**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**Monday, August 19, 2024**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:03p.m

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

Mayor Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was led by Mr. Richard Jelly. 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, the Assistant City Manager, Regina Ivie and the City Attorney, Bobby Melton. Not in attendance for the meeting was councilman Greg Goolsby. 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 August 5, 2024.**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting held on August 5, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Vibrant Community Art Grant by Gilda Stanbery and Denise Buff.**

Ms. Stanbery and Ms. Buff presented information, for an example kiosk that would display community events and information to citizens and visitors in the area. The grant is for five thousand dollars and must be matched. Ms. Stanbery and Ms. Buff asked for support with the funding of twenty-five hundred dollars.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to support Ms. Stanbery and Ms. Buff with the Vibrant Community Art Grant. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

After the meeting was held it was decided that Ms. Stanbery and Ms. Buff should work with the Downtown Director on this project. It was approved to add this information to the minutes during the September 3, 2024 council meeting.

**Discussion of the 2024 Fall Festival and approval of a street closure request on September 28, 2024.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the street closure request for the 2024 Fall Festival on September 28, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the water service tap fees**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the ¾” and 1” water service tap fees as actual cost-plus percentage. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Set tentative millage rate and approval to advertise for Public Hearing**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to set the tentative millage rate at 2.25. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously**.**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to advertise the Public Hearing for September 3, 2024 to set the tentative millage rate. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

**2024 YTD Financial Review**

Mrs. Regina Ivie, the Assistant City Manager, reviewed the information for the general fund revenues and expenditures, hotel-motel tax, combined utilities, bank balances, and the flexible accounts with the municipal competitive trust.

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

* **Industrial Chemicals, Inc. - $14,998.50**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the requisitions greater than $6000 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**City Manager’s Report**

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

-The city’s audit was submitted to the Georgia Finance Officers Association on August 2, 2024 for review.

-Staff has kicked off the budget process for 2025 and will be providing council with the budget calendar later this week.

-I would like to thank our Forsyth Power Team for their quick response last night in dealing with power outages throughout the city.

**City Attorney Report**

Mr. Bobby Melton, the City Attorney, stated that we have a public hearing for a variance request at the next council meeting on September 3, 2024.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson reported that today marks the beginning of the Montpelier Road Project which will include flagging about two feet of each lane, resurfacing, storm water curb and a gutter installation. He stated that the Country Club Park is making great progress. Mayor Wilson reported that last week Chick-Fil-A and Bank of Dudley had their ribbon cuttings.

**Additional Business**

Mr. Hewett stated that the Hospital Board will meet on Thursday, August 29, 2024 at 5:30p.m.

**Public Comments**

Ms. Jennifer Hudgins, at 81 Hillsdale Road, stated she was honored to be a member of the of Library Board. She came before the council for help and influence. They are 501-C3 organization and have increased concerns about losing funding to the library due to threats from district three county commissioner, John Ambrose. She stated that at the August 6, 2024 County Commission meeting Mr. Ambrose stated that he would have the votes in January to shut down the library to censor materials. She believes that parents have the responsibility to guide their children’s reading and not the commissioners. Ms. Hudgins stated that if funding is revoked the library would be at risk of losing access to all their state funds for books and technology. It would also mean that the entire regional library system will be in violation of its funding agreement with the state library service, who would suspend all state and federal funding to all nine libraries in the Flint River Regional Library System.

Mr. Earnest James, at Julitte Crossing, stated that he noticed the traffic light is being installed and questioned if a pre light would be installed before the bridge for those traveling East on Cabiness.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Wilder offered a motion for executive session at 6:47p.m. for real estate and personnel matters. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilder offered a motion to end the executive session at 7:14p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes submitted by:**

**Shayla Furlow, Assistant City Clerk**