**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**July 24, 2023**

**Call to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Joe Thompson, and Roll Call**

Mayor Wilson requested a moment of silence in honor of Councilman Melvin Lawrence. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Wilson. Mr. Joe Thompson gave the invocation. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers John Howard, Chris Hewett, Greg Goolsby, and Mike Dodd. Also in attendance at the meeting was Assistant City Manager, Regina Ivie, and City Attorney, Ashley Brodie. Four members of the council were in attendance for the meeting, therefore all unanimous votes will be four votes (Howard, Hewett, Goolsby, and Dodd).

**Approval of the agenda.**

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

**Approval of the minutes from council meeting held June 5, 2023 and the called meeting on July 5, 2023.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting held on June 5, 2023, and the called meeting on July 5, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Main Street Update – Kemie Childs**

Ms. Childs provided an update on events, goals, and improvements for Main Street.

**Approval of police department renovations – Officer Asbell & Investigator Thomas.**

Investigator Thomas and Officer Asbell presented information on bids for renovating the police department. They reported that the bids chosen for the renovation are from Bowen Home Repair and Painting, Burgess Flooring and Design, and Office Furniture Expo.

Mr. Goolsby questioned where the funding for the renovation would come from.

Mrs. Storey advised funding would come from the competitive municipal trust.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the recommended bids for renovation and the smart boards for the police department. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of turnout gear equipment purchase – Chief Bunn.**

Chief Bunn presented a slideshow for updated turnout gear for the fire department. The quote came from Bennet Fire Products Co., Inc.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve all purchases from the fire department for turnout gear. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Gilda Stanbery – Bicentennial Update**

1. **Approval of street closure request for the event.**

Ms. Stanbery provided an update on the Bicentennial celebration, Committee roles, and requested street closure for the event.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve street closure for the Bicentennial event as requested. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Hofstadter & Associates Project Updates**

1. **Montpelier Road**
2. **Park Plan**
3. **Sewer Discharge**
4. **Indian Springs Water line upgrade**

Mr. Hofstadter advised Montpelier Rd. cost estimate is 1.85 million dollars; it covers curbing and widening of the road from S. Lee Street to the city limits. The engineering should be done in sixty days.

Mayor Wilson advised the project must be worked around the school calendar; we must work with the Board of Education when it’s started.

Mr. Hofstadter and Mr. Henderson advised we have a 1.2-million-dollar land grant. They are adding new connector roads, grass amphitheater, parking with storm drainage, basketball court, resurfacing tennis courts into pickleball courts, and an open-air pavilion beside the splashpad. He advised no date has been set for the park plan project.

Mayor Wilson advised he would encourage Hofstadter and associates to work with the pickle ball committee.

Mr. Hofstadter provided a spreadsheet with water and wastewater projects. He advised all the water projects are on schedule except the emergency rehab which has been completed. The wastewater emergency piping has been done from the blowers to the treatment facility. The regulatory issues are under consideration for required permit limits into the possible receiving stream. The final decision for selecting the project discharge stream will be after the EPD analysis.

Mr. Cody Ellis advised Indian Springs portion of the downtown area is severely impacted by waterflow issues; by replacing the lines with 10-inch lines it would provide a significant flow and enhance the quality of life for the area.

**Appointment to fill vacancy for Post 3 council seat.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to appoint Mr. Ralph Ogletree to fill the vacancy for Post 3 council seat. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Set tentative millage rate and approval to advertise for a public hearing.**

Mrs. Ivie advised that a tentative millage rate needs to be set and approval for an advertisement for the public hearing to move forward. When the millage rate is set, we can decrease the rate, but it can’t be increased. Mrs. Ivie recommended the millage rate be set at 2.25 mils.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to set the millage rate at 2.0 mils and approval to advertise for a public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion failed with two votes in favor (Goolsby and Dodd) and opposing two votes (Howard and Hewett).

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to set the millage rate at 2.5 mils until public hearing and approval to advertise for a public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion failed with two votes in favor (Hewett and Howard) and two opposing votes (Goolsby and Dodd).

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to set the millage rate at 2.0 mils and approval to advertise for a public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion failed with two votes in favor (Goolsby and Dodd) and opposing two votes (Howard and Hewett).

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to set the millage rate at 2.25 mils and approval to advertise for a public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried unanimously with four votes (Howard, Hewett, Dodd, and Mayor Wilson) and one opposing vote (Mr. Goolsby).

**Discussion of Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH).**

Mrs. Amanda Harner, UGA Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, presented information for the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing, which helps communities improve their quality of life and economic vitality through the development of locally driven housing and revitalization strategies. She advised the GICH application deadline is July 31, 2023.

Mr. Hewett advised that it’s a lot of work that must be done by very few people. It’s mainly pertaining to public housing, which the city does not have nor does the city own any property that is tenant based.

Mr. Howard stated that the county has a public housing issue. We need to do some strategizing; it wouldn’t hurt to get involved.

Mrs. Harner advised the city does not have to apply this year. She proposed that they attend a GICH retreat to see if it’s valuable to the community.

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

1. **Calibration Controls Automation Inc. $12,658.56**
2. **U-Tec Construction, Inc $16,660.00**
3. **Calibration Controls Automation Inc. $6,960.00**

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

**Assistant City Manager’s Report**

Mrs. Ivie reported that:

* 2 Public Hearings on August 7, 2023
  1. Chapter 23 Subdivision Ordinance & Chapter 28 Street Lighting
  2. Rezoning request by TBS Holdings, LLC Steven Brewer for 4 parcels.
* Alcohol license application
  1. 33 S. Jackson Street
* CVB Quarterly Update by Gilda Stanbery

**City Manager Report-Funding for outstanding projects.**

Mrs. Storey provided a detailed report and spreadsheet indicating how each outstanding project would be funded.

**City Attorney Report**

Mrs. Ashley Brodie had no further business to report.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson had no further business to report.

**Additional Business**

Mr. Howard stated that the blight ordinance needs to be reviewed. Mr. Howard also stated we have an issue with Waste Management. Mayor Wilson suggested a meeting with Waste Management.

Mr. Hewett stated that the Hospital Authority meeting will be held next Thursday.

Mr. Dodd stated a new groundman was hired at the golf course.

Mayor Wilson stated that the Housing Authority Board has vacancies. Mr. Howard advised he would serve on the Housing Authority Board.

**Public Comments**

No public comments.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Howard offered a motion to go into executive session at 7:56p.m. to discuss personnel matters and potential litigation. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to end the executive session at 8:35p.m. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37p.m. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by:

Shayla Furlow, Admin. Exec. Assistant