**Minutes**

**Forsyth City Council Meeting**

**August 7, 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 led the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was led by Mr. Joe Thompson. In attendance at the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers John Howard, Chris Hewett, Greg Goolsby, Mike Dodd, and Ralph Ogletree. Also in attendance at the meeting was 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 (Howard, Hewett, Goolsby, Dodd, and Ogletree).

**Approval of agenda**

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

**Approval of the minutes from July 24, 2023.**

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously with four votes (Howard, Hewett, Goolsby, and Dodd) and one abstention (Ogletree).

**Ceremonially swearing in of Councilmember Ralph Ogletree.**

Mayor Wilson advised that Mr. Ogletree was sworn in during the called meeting at 5:30.

**Gilda Stanbery- CVB Quarterly Update**

1. **Bicentennial-Street closure request for fireworks Saturday, September 23rd**
2. **Bicentennial- Approval of invoices**

Ms. Stanbery advised the CVB would be advertising in the Falcons yearbook. The Forsyth Police Department and Fire Department teamed together to create a poster to be placed around town as a reminder of children and pets being left in cars during hot temperatures and she provided information for advanced tourism in the city. She advised for the Fall they are doing a culinary push and provided an ad that would be in Southbound Magazine.

Ms. Stanbery requested street closure for fireworks on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the street closure for fireworks on September 23, 2023, for the Bicentennial celebration. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Stanbery advised the revenue stream for the Bicentennial celebration is coming in separately and requested approval of invoice items that would be over $6000.

Mr. Howard offered a motion to approve invoices related to the Bicentennial event if they should be over $6000. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public hearing to consider an ordinance for a rezoning request for property at 9 N Jackson Street, 14 N Jackson Street, 87 W Morse, and W King Street.**

Cody Ellis, Economic Development Director, advised TBS Holdings, LLC is looking to rezone parcels located at the end of N Jackson Street. The property is currently zoned as Traditional Neighborhood Development, and they are looking to have it rezoned to the Central Business District for the mixed use of commercial and second floor lofts. Planning and zoning’s approval was with the condition that it be rezoned for the purpose of the concept that was presented.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance request for property at 9 N Jackson Street, 14 N Jackson Street, 87 W Morse, and W King Street. There being no comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance for rezoning request, Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the proposed ordinance request for property at 9 N Jackson Street, 14 N Jackson Street, 87 W Morse, and W King Street as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously with five votes (Howard, Hewett, Goolsby, Dodd and Ogletree).

**Approval of preliminary plat for Manor at Montpelier Phase 3.**

Cody Ellis, Economic Development Director, advised that Manor at Montpelier is requesting approval of a new preliminary plat. He advised the FEMA maps had been updated and they have decided to slightly alter their plat by extending one of the roads and adding four additional lots.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to approve the preliminary plat for Manor at Montpelier Phase 3 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Goolsby; the motion carried unanimously.

**Public hearing to consider** **amendment/additions** **to chapter 23, Sections 120, and 145-151; Chapter 28, Sections 11 and 30; and Subdivision Ordinance Sections relating to Street Lighting and Utilities.**

Mike Batchelor, Utilities Director, proposed the code of ordinances amendments and additions to remove outdated practice of on-site utility bill payment collection by meter readers, establish city electric system easements and maintenance guidelines, establish residential and commercial electric service requirements and specifications, amens street/sidewalk cut procedures and specifications, amend spacing requirements for subdivision street lighting, and to establish specifications for installation of city utilities in new subdivisions.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing for comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed request for amendment/additions to chapter 23, Sections 120, and 145-151; Chapter 28, Sections 11 and 30; andSubdivision Ordinance Sections relating to Street Lighting and Utilities. There being no comments in favor of or opposition to the proposed consideration to amendment/additions request, MayorWilson closed the public hearing.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the request for amendment/additionsto chapter 23, Sections 120, and 145-151; Chapter 28, Sections 11 and 30; and Subdivision Ordinance Sections relating to Street Lighting and Utilities as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously with five votes (Howard, Hewett, Goolsby, Dodd and Ogletree).

**Investment discussion presentation by Doug Gebhardt & Approval of supplemental agreement with Davenport Public Finance.**

Mr. Doug Gebhardt presented information on interest rates for the park plan funds at Truist Bank. He advised he sees potential earnings for those funds that are currently earning interest at .01%. Mr. Gebhardt proposed they consider authorizing the execution of Davenport supplemental letter of agreement which allows them to help city staff to facilitate the execution of the ultimate investment for the proceeds, evaluate all the different options at hand, and to help with understanding the spending needs of the city.

Mr. Goolsby advised the Park Plan Project is very important to the council. What do you consider short term versus long term?

Mr. Gebhardt advised short term would be inside of a year and anything out of a year should be considered long term.

Mrs. Ivie advised that Carl Hofstadter, with Hofstadter and Associates, stated the second portion of the park plan would not begin for nine to twelve months at a minimum. The first portion would come from the land and water conservation grant which would start in the next three months.

Mr. Hewett asked how much of the arbitrage yield will affect the city.

Mr. Gebhardt advised that there is a limit that you can earn, it has certain exceptions; you can earn up to that amount between closing and spending the dollars.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to approve the supplemental agreement with Davenport Public Finance.

Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of an application for a license for the sale of alcoholic beverages by Gulzar Delawala at the proposed location of 33 S. Jackson.**

Mr. Melton advised it ran in the Reporter and he was not aware of any parts of the application in question.

Mrs. Ivie advised Delawala at 33 S. Jackson applied for a license to sale alcoholic beverages.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the application for the sale of alcoholic beverages by Gulzar Delawala at 33 S. Jackson Street. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of 12-month subscription with Easy Ice.**

Mr. Batchelor presented information for a 12-month subscription service for an Icemaker to be installed at the inventory warehouse for the use of multiple departments. The machine would replace the ice cooler currently located at the public works department. The funding would be split between multiple departments.

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to approve the 12-month subscription with Easy Ice. Seconded by Mr. Howard; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval to set millage rate.**

Mrs. Ivie advised at the prior council meeting a tentative rate of 2.25 mils was adopted, which was advertised in the Monroe County reporter for the last two weeks. The final millage rate needs to be set for the Monroe County Tax Assessors Office.

Mr. Goolsby offered a motion to set the millage rate at 2 mils. There was no second motion.

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

**Appointment to the Housing Authority Board by Mayor Wilson.**

Mayor Wilson stated councilman Howard indicated he would serve on the board at the prior meeting. He appointed Mr. Howard to serve on the Housing Authority Board and advised we have one vacant seat.

**Approval of Requisitions Greater than $6000.**

1. **Lenslock $15,982.00**
2. **GoForth Williamson, Inc. $6975.00**
3. **Calibration Controls Automation, Inc $6590.00**
4. **Davis Plumbing $87,425.00**
5. **Holiday Designs, Inc $12,450.00**

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

**City Manager Report**

Mr. Craig Mims had no further business to report.

**City Attorney Report**

Mr. Bobby Melton had no further business to report.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Wilson had no further business to report.

**Council Board Report**

Mr. Hewett reported that the Board of Health has a called meeting on August 8, 2023, at 6:00p.m.

Mr. Goolsby advised the Develop Authority has a meeting August 8, 2023, at 8:30a.m.

**Additional Business**

No additional business.

**Public Comments**

No public comments.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Hewett offered a motion to go into executive session at 7:05p.m. to discuss personnel matters and pending litigation. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to end the executive session at 7:15p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hewett; the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Hewett offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20p.m. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes Submitted by:

Shayla Furlow, Executive Admin. Assistant