

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS 2014

A REVIEW OF 2010 - 2013



MAYOR MARIO B. AVERY

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Ron Alderman
- Alex Heath
- Elizabeth Hurst
- Marian Johnson
- Jean Barkley Russell
- Scott Vaughan

Council Members Elect

- Lydia Glaize
- Hattie Portis-Jones



QUALIFIED STAFF

1. City Administrator (CPA)
2. Finance Director (CPA)
3. Municipal Judge – serves 3 city governments simultaneously
4. City Attorney Office (3 qualified lawyers specializing in Municipal Law & Zoning Ordinances)
5. Human Resource Director – Retired Military Warrant Officer & former Federal Legislative Experience
6. City Planner with five years of experience
7. Entire city management team required to attend a 2-year professional development course (Carl Vinson Institute – Management Development Program for Governments)



FINANCIAL

1. Bond rating from 2010 to 2013 increased three times.
 - Indicating sound financial management
 - Equivalent to an individual credit score increasing from 550 – 800
2. Fairburn government negotiated \$350K/year for the next ten years during the Local Option Sales Tax.
 - Fairburn's dedication to fair and equitable treatment for all 14 cities within Fulton County government was validated when Fairburn salvage the LOST negotiation by participating (Atlanta Journal Constitution - October 17, 2013), and Atlanta and College Parks Sun Tax deal).
3. Improved from \$320K plus deficit in 2009 to \$1.1M in savings in 2013.



IMPROVE ORDINANCES/CODES

1. Implemented Adult Entertainment Ordinance to control the influx of businesses that lead to decrease in property value and attract less desirable business market.
2. Overhaul entire Zoning Code Ordinance to allow alignment with our future Comprehensive Plan that depicts our future commercial uses.
3. Currently rewriting our personnel code to ensure proper assessment of all staff.
4. Upgraded and automated court system to allow more efficiency thus allowing the Municipal Judge to focus on cases.



POLICE

1. Crime rate in 2010 highest in Fulton County; now ranks among the lowest.
2. Upgraded equipment (cars and tag readers) to better assist officers with detection and assessment of improper activity.
3. The following statistical information is through November 30th and compares 2009 to 2013. December statistics will not be available until after January 2014.

- Overall Part 1 Crimes dropped: 3%
- Auto Theft dropped: 16%
- Burglaries dropped: 36%
- Overall criminal arrests increased: 62%
- DUI arrests increased (Alcohol & Drugs): 297%



IMPROVEMENT IN CITY BEAUTIFICATION

1. Improved the streets: paving, cosmetic designs (Washington St), and upgraded landscaping (Hwy 74 & Hwy 29).
2. Improved lighting (LED) throughout the city for better visibility thus allowing residents/guests to appreciate better safety at night.
3. Expedited and improved Hwy 74/Oakley intersection to assist with future commercial development and traffic.



NEW BUSINESSES SINCE 2010

- Clorox
- Cracker Barrel
- QuikTrip
- Aaron's Rental Inc.
- Electrolux
- Pittsburgh Paint & Glass (30k sq. ft. bldg.)
- Strawn Micro Brewery
- Oz Pizza (rebuilt from fire in 2010)
- Antique Mall (relocated from fire in 2010)
- Taco Bell
- Broadstreet Fine Art & Framing
- Mexican Res Los Mariachis
- Subway

Fairburn brought 475 new jobs into the city between January 2010 and December 2013.

*Several companies chose to come into Fairburn despite opportunities elsewhere. (PPG – 2856 sq. ft. warehouse; 80 jobs)



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Fairburn improved Duncan Park (playground, parking, restrooms, concessions buildings) after purchase.
2. Implemented infrastructure on Hwy 74/Oakley Industrial along with numerous surface streets.
3. Bided out downtown courtyard project next to Oz Pizza in November 2013.
4. Fairburn awarded \$3.1 by the Atlanta Regional Commission for LCI project (Livable Centers Initiative) – upgrade sidewalks, walking paths, streets, streetscapes.
5. Active Senior Living – The Manor at Broad Street will be completed the summer of 2015.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

1. Contracted with Dr. D'Avanté Parks to increase city's participation with community events. Results:

	Fairburn Festival	Christmas Tree Lighting
2009	700	30
2011	2,500	300
2013	8,000	900

2. Celebrated Football Championship Achievement in December 2013.
 - Creekside High School achieved excellence with an undefeated season. City celebrated the team, cheerleaders, and coaches.
 - Fairburn recognized the fallen hero player, De'Antre Turman at the Fairburn Festival.
3. Celebrated Landmark Christian School as the Cross Country Team is Georgia High School Association Region 5A Champions; and Georgia High School Association A-Private State Champions with 7 of the 12 team members scoring.
4. Celebrated the Fairburn Flames winning the 14 and under championship game.



FUTURE EFFORTS

1. Complete assessment of aquatic center project.
2. Continue efforts to attract restaurants on Hwy 74.
3. Approval by DOT to locate traffic signal at Hwy 74 & Meadow Glen Parkway that will open up opportunities for easier access to restaurants.
4. Seek Council approval to fund improvements of 91 miles of streets in Fairburn.



CONCERNS

1. Redevelopment Referendum

- Loss of jobs
- Loss of potential utility customer
- Loss of possible reduction for utility rate for residents

2. Water Authority

- Refinance \$40M in bond debt and erase the Letter of Credit.
- Transaction fees will be eliminated but how much swop termination will cost each city is unknown.

3. Plant Vogtle

- Fairburn required to sell 3.2 MW by 2018 to avoid selling the power at a loss.
- Must attract large commercial consumers to buy unused power.

