**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**June 5, 2023**

**Call to Order**

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

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

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Clarence Thrower gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Chris Hewett, John Howard, Greg Goolsby, and Mike Dodd. Also, in attendance was interim City Attorney, Ashley Brodie, and Assistant City Manager, Regina Ivie. Melvin Lawrence was not in attendance. There were four members of council in attendance therefore all unanimous votes will be four votes (Hewett, Howard, Goolsby, 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 15, 2023**

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

**Joyce White and Kevin Brown, Monroe County Development Authority, Abatement Process.**

Mr. Kevin Brown, Monroe County Development Authority presented a proposal applicable to city projects. The incentives have been presented and approved by Monroe County and the Board of Education. The Monroe County Development Authority would provide tax incentives for companies of certain sizes that would create an impact within the city limits. The tax incentives would be based on the size of the project. Incentives are only to try good projects become projects in our community versus another community. The incentives would be used sparingly but only when the projects are within the city; and when the Development Authority believes are going to help with the recruitment of a company. Mr. Brown requested preapproval for use of the tax incentives for projects of significance within the city.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the proposed tax incentive schedules as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Fire Chief, Kevin Bunn department presentation.**

Chief Bunn provided an overview of his department’s training, and efforts to maintain the department’s ISO 2 rating. Over 1800 calls were responded to in 2022. Fire safety education, station visits, and festivals allowed for interaction with the community. The fire department assisted a nearby community during a natural disaster. With new developments and annexation in the city Chief Bunn is hoping to add two firefighters to each shift.

**Approval of amendments to Article 10 Nonresidential Zoning Districts Table 10.1**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to postpone until a called meeting on June 15, 2023 immediately following the prior called meeting that day. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public hearing to consider a rezoning request by Willie James Green for 209, 215, and 221 Martin Luther King Jr Drive.**

Mrs. Ivie stated the request for rezoning is for the property to be re-zoned from neighborhood shopping (NS) to Highway Business (HB) for a proposed use of mixed use/shopping/housing. The property for the rezoning request is 1.51 acres identified as Monroe County tax parcel F17 002, F17 003, F17 003A. It was presented to Planning & Zoning at the April 24, 2023 meeting; the recommendation was to deny as requested. The public hearing notice was published in the Monroe Reporter on May 17, 24, 31, 2023.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments in favor of or opposition to the rezoning request.

Mr. Cody Ellis, Economic Development Director stated Mr. Green’s proposed use is like that at Shane’s Rib Shack. Planning & Zoning informed Mr. Green that the current zoning of neighborhood shopping (NS) allows for the proposed use. Planning and Zoning denied his request.

Mr. James Green spoke in favor of the rezoning request. He stated he wanted to rezone the three lots to Highway Business (HB). The request was not for multiple homes, businesses only.

Ms. Linda Hampton at 419 MLK Jr. Drive spoke against the rezoning request. She feels that area isn’t equipped to bring in larger vehicles. At the current zoning any shopping is currently allowed. The area is congested, the site isn’t good. She feels neighborhood shopping is a better fit for the area.

Mr. Green replied to the opposition’s comments. The traffic would be coming from the highway, it would not be coming from the side streets. If rezoned, he would inquire with the state about installing a traffic light.

There being no further comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed rezoning request, Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing.

Mrs. Brodie stated proposed plans and diagrams that were presented at the planning and zoning meeting are allowed at the current zoning.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to deny the rezoning request. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby. After some discussion the motion carried with four votes (Dodd, Goolsby, Hewett, and Mayor Wilson). Mr. Howard abstained.

**Approval of the annual subscription for Electric Cities of Georgia services.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the annual subscription for Electric Cities of Georgia as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of an appointment of Keisha Rawlins to the Planning & Zoning Board.**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to appoint Keisha Rawlins to the Planning & Zoning Board. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Pachacutec Yupangui – Treason, Sedition, and Subversive Activities.**

Mr. Yupangui stated there is no transparency between the government and the citizens. He requested a meeting with Mayor & Council to discuss transparency. He wants to discuss various issues, due process, imprisonment for debt.

Mrs. Brodie stated the council can’t meet as a group outside of a meeting. She stated his concerns would need to be addressed in a public meeting; a called meeting like tonight. Due process is handled by law enforcement and the district attorney’s office. Mrs. Brodie suggested Mr. Yupangui meet with the Police Chief to address his concerns.

**Approval of a purchase of a new grapple truck for public works.**

Mike Batchelor, Utilities director reviewed two quotes for new grapple trucks.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the purchase of a new grapple truck from Sansom for $231,812. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

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

**Clyde Armory, Inc $20,648.11**

**Freedom Fireworks $9,600.**

**Calibration Controls $6,900.**

**Goforth Williamson $23,385.**

**Southern Line Contractors $130,500.**

**East Metro Equipment $12,512.**

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

**Assistant City Manager’s Report**

Mrs. Ivie provided the following report:

* Park Signs being ordered to reflect new park hours approved at last council meeting. Will be installed by end of the week.
* ROW trimming is complete – working on a minor punch list.
* City Website updates are being worked on by department heads. New pictures of Council – schedule picture day soon.
* Reminder – the next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20th due to the Monday Holiday – Juneteenth. City Hall will be closed.
* Mayor Wilson will be at a conference for the June 20th Council Meeting – Mayor Pro-tem will conduct the meeting.
* Interim City Attorney, Ashley Brodie – will not be at next council meeting. (Jones Co meeting).
* Board Vacancies for Planning & Zoning (1), DDA(council appointment), and Housing (2 needed)
* City has received Landfill Notice of Violation – We’ve submitted a corrective action plan, and are actively working to correct the issues.
* We have hired David Bennet to do a survey on the Goodson indicated as abandoned.
* Splashpad issues and repairs being done today by Chief Bunn, the pad is coming apart.
* Grapple Truck is back up and running as of today.
* Charter Amendment Signed by Governor Kemp.
* Tift Gas Project they have mobilized and expect to be completed in 3 weeks.
* 4 Way Stops – The stop signs have been ordered; signage will need to be installed indicating 4 way stop coming soon at the intersections.
* Reminder – GMA convention June 23rd in Savannah, GA
* Ordinance amendments that were approved for advertising at the last council meeting; the public hearing will be held 7/3/2023 council meeting.
* Main Street had a concert this past weekend.
* Lisa Roberts and I will be at the GLPGA conference the rest of the week.
* Both bushhogs and backhoe is being repaired currently.
* Cheryl Maganti – Update

**City Attorney Report**

Mrs. Brodie had no further business to report.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson had no further business to report.

**Council Board Reports**

No council board reports were provided.

**Additional Business**

No additional business was brought forward.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Robert Richardson Sr at 201 Chastain Drive inquired about the second screen in council chambers.

Ms. Linda Hampton at 419 MLK Drive requested the Interim City Attorney, and Assistant City Manager to speak up into the microphones.

**Executive Session**

No executive session was held.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.