**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**July 1, 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. Joe Thompson. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Josh Hill, Chris Hewett, Lois Allen, Greg Goolsby, Charles Wilder, and Mike Dodd. Also in attendance was the City Manager, Craig Mims, the Assistant City Manager, Regina Ivie and the City Attorney, Bobby Melton. Six members of the council were in attendance for the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be six votes (Hill, Hewett, Allen, Goolsby, Wilder and Dodd).

**Approval of the agenda**

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

**Approval of the minutes from the called meeting and council meeting held on June 17, 2024.**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the minutes from the called meeting and council meeting held on June 17, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Eagle Scout Project for Milledge Circle Park**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the Eagle Scout to do his project at Milledge Circle Park. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

**Tabled agenda item from June 17, 2024 council meeting**

* **Public hearing to consider Annexation of certain properties and Zoning after annexation, and Rezoning of certain properties within the city; George Emami- Prime Point Ventures, LLC and Hiram Harbuck- Blake Ventures, LLC**

Mr. Wilder offered a motion to remove the public hearing to consider Annexation of certain properties and Zoning after annexation, and Rezoning of certain properties within the city; George Emami- Prime Point Ventures, LLC and Hiram Harbuck- Blake Ventures, LLC off the table. Seconded by Mr. Dodd the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wilson reminded everyone that the public hearing is for councils’ consideration.

Mrs. Regina Ivie reviewed the motions from the June 17, 2024 meeting: Mr. Hill offered a motion to amend the original motion to allow no access to Willis Circle if the subject properties are annexed and rezoned. Seconded by Mr. Wilder; the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Dodd offered a motion to amend the motion to add that Moreland Avenue must be sufficient and up to city standards or the project would fail. Seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Wilder offered a motion to table the Public Hearing for the proposed Annexation of certain properties and Zoning after annexation, and Rezoning of certain properties within the city; George Emami- Prime Point Ventures, LLC and Hiram Harbuck- Blake Ventures, LLC until July 1, 2024 to allow surveying of Moreland Avenue. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to amend the amendment to include that the developer has the discretion of the actual placement of the twenty-two-foot roadway within the existing forty-foot easement of Moreland Avenue to mitigate the impact of current existing structural encroaching. Seconded by Mr. Hill.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Wilson called the question on the motion of the third amendment; the motion carried unanimously with five votes in favor (Hill. Hewett, Goolsby, Wilder, and Dodd) and one opposition (Allen).

Mr. George Emami stated that if the properties are zoned as R3 he wished to go through Willis Circle because he would be building on eighteen single family houses.

Ms. Gaines stated her concerns about the density and traffic.

Mayor Wilson reminded everyone that the public hearing was over it is for councils’ consideration.

Mr. Hill stated his amendment to the original motion to allow no access to Willis Circle if the subject properties are annexed and rezoned. He stated for clarification if it is not rezoned from Residential-Moderate Density (R3) to Residential-Multifamily (RM) his amendment is not good.

Mr. Hill offered a motion to the amendment to rezone to Residential-Multifamily (RM) with all amendments including not going through Willis Circle. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion failed with four votes in opposition (Hewett, Allen, Wilder Goolsby) and two votes in favor (Hill and Dodd).

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to annex the property as the current zoning of Residential-Moderate Density (R3). Seconded by Mr. Wilder. After a brief discussion Mr. Goolsby withdrew his motion to annex the property as the current zoning of Residential-Moderate Density (R3).

Mayor Wilson called the question to Mr. Dodds original motion to approve the Annexation of certain properties and Zoning after annexation, and Rezoning of certain properties within the city; George Emami- Prime Point Ventures, LLC and Hiram Harbuck- Blake Ventures, LLC that was seconded by Mr. Hill to include all the amendments to allow no access to Willis Circle if the subject properties are annexed and rezoned, to add that Moreland Avenue must be sufficient and up to city standards or the project would fail, and to include that the developer has the discretion of the actual placement of the twenty-two-foot roadway within the existing forty-foot easement of Moreland Avenue to mitigate the impact of current existing structural encroaching. The motion carried unanimously with five votes in favor (Hill, Hewett, Goolsby, Wilder, and Dodd) and one opposition (Allen).

Mr. Hill offered a motion to rezone to Residential-Multifamily (RM) allowing for more affordable homes in the city. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion failed with four votes in opposition (Hewett, Allen, Wilder Goolsby) and two votes in favor (Hill and Dodd).

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to the amendment to zone the property City Residential-Moderate Density (R3). Seconded by Mr. Wilder.

Mr. Dean Nelson, the Community Development Director, stated that he wanted to speak regarding the zoning. He stated we are technically not rezoning we are annexing and zoning the properties into the city.

Mr. Robert Chatman at 93 Avenue, Thomaston, GA, the pastor of Hanson Hickman Chapel A.M.E Church, stated that sometimes when you have more homes it can create more problems. He stated it would generate more traffic and more trouble. They already have problems in the area. The church is small, and they don’t have much space to park. Mr. Chatman stated he had praying about the issue and encouraged the council to vote their conscious.

After a brief discussion Mayor Wilson called the question to the motion of the amendment offered by Mr. Hewett to zone the properties City Residential-Moderate Density (R3). Seconded by Mr. Wilder; the motion carried unanimously with four votes in favor (Hewett, Goolsby, Wilder, and Dodd) and two votes in opposition (Hill and Allen).

Mr. George Emami stated for clarification that the amendment that specified going through Moreland Ave. does not apply.

All members of the council agreed the restriction does not apply.

**Public Hearing to consider Side-by-Side All-Terrain Ordinance**

Mr. Bobby Melton, the City Attorney, stated that it has been advertised and requested by the Chief of Police. He advised that it provides an amendment to the city code for side-by-side all-terrain vehicles.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for those in favor of or opposition to the amendment to the city code for side-by-side all-terrain vehicles.

There being a lack of public comments in favor of or opposition to the amendment to the city code for side-by-side all-terrain vehicles, Mayor Wilson closed public comments for the council’s consideration.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the amendment to the city ordinance for side-by-side all-terrain vehicles. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the Georgia Municipal Employee Benefit System Defined Retirement Plan Restatement and all documents related**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the Georgia Municipal Employee Benefit System Defined Retirement Plan Restatement and all documents related. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval to reject all bids related to the Volume Chevrolet Project**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to reject all bids from June 18, 2024 related to the Volume Chevrolet Water Project. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion of freestanding pylon signage**

Mr. Hill proposed adopting an ordinance to restrict the massive interstate signs for any new businesses wishing to do business within the City of Forsyth off N Lee Street. Seconded by Mr. Wilder.

Mr. Dean Nelson, the Community Development Director, stated we have a sign ordinance that requires businesses to come before planning and zoning before the signs can be accepted. He stated that Section 24.17 governs the height of signs. In the case of Chick-Fil-A and QuikTrip are in the overlay district and they both had variances for their signage.

Mr. Hill suggested that we use the variances that we have a little more strictly and he withdrew his motion.

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

* **Etheridge Heating & A/C, INC - $7000.00**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the requisitions greater than $6000.00 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

**City Manager’s Report**

Mr. Craig Mims, the City Manager reported that:

-The Independence Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, July 6th with a concert at 7: 30p.m and fireworks at dark.

-On June 21st two cadets graduated from the Police Academy and have been assigned to Field Training Officers.

-The landscape architect with Hofstadter & Associates is currently working on incorporating the ideas and suggestions provided by the citizens at the Kynette Park input meeting.

**City Attorney Report**

No business to report

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson reported that the council, city manage, assistant city manager, and the assistant city clerk attended the Georgia Municipal Associations Annual Conference. He had a great learning experience and chaired the Public Safety Committee. Friends of Georgia Power from Plant Scherer repaired and painted the caboose at Monroe County Historical Society. Mayor Wilson stated he interviewed some of the volunteers and Nolan Howard. It will be aired on July 7, 2024 at 7:00a.m. on Magic 100. He commended Gilda Stanbury, from the Convention & Visitors Bureau, she is in the Georgia Trend Magazine for the Fox Hunt and thanked Mr. Hill for being the flag barrier at the Georgia Municipal Association Conference.

**Council Board Reports**

Mr. Hewett stated that the Hospital Board met with their management company. They are in the process of finding another CEO.

**Additional Business**

Mr. Hill thanked AMWASTE for delivering garbage and recycling cans in a timely manner. He stated several constituents reached out to him regarding the yellow and black cans on the square. He reached out to Kelly and questioned why there were so many cans on the square and if they could be picked up in the alley way behind the businesses. He stated that AMWASTE received a fifteen-year-old list from Waste Management, and they would be going business to business to see if cans are needed. He also stated that garbage cans can be picked up in the alley ways, most are privately owned, and they must get permission. Mr. Hill stated that Waste Management picked up dumpsters early in the week and some businesses piled boxes in the area where the dumpsters are usually located. Kelly and her team went around and collected the cardboard boxes and took them to the local recycle center. Mr. Hill commended them for their actions.

Mr. Goolsby stated that the new stop signs located on Johnston Street need something to help them stand out.

Mr. Mims stated that pedestrian poles have been ordered to be placed in the center of the road.

Mrs. Allen thanked Chief Bunn for notifying her of an issue that occurred.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Robert Richardson, at River Forest, commended the City of Forsyth for the App.

**Executive Session**

No executive session needed

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn at 7:26p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes submitted by:**

**Shayla Furlow, Assistant City Clerk**