**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**May 20, 2024**

**Call to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation, and Roll Call**

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was led by Mr. Lloyd Strickland. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Josh Hill, Chris Hewett, Lois Allen, Charles Wilder, and Mike Dodd. Also in attendance was the City Manager, Craig Mims, Assistant City Manager, Regina Ivie, and City Attorney, Bobby Melton. Five members of the council were in attendance for the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five votes (Hill, Hewett, Allen, 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 May 6, 2024.**

Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting held on May 6, 2024 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the reappointment of Ashley Deadwyler-Heuman, the Municipal Court Judge.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the reappointment of Ashley Deadwyler-Heuman, the Municipal Court Judge. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

**Swearing in of the Municipal Court Judge, Ashley Deadwyler-Heuman.**

Mayor Wilson administered the oath of office to Ashley Deadwyler-Heuman, the Municipal Court Judge.

**Introduction of Public Works Superintendent, Shay Smith.**

Mr. Mike Batchelor, the Utilities Director, introduced Mr. Shay Smith, the Public Works Superintendent.

**Presentation of Certificates to the GA Cities Week Art & Essay Contest**

Ms. Kemie Childs, the Mainstreet Coordinator**,** presented certificates to the winners of the GA Cities Week Art and Essay Contest that were present at the council meeting.

**Approval of a street closure request on June 14, 2024 for Downtown Movie Night**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the street closure request on June 14, 2024 for Downtown Movie Night. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of street closure request on June 8, 2024 for Branded Starr Western Boutique.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the street closure request on June 8, 2024 for Branded Starr Western Boutique. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of a street closure request on July 20, 2024 for the 7th Annual Community James Street Day.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the street closure request on July 20, 2024 for the Annual Community James Street Day. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation from BKS Partners**

Mrs. Ellen Oblen and Mr. Mike Zenchuk, with BKS Partners, presented information to the council for insurance options that they offer for the workforce that are tailored to the needs of the City of Forsyth employees.

**Approval of a temporary alcohol permit for Fox City Brewing Co. on June 1, 2024, July 6, 2024 and August 3, 2024.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the temporary permits for Fox City Brewing Co. on June 1, 2024, July 6, 2024, August 3, 2024, and to waive the fees associated with the permits. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of contract for Amwaste of Georgia, LLC**

Mr. Wilder offered a motion to approve the contract for Amwaste of Georgia, LLC. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of called meeting on June 17, 2024 at the City Annex to discuss the Convention & Visitors Bureau**

Mrs. Allen offered a motion to approve the called meeting on June 03, 2024 at the City Annex to discuss the Convention & Visitors Bureau. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**James Green**

Mr. James Green congratulated the new council members. He addressed his concerns with blight in Kynette Park area and asked for a timeline when things will be done. Mr. Green questioned when improvements would be made at Kynette Park. He also questioned Mr. Hewett about issues with property on Sharp Street that belongs to the hospital.

**Tabled agenda item from May 6, 2024 council meeting.**

* **Discussion of renaming Country Club Park**

Mr. Wilder offered a motion to remove the discussion of renaming the Country Club Park from the tabled agenda. Seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion for the name to remain Country Club Park. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**City Manager’s Report**

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

-The new city of Forsyth app is available for download on android and apple devices.

-The public input meeting for Kynette Park upgrades is scheduled for June 13th at 6p.m.

-The Splash Pad at Country Club Park will open on May 24th at 10a.m.

-This week is Emergency Medical Services and Public Works Employee Appreciation Week.

**City Attorney Report**

Mr. Bobby Melton, the City Attorney, stated that the proposed amendment for the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13: Motor Vehicles and Traffic, 13-51 thru 13-70 Operation of Vehicles to address side- by- side all-terrain vehicles would be advertised for the second meeting in June.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Eric Wilson had no business to report.

**Additional Business**

Mr. Wilder questioned if the budget for Kynette Park would be equal to the budget for Country Club Park.

Mr. Hill stated concerns on how the stop signs on Johnston would impact traffic around the Downtown Square.

Mrs. Allen questioned if the Kynette Park public input meeting would be advertised.

**Public Comments**

Mrs. Linda Hampton, at 419 MLK Jr. Drive, expressed her concerns with blight in the community and the ordinance to address the issues with blight.

**Executive Session (negotiations for the purchase of property)**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to go into executive session for negotiations for the purchase of property at 7:33p.m. Seconded by Mr. Wilder; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilder offered a motion to end the executive session at 7:47p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn at 7:49p.m. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes submitted by:**

Shayla Furlow, Assistant City Clerk