



Joint City/County Meeting
Grits Cafe
March 29, 2016 @ 5:30 p.m.

Present:

City of Culloden: Tammie Pierson, Margie Campbell, Lynn Miller, and Sarah Jean Ray.

City of Forsyth: Eric Wilson, Melvin Lawrence, Mike Dodd, Julius Stroud, Chris Hewett, Greg Goolsby, Dexter King, Janice Hall and City Attorney, Bobby Melton.

Monroe County Commission: Mike Bilderback, Larry Evans, Jarod Lovett, John Ambrose, Jim Ham (arrived late) Anita Buice, and County Attorney, Ben Vaughn.

Chamber of Commerce: Mac Brown, Todd Tolbert, Kelly Hiers, Cheri Sparks, and Tiffany Andrews.

Also in attendance was Bill Bazemore, United Bank as the sponsor as well as members of the general public and media.

Mac Brown, Chamber Chairman welcomed everyone and asked each entity to call their meeting to order. Chairman Bilderback, Mayor Eric Wilson and Interim Mayor Tammie Pierson respectfully called their meetings to order at 5:39 p.m.

Interim Mayor, Tammie Pierson gave the blessing and dinner was served. Mac Brown invited the sponsor, Bill Bazemore, United Bank to bring words.

Bill Bazemore thanked the group for their public service, discussed commonality, employment diversification, and appealed to the officials that in every decision they would ask themselves, "Is it good for my family? Is it good for public Policy?" He left the officials with a quote of encouragement from Alexandre Dumas, "One for All, and All for One."

Mac Brown turned the meeting over to Chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee for the facilitated portion of the meeting.

Todd Tolbert asked if anyone had any objections to his facilitating the meeting, with no objection he continued. Following were reviewed as rules of protocol:

1. Roberts Rules of Order would be followed.
2. In order to get an item on the agenda, it will need to be provided as a motion with a second, allow for discussion and it will be placed on the next meeting's agenda if approved by a majority vote.
3. If the cities and/or county need to make a motion specific to their organization, Mr. Tolbert asked that they let him know so he can formulate accordingly.

With no other items regarding protocol, Mr. Tolbert moved to request the item(s) for inclusion on future agendas.

1. **Job Creation.** Commissioner Larry Evans made a motion to include Job Creation as an item seconded by Commissioner Ambrose. During discussion questions were generated

regarding the type of jobs that were wanted as well as workforce development. It was stressed that a living wage was what we should be interested in. With no further discussion, the item was included unanimously.

2. **Passive Recreation.** Councilman Stroud made a motion to include Passive Recreation as an item seconded by Councilman King. During discussion it was emphasized that this would address Monroe County's high obesity rate as well as provide for a healthier community. This would include walking trails, biking opportunities, and playgrounds. With no further discussion, the item was included unanimously.
3. **Infrastructure.** Commissioner Ambrose made a motion to include Infrastructure as an item seconded by Commission Chairman Bilderback. Discussion was held regarding how infrastructure would be funded as well as what the City's current capacity and usage are followed by any abilities to expand the facilities. With no further discussion, the item was included unanimously.
4. **Public/Private Partnership for Plant Camellia.** Commission Chairman Bilderback made a motion to include Public/Private Partnership for Plant Camellia seconded by Commissioner Ambrose. Conversation was held regarding the use of a third party to retrofit the plant which would allow the project to occur without governmental entities having to put their assets into the project upfront. The biggest emphasis for this item will be on how to pay for the retrofit. With no further discussion, the item was included unanimously.

Commission Chairman Bilderback brought up putting consolidation to bed. After much discussion, and realization that this could come up on future years, it was decided for the respective entities to vote regarding their interest to explore total consolidation.

Commissioner Ambrose made a motion for the County to put the discussions about total consolidation to bed (opposing consolidation) seconded by Commission Chairman Bilderback. Larry Evans, John Ambrose and Mike Bilderback voted to put it to bed, while Jarod Lovett opposed the vote. (Jim Ham had not arrived for this vote).

Mayor Eric Wilson entertained a motion regarding putting total consolidation to bed. Councilman Dodd made the motion seconded by Councilman Lawrence. The motion passed unanimously.

Interim Mayor Tammie Pierson entertained a motion regarding putting total consolidation to bed. Margie Campbell made the motion seconded by Jackie Boling. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Swimming Pool/Multi-use Sports Complex.** Larry Evans made a motion to include Swimming Pool/Multi-use Sports Complex seconded by Julius Stroud. Discussions emphasized the need for a natatorium and other recreational activities. With no further discussion, the item was included unanimously.

Mayor Eric Wilson commended the group on developing the list, but asked that the officials prioritize the list before adjourning. After much discussion, Job Creation was slated as the number one item and Infrastructure as the second. Additional conversation was held about how to tackle the job creation discussion. Mayor Wilson suggested bringing in some of our outside statewide economic development partners for a couple of reasons. First and foremost, was to show them how the cities and counties “CAN and DO” work together. Also, to get feedback on what they think we should be doing better. It was agreed to by all that this would be the format for the May 31st meeting.

Mayor Eric Wilson noted that the City would cover the cost of the May 31st meeting. Anita Buice will check the availability of the Conference Center since Grits is not open on that evening.

Councilman Lawrence thanked Bill Bazemore again for sponsoring/supporting this effort. He also encouraged everyone to take to heart the words that Mr. Bazemore shared.

Councilman Stroud asked that a status report be given after each meeting. Even if things are not accomplished, it may not be bad, he just thinks a status report should be given.

Adjournment

With no further business, the officials adjourned respectively. Commissioner Ambrose made a motion seconded by Commissioner Evans for the Monroe County Commissioners meeting to be adjourned. Councilman Stroud made a motion seconded by Councilman Hewett for the City of Forsyth Council meeting to be adjourned. Lastly, Councilwoman Margie Campbell made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Jackie Boling to adjourn the City of Culloden Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Submitted by:
Tiffany Andrews, CEO
Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber of Commerce