

Minutes
Forsyth City Council Meeting
Monday, January 5, 2026

Call to Order by the City Clerk

In accordance with section 2.18 of the City Charter, City Clerk, Shayla Furlow called the council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.; at that time the meeting was turned over to Mayor Pro-Tem Dodd to preside.

Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation and Roll Call

The invocation was led by Mr. Nathan Jackson. Mayor Pro-Tem Dodd led the pledge of allegiance. In attendance for the meeting was Mayor Pro Tem Dodd, Councilmembers Josh Hill, Walter Goodson, Lois Allen, and Charles Wilder. Also in attendance was City Manager, Craig Mims; Assistant City Manager, Regina Ivie; City Attorney, Brian Causey; and City Clerk, Shayla Furlow. Five members of the council were in attendance for the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five votes (Hill, Goodson, Allen, Wilder and Dodd).

Swearing in of Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Walter Goodson, and Charles Wilder, Jr.

Mrs. Shayla Furlow, the City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Walter Goodson, and Charles Wilder, Jr.

Approval of the agenda.

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

Approval of the minutes from the council meetings held on December 1, 2025 and December 15, 2025.

Mr. Wilder offered a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings held on December 1, 2025 and December 15, 2025 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem for 2026

Mrs. Allen nominated Mr. Wilder for the appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem for 2026. Seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilder was appointed Mayor Pro-Tem for 2026 and assumed the role of the presiding officer for the meeting.

Election of presiding officer.

Mr. Goodson nominated Mr. Dodd as the presiding officer. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of parliamentary procedures.

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adopt Robert's Rules of Order for parliamentary procedures. Seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of 2026 professionals.

Mr. Dodd offered a Motion to approve the appointment of the 2026 professionals. Seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried unanimously.

Set qualifying fees.

Mr. Hill offered a motion to set the qualifying fees as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

2026 Board Appointments

- **Planning & Zoning Commission**

Mr. Dodd offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Steve Coleman to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Hill; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hill offered a motion to appoint Mr. Chris Soule to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

- **Downtown Development Authority**

Mr. Hill offered a motion to reappoint Ms. Linda Hampton, Ms. Chelsia Ogletree, and Ms. Michelle Dublin to the Downtown Development Authority. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hill nominated Mr. Goodson for the annual council appointment to the Downtown Development Authority. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

- **Convention & Visitors Bureau**

Mr. Hill nominated Mrs. Allen for the annual council appointment to the Convention & Visitors Bureau Board. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously

- **Monroe County Health Board**

Mr. Hill offered a motion to table the appointment to the Monroe County Health Board until the first meeting of February, after the special election. Seconded by Ms. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

- **Golf Board**

Mr. Hill offered a motion to reappoint Mr. Dodd to serve on the Golf Board. Seconded by Mr. Goodson; the motion carried unanimously.

- **Monroe County Hospital Board**

Mr. Hill stated that Mr. Chris Hewett is currently the president of the Monroe County Hospital Board and, to his understanding, the appointed board member is not required to be an elected official.

Mr. Hill nominated Mr. Chris Hewett to the Monroe County Hospital, subject to verification that the position is not required to be held by an elected official. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

Second reading of an Ordinance to revise and amend Articles of the Zoning Ordinance to regulate Adult Day Programs/Adult Health Programs.

Mr. Brian Causey, the City Attorney, stated that an ordinance of the mayor and council of the City of Forsyth, Georgia, to enact text amendments to Article 2, definitions and interpretations, and Article 10, Non-Residential Zoning districts, and Article 15, specific provisions, principles of Non-Residential buildings and uses, of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Forsyth related to Adult Day, Adult Health, Day Health programs to provide an effective date and for other purposes related thereto. He stated that the ordinance that was given out contained the edits that council voted on at the first reading.

Dean Nelson stated that when the ordinance was initially brought before council it had some provisions for it to be located in residential districts. That was stricken by the City Council prior to the first reading. All of the information in the ordinance pertains to non-residential areas as instructed by the Council at the December 2, 2025 meeting.

Mayor Pro- Tem Wilder opened the for public comments related to the Ordinance to revise and amend Articles of the Zoning Ordinance to regulate Adult Day Programs/Adult Health Programs.

Ms. Kimberly Davis stated that the City Council struck down Articles 2 and 6, and left Articles 10, 13, and 15. She stated that she was going to speak again on behalf of the group from the Blount Hill residents and citizens to voice the opposition to the proposed text amendment to Article 10 only, which was the non-residential zoning districts, specifically the inclusion of the adult day programs as permitted uses within the Neighborhood Shopping and the Highway Business Districts. While they recognize the value of these services, again, their inclusions as permitted use raises significant concerns regarding traffic congestion, parking demands, and preservation of the community's character. This is particularly critical for pedestrian-oriented areas along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, which is Highway 83, where the infrastructure is designed for residential living rather than high-intensity social services. She stated that they understand that the hospital area is commercial, and it was already established, and it is a medical facility. Allowing these programs, as written in Article 10, text amendment, blurs the existing essential line between commercial and residential areas for that specific area, potentially straining local resources and impacting surrounding property values. They believe that the more appropriate placement for such a program would be in a dedicated community facility district, or a less intensive general commercial area, where specific operational standards and road assessment requirements can be properly vetted to minimize disruption to the closely residential community. Ms. Davis stated that to be clear and understood where the citizens of this area stand, they do not want their area zoned as Highway Business District or any new established neighborhood shopping areas, nor do they want any business that will jeopardize and destroy their quiet, quaint neighborhoods or the access to or out of their homes and places of worship. They are aware and understand that most changes must go through planning and zoning, but it is important that they voice their concern before the council passes the ordinance for amendment 10 because it will impact what will happen to their community in the future. That article states Highway Business Districts and Neighborhood Shopping in Article 10. She stated that they are asking that the council remove the portion of the text that states Highway Business Districts and Neighborhood Shopping or not approve the Article 10 amendment.

Mr. George Foster at 80 Blount Street stated that it seems like they are going in a circle. He asked for clarification as to why it is needed in the community.

Ms. Kimberly Davis at 142 Blount Street stated for clarification on Blount Hill in the area that's on Martin Luther King Jr., there is some areas designated as Neighborhood Shopping and areas that are not designated. The piece that is most important to them is that they take out the wording that says Highway Business District. The terminology Highway Business District means that you can bring businesses into the area if it is designated. If that happens, additional businesses in the future could locate in that area. On Martin Luther King past Mr. Willis' funeral home if you put any businesses in that area, you will jeopardize coming from their places of worship and the residential homes. There are residential homes that go all the way outside of the city limits. The only thing that they are asking the council to do is not to include that terminology because that terminology, the Highway Business District, will allow businesses to come into their neighborhoods. She stated that she understood that it may be okay for some highways, but they don't want any businesses to come on that main highway. They don't want anything else in that neighborhood all the way out to the city limits to become a business district because there are homes there.

Mayor Pro- Tem Wilder closed public comments related to the Ordinance to revise and amend Articles of the Zoning Ordinance to regulate Adult Day Programs/Adult Health Programs.

Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the revised and amended Articles of the Zoning Ordinance to regulate Adult Day Programs/Adult Health Programs. Seconded by Mr. Dodd; the motion carried unanimously.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Craig Mims, the City Manager, thanked city staff and everyone that participated in the New Years festivities.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Brian Causey, the City Attorney, had no business to report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilder had no business to report.

Council Board Reports

Mr. Hill stated that the New Years Eve Ball Drop looked to be a success and thanked everyone that came out.

Additional Business

No additional business to discuss.

Public Comments

Mr. Percy Freeman at 108 Todd Creek Place stated that the black and yellow garbage containers downtown are an eyesore. He stated that something needs to be done about people leaving the garbage containers beside the road.

Executive Session (legal matter)

Mr. Hill offered a motion to go into executive session for a legal matter at 6:53p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hill offered a motion to end the executive session at 7:13p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wilder called the meeting back to regular session.

Mr. Hill offered a motion to allow the City Manager to engage with outside consulting parties or firms for a potential upcoming project. Seconded by Mr. Goodson; the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Dodd offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Allen; the motion carried unanimously.