments Mr. Shannon made about the grade being sufficient, and the detention pond. Mr. Dustin McClendon, with Advanced Engineering joined Mr. Groover at the podium. Mr. McClendon stated there is plenty of grade to make the turn down on Kynette Street. The proposed driveway would be graded to allow for a truck to make the egress/ingress manageable. He also stated the detention pond would improve the stormwater issues in the area and would provide more of a holding area; it’ll be slowly released over time. The purpose of a detention pond is to allow the water to escape the pond; regulated from a hydraulic analysis that will be performed. A cross drainpipe at the corner of Kynette Street currently. The intent is to put the discharge pipe in line with the cross drainpipe. In closing Mr. Groover stated at peak hours there will be 10 – 20 cars in the parking lot at the Dollar General. This is not a traffic destination point. This is a drive-by place, people are already driving down this road. This area is already mixed use with a ballfield to the east. There’s no doubt that anytime you develop any area people coming to it it’s going to potentially increase crime. The best way to combat crime is to not have any development, cause nobody is going to go there. What is the evidence that the significant negative impact on that community, there is none. People are no more likely to rob a Dollar General than they are a C store, a bank, or any other commercial establishment. The same risk would occur if a small Kroger was built there. Mr. Groove urged the council to grant the rezoning and variance applications based on the evidence we have put in, respect for the city’s ordinances and to follow those ordinances.

Mr. Lawrence stated to Mr. Groover that he was not here to push this on us, but it sounds like that’s what you are doing. Mr. Groover stated he’s advocating for his client. Mr. Groover stated he’s advocating for the simple principle that a property owner who wants to develop that property looks to you to guide them on what standards to meet. They have done that here with evidence, and engineering. The only response to that is well meaning, completely valid concerns, but that’s not evidence. That’s speculation.

Mr. James Green mentioned Parson Street has nothing on it. Why can’t the entrance/exit go there? He suggested joining several parcels together, to build an entrance on Hwy 83. He further stated he has what Dollar General needs across the street on his property.

Ms. Elain Johnson from Brookwood stated the traffic is already bad there on Hwy 83. If the Dollar General is built you will have kids trying to cross the street every minute of the day.

Ms. Debra Wilder of Blount Street stated how it was mentioned that Dollar General will employ 12 people. The one in town doesn’t have 12 people working. She recently visited the one in town and the cashier that was working that day was in the back working the stock.

There being no further comments in favor of or opposition to the rezoning and variance requests Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing.

Ashley Brodie, Interim City Attorney stated to council that property rights clearly evoke an emotional response. But the use and limitation of property rights is governed by our constitution and the ordinances of this body. The council was provided with the Guhl constitutional factors and based upon those factors as well as other considerations base your decision on what we are required by law to base the decision on. She referenced Section 33-5 for variances.

Mr. Stroud made a motion to deny the variances and rezoning request. Seconded by Mr. Hewett.

Mr. Stroud mentioned that the city’s ordinances stated that health, safety, welfare, morals and prosperity of citizens is of concern. He further stated he doesn’t see that development adding to the health, safety, welfare, morals, and prosperity of citizens of that area. In addition, he mentioned the city would receive 80k in sales tax but what do the residents in the area get? They get heartache, they get stuff they don’t want. Ms. White would see this every single day on her front porch. He agreed with Ms. Wilder about the staff; they have a hard time staffing this one. He mentioned one statistic he found online while everyone was speaking from Insider.com. A Dollar General in Indianapolis has been robbed four times in three months. Dollar Generals are easy targets; they keep cash, they don’t have trained personnel for security, they barely have people there anyway. He stated if you want to come rob a Dollar General, they’ll say come take what you want to take. That makes them an easier target, not in that area, not in that neighborhood.

Mr. Goolsby stated these are tough seats to sit in sometimes. We hardly ever have people here at these meetings until we have something that affects the citizens of the city. One thing he takes pride in is being on the city council listening to the voice of the people who made Forsyth what Forsyth is. Sitting on the Development Authority he also sees the value is business development and decisions you must make sometimes that hurt people’s feelings, feel like it’s not a good fit. There’s always a compromise in the middle sometimes. Mr. Goolsby further stated that the only way you control growth in the city is through zoning. Our zoning is all over the place and we’ve got some work to do to fix some of that zoning. We’ve set up an ad hoc committee about revitalization of neighborhoods. This is one neighborhood that’s in consideration for doing that. The zoning may not fit now in the future there is some possibility. If it was just the truck issue, or if it was just one or two people that didn’t want it there. You must listen to the citizens and what they want.

Mr. Lawrence stated his job is to work for the citizens and we see the majority do not want the Dollar General. We are up here to work for them.

Mr. Hewett addressed Ms. White in the audience and stated unfortunately they get blindsided, and he only knew about it a few weeks ago.

There being no further comments or questions from council Mayor Wilson called for a vote on the original motion; to deny the variances and rezoning request. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of final plat of Juliette Crossings.**

Mr. Cody Ellis stated Hughston Homes is here for the approval of the final plat for Phase II Section II of Juliette Crossing. Planning and zoning approved the final plat by majority vote. The final plat doesn’t show sidewalks and isn’t required for final plat approval. They will be installed as per city ordinance to the subdivision.

Mr. Stroud made a motion to approve the final plat of Juliette Crossings Phase II Section II as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Georgia Cities Week Activities – Takeimia Childs, adoption of a resolution for Georgia Cities Week, and approval to move the April 17th council meeting to April 24th at Board of Education Auditorium at 10:00 a.m.**

Takeimia Childs, Main Street Coordinator reviewed activities planned for Georgia Cities Week; trivia, a photo contest, council meeting to be held at the Board of Education, a mock city council meeting with Mary Persons High School government class on April 24th, a City Hall open house on April 25th, and a community clean up day on April 29th.

Mr. Stroud made a motion to move the council meeting to April 24th. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. adopting Georgia Cities Week. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Senior Living Community – Otis Ingram**

Ms. Hall provided background information regarding Mr. Ingram’s Senior Living Community project. Mr. Ingram requested additional time to finalize funding for his project at the February 20th council meeting. He attended a first step meeting with the department heads as requested on March 16, 2023.

Mr. Ingram reviewed that roofs were being done on the two duplexes at the site. He reminded the council that an engineer, Gary Cornegie stated the structures are in good shape. We are replacing the roof deck and installing shingles on top. Those two duplexes will be permanently stabilized. Currently, he estimates that in a couple of weeks the shingles will be complete. At that time, he will have the engineer return to certify that work is complete. Mr. Ingram had previously requested a thirty-day extension. He requested an additional thirty-day extension due to the underwriting requirements, and interest rates. All related costs to construction have dramatically increased. Mr. Ingram further stated that he and the bank agree that he should have ten units leased of the first twenty units, at this time he doesn’t have any units leased. The ten leases are an underwriting requirement to receive a commitment letter from the bank.

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the additional thirty-day extension Mr. Ingram had requested. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried with five votes (Howard, Lawrence, Goolsby, Dodd, and Stroud). Mr. Hewett voted against the motion.

**Approval of an agreement with Power DMS and additional payment for subscription.**

Mr. Hewett made a motion to approve the agreement with Power DMS and the additional payment as presented. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adoption of a revised personnel policy manual.**

Ms. Hall reviewed the updates to the personnel policy and recommended approval.

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to approve the revised personnel policy manual as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of encroachment agreement with Georgia Transmission Corporation.**

Mr. Hewett made a motion to agreement with Georgia Transmission Corporation as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of 2022 Year-End Settlement for Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia.**

Ms. Hall reviewed the 2022 year-end settlement. She recommended the funds be deposited into the flexible operating account, intermediate extended maturity portfolio.

Mr. Stroud made a motion to approve the deposit of the 2022 year-end settlement as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Accept resignation and appoint new member to Planning & Zoning/Design & Review.**

Ms. Hall stated Jennie Caldwell is no longer living in the city and has resigned as member of the board.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to accept Jennie Caldwell’s resignation from the board. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

**Project Funding Review**

Ms. Hall reviewed possible funding options for three city projects; Hwy 41/SWWTP Sewer Line Replacement, Montpelier Road Widen/Resurface Project, and CDBG (Sunset, Brookwood, and Union Hall).

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to postpone the decision on the project funding until the next council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of agreement for engineering services with Hofstadter & Associates.**

Mr. Hewett made a motion to approve the agreement with Hofstadter & Associates as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of a street closure request on April 8, 2023 Angela Bloodser.**

Mr. Goolsby made a motion to approve the street closure as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Walter Goodson**

Mr. Goodson referenced a previous request for a bias crime report. He stated he recently went to court. He mentioned an incident where Maples choked him, threw him in a ditch, and turned the body camera off and on. He said he didn’t receive the evidence he requested in a timely manner for his case, the complaints he had filed were destroyed. The incident involved Tracey Buff. He stated the minutes when he spoke to the council were missing. He stated during the case Judge Wilson offered him a public defender. The public defender, in his opinion, was working against him. He further stated the judge offered him jail time. After deliberation the jury gave him twelve months of probation and a $1000 fine. He wants to know where some tapes are that he believes had been cut up by the Forsyth Police Department. He requested Chief Blue assist him in finding the missing tapes.

**City Manager’s Report**

Ms. Hall provided the following report to council:

* Splashpad opened Saturday and will remain open until Labor Day. We will continue with last year’s schedule to close on Mondays except Spring Break and holidays. Same hours of 10 am to 8 pm Tuesday – Sunday.
* The charter amendment was approved and has moved to the Governor’s office for his signature.
* GDOT is working on Lee Street from Johnston to North Frontage to repair numerous locations that were noted in their 2018 Safety Audit where the wheelchair ramps were not ADA compliant. This work is part of the overall project that they have been working on that provided the striping for the turn lanes, replaced/added signage, and will add a new signal light at Patrol Road.
* Hwy 41/SWWTP sewer line replacement project preconstruction meeting was held; contractor stated at that time they could mobilize by end of April, contacted Hofstadter last week to say they can start as soon as we give them NTP. We need the contract reviewed and signed off on by the attorney before we can provide NTP.
* Craig Helms, H2O, passed his wastewater certification exam.
* Due to heavy rainfall, we may have violation at the south plant due to high inflow that may give us an average over our permitted amount. Will know when Craig calculates the end of month numbers.
* GMA annual meeting registrations were completed on Thursday. They completely changed the process this year but hopefully Lisa C will be successful in getting everyone moved to the hotel and classes that were requested.
* Grapple truck status – Waste Management ran one of their grapple trucks through the City on Saturday for us since our truck has unexpectedly been down for several weeks.
* Boom tractor will go to shop for blower motor replacement.
* Grass cutting season has begun and the prison detail returned in time to help the crews get the cemeteries cut before Easter. Should have all cemeteries and ROW cut and looking good this week.
* Planned outage on 4/5 at BOE to energize the system for the new concession stand.
* Benson Ham Lift Station – pump replaced on Friday as an emergency.
* Electric crews participated in the About Trucks event at KB Sutton on Friday for Pre-K thru 2nd Grade showing how a bucket truck works and talked about what they do in the electric department.
* Tift College gas line work is being held up by Norfolk Southern waiting on scheduling and request for different method of pulling pipe under railroad.
* Craig Helms, H2O, recently passed the Class 2 Wastewater Treatment System Operator Training. This test has a 24.3% passer rating, meaning 76 out of 100 typically fail this test the first time – Craig passed on his first try. H2O was contracting with someone to validate the monthly process, laboratory, and monthly reporting but this will no longer be required as Craig is now certified to perform these procedures. Congratulations Craig and thank you for your hard work.

After some discussion regarding concerns with Waste Management services it was requested by the council that Waste Management attend the next council meeting on the May 15th council meeting.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson mentioned that he interviewed Carl Hofstadter with Hofstadter and Associates for his monthly radio spot for Magic 100. A video of the interview was placed on the city’s Facebook page. He hopes that the discussion with Carl will clear up questions about the city’s wastewater plans. During the interview Carl mentioned that we haven’t had a limit on copper; copper is the issue going into Town Creek. We’ve been putting water in Town Creek for 55 years. The EPD came with a regulation for copper at 10 parts per billion. Our drinking water for copper is 1300 parts per billion.

Mayor Wilson reviewed a press release for Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia. Vogtle Unit 3 officially went online on April 1, 2023 at 4:22 a.m. It’s the first new nuclear plant in the country in many years which will provide cheap non emitting energy for Georgia. After some further testing it should be fully online by May or June.

**Council Board Reports**

Mr. Goolsby stated the first Ad Hoc Revitalization meeting was held last week. It was a good kickoff meeting; he’s excited to bring information back to the council. A Development Authority meeting will be held next week.

Mr. Lawrence stated the Convention & Visitors Bureau is requesting additional space at their current location. A meeting was requested to discuss those details.

Mr. Hewett stated the next Hospital Authority meeting will be April 20th.

**Additional Business**

No additional business was brought forward.

**Public Comments**

No one came forward for public comments.

**Executive Session**

Mayor Wilson stated an executive session was needed to discuss personnel. Mr. Goolsby made a motion to enter executive session at 8:23 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hewett made a motion to leave executive session at 8:24 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Hewett made a motion to adjourn the council meeting at 8:25 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.