**Minutes**

**Forsyth Council Meeting**

**May 1, 2023**

**Call to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Marilyn Tucker, and Roll Call**

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Marilyn Tucker gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers John Howard, Chris Hewett, Greg Goolsby, Julius Stroud, and Mike Dodd. Also, in attendance was interim City Attorney, Ashley Brodie; City Manager, Janice Hall; and Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, Regina Ivie. Councilmember Melvin Lawrence was not in attendance. There were five members of council in attendance therefore all unanimous votes will be five votes (Stroud, Goolsby, Hewett, Dodd, and Howard).

**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 April 3, 2023.**

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

**Approval of a fourth amendment to an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Adel.**

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

**Approval to accept a proposed consent order from Environmental Protection Division and payment of the calculated penalty.**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to accept the proposed consent order and payment of the calculated penalty from the Environmental Protection Division as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of renewal agreements with Cummins Sales and Service.**

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the renewal agreements with Cummins Sales and Service as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of a contract for probation supervision services with CSRA Probation Services, Inc.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the renewal contract for probation supervision services with CSRA Probation Services, Inc as presented. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the ballot for GMA’s District 6 Officers for 2023-2024.**

Ms. Hall stated an appointment was needed to submit the ballot for the Georgia Municipal Association District 6 officers.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to appoint Mayor Wilson to submit the ballot for the Georgia Municipal Association District 6 officers. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of a street closure request from Patreecia Simmons on July 15, 2023, 6th Annual James Street Day.**

Mr. Stroud offered a motion to approve the street closure request as presented for Patreecia Simmons on July 15, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Walter Goodson**

Mr. Goodson spoke about a road that’s connected to his property off Powell Street. Previously he spoke about the city purchasing it or maintaining it. Currently no one is maintaining it, and he’s not allowed to purchase it; property lines are not being maintained. Mr. Goodson further stated that he previously spoke with Ms. Hall about surveying the property. He feels it’s the city’s responsibility to determine where the road is by doing a survey. He wants to know where the road is; is willing to pay half of the cost of the survey.

Ms. Hall stated the issue had previously been addressed, a file exists that contains advice from the city attorney, Bobby Melton.

Mr. Goodson stated a house is in the middle of the road. After further discussion regarding the property Ms. Hall will report back on the matter at the next council meeting.

**Street Closure for Main Street Concerts and Events**

Ms. Hall reviewed dates for upcoming events on May 6, June 3, July 1, and August 5 for street closures.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the street closure requests as presented for the events and concerts for Main Street. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

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

**Davis Plumbing $9,735.00**

**Goforth Williamson $34,825.00**

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:

* Waste Management representatives will attend the May 15 council meeting per City Councils’ request.
* Regional Commission applied on our behalf for the Firehouse Subs Grant for SCBA devises.
* The contractor began Right of Way trimming 2 weeks back. Estimated time for completion of all areas is 5 weeks, depending upon weather. Areas included:
  + Powerhouse Rd, Mays St area Russell Pkwy & N. Lee St.
  + W Chambers & W. Main M L K out to & including Old Brent Rd
  + Sharp, Hunter & Jones area Jackson Heights
  + Brookwood & Union Hill Kynette, Blount & Willis Wilder area
    - And surrounding side streets in these areas
* Received an email from Jim Hedges that the phone system at 911 Center is being replaced and the total cost will be $515,234 with our share being $77,285. This is an unbudgeted expense. County will spread cost out in our monthly 911 bill over project time which is estimated to be 5–7-month timeframe.
* Four 4-way solar flashing stop signs are being ordered for the four intersections for Johnston, Adams, Kimball, and Harris Streets. Approximately 4-week lead time, then installation.
* Grapple truck issues continue – seems every time they fix one issue another one is found. Currently looking to have truck back today or tomorrow.
* Working with Mike and Travis on job description for Laborer. This position is currently graded as a Grade 10 with a starting salary of $10.61/hour. We will work to revise that job description and add that as a Skilled Laborer hopefully at a Grade 15 which will be a starting salary of $12.91/hour. Any of Laborers currently at a Grade 10 would move to a Grade 15 with the increased salary at whatever Step they currently hold. This can be met within the 2023 budget, but the salary line item will need to be adjusted for 2024 when that is worked on.
* Also, looking at remodeling of the Public Works building. Previously looking to remodel the building at corner of Chambers/Harris and move PW to that building, then demolish PW building and build fire station and garage. Chief Bunn needs fire station further north to help with coverage on that part of town, so current PW location would not be feasible for fire station. Researching to do same with existing building as we were considering for new location – move employees out temporarily and gut building. If this is completed, you will need to determine use for the buildings on Chambers keeping in mind that the old house was used as training for the fire and police, so it will need to be demolished.
* Moving to our new city website soon. All department heads received training on the website and how to make changes on Thursday. Final revisions are being made and then we will go live.
* Red-lined agreement with CVB for lease of City Hall Annex has been provided to the CVB Board and to Council for review.
* H2O Agreement – current agreement will expire 12/31/2023. The agreement includes provision for 1-year extensions. The agreement was sent out for your review. I will add this to the May 15 agenda for your consideration to provide 1-year renewal with RFP going out early in 2024.
* May 15 agenda will also include review of city park hours. Those were changed in September to 8 am – 8 pm except for the walking trail at Country Club Park which is open 24 hours.
* Otis Ingram will return on May 15 and will update on the Senior Living Community project.
* If you missed the MPHS Mock City Council meeting last Monday, you missed a real treat. The students did an awesome job. Thank you to Kemie Childs for working with the school, teacher, and students to make this a part of Georgia Cities Week. I hope this will continue as an annual event.
* City Hall will be closed from 11-3 on May 11 for an employee luncheon.

Project Funding:

Hofstadter is working on the design, specifications, and survey for the widening & resurfacing of Montpelier Road. An update from Hofstadter today provides that this is a 4–6-month design with curb and gutter then advertising with potential construction beginning by end of 2023. I reached out as requested to County and BOE to ask if would consider doing as joint project. Did not hear back from County but BOE will discuss it at their May 9 meeting. Highway 41 will be SPLOST and LFRF; CDBG will be LFRF; and Montpelier Road will be SPLOST and MCT

Planning & Zoning:

* Reminder that you have a vacancy on the P&Z/D&R board.
* Outdoor Ventures variance request is being advertised for Public Hearing May 15. This is a request to not require privacy fence for drive-in at liquor store.
* Amendments to Article 10, Table 10.1 are being advertised for Public Hearing May 15. This includes changes to all non-residential uses within the table and addition of uses for Agricultural Zoning District.
* W. James Green rezoning request for 3 parcels on MLK from Neighborhood Shopping to Highway Business for retail store is being advertised for Public Hearing on June 5.

**City Attorney Report**

Mrs. Brodie had no further business to report.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson expressed appreciation to Kemie Childs, Main Street Coordinator for her efforts with Georgia Cities Week. The ninth-grade students were well prepared for the mock council meeting they conducted. The Monroe County Wolves participated in cleanup day Saturday morning, picking up trash along the roadways, great participation from several groups of volunteers. Mayor Wilson stated an essay for the middle schoolers, and an art contest for the elementary school students was a part of Georgia Cities Week. A tour of city hall next week along with lunch for the students with the mayor will conclude the events of Georgia Cities Week. Mayor Wilson mentioned this week is Taco week, nine local businesses are participating in Taco week. He plans to visit all nine. He also mentioned the council received an invitation to attend Central GA Tech’s graduation ceremony, Friday, May 5th at 11:00 a.m. Central GA Tech has surpassed nine thousand students this semester: largest enrollment in any technical college in the state. At a recent legislative policy session at GMA; two key focus areas were housing, and local option sales tax process. GMA and ACCG had pledged to work with each other to improve the process. President Smith announced her appointments; she’s asked that I serve as the public safety policy chair and to remain a board member for the next two years. Mayor Wilson stated he’s been invited to a class with the Energy Authority. Energy Authority is the entity that trades energy for MEAG and other entities around the country. After the class Mayor Wilson will tour the Jacksonville Electric facility.

**Additional Business**

Mr. Stroud resigned his council seat effective June 30, 2023.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Ramael Davis at 285 Blount Street inquired about what permit is needed to play softball at Kynette.

**Executive Session**

Mayor Wilson stated an executive session needed to discuss personnel and legal to include council and the city attorney. Mr. Hewett offered a motion to enter executive session at 7:05 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:25 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Stroud; the motion carried unanimously.