

City of Fairburn

Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes October 23, 2017 7:00 PM

Official Minutes

The Honorable Mayor Mario B. Avery, Presiding

The Honorable Mayor Pro-Tem Hattie Portis-Jones
The Honorable Alex Heath
The Honorable James Whitmore

The Honorable Lydia Glaize
The Honorable Pat Pallend

Stephen Hood
Shana T. Moss
Randy Turner

Interim City Administrator
Interim City Clerk
City Attorney

- I. Meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Mario B. Avery at 7:04 PM.
- II. Roll Call was taken by Interim Clerk; Moss, with all member of council present, which constituted a quorum and the official meeting, proceeded.
- III. The Invocation was given by the Honorable Mayor, Mario B. Avery.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

V. Presentation

Mayor and Council presented a Proclamation in honor of the Late Mrs. Angela McCarragher, wife of Fire Captain Pat McCarragher. Mayor Avery began the presentation by stating that the City of Fairburn is a Family, and when a member of the Fairburn Family is hurting, we are all there to rally our support. He stated the Mayor, Council, City Employees, and the entire City of Fairburn stands with the Captain, Chase, and Devin.

Recognition of the life and legacy of Angela McCarragher

Whereas, Angela McCarragher, born on October 6, 1969 to the union of William and Linda Cook in Kansas City, Kansas was called home to glory on October 13, 2017 at the age of 48; and

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Whereas, Angela McCarragher, born on October 6, 1969 to the union of William and Linda Cook in Kansas City, Kansas was called home to glory on October 13, 2017 at the age of 48; and

Whereas, Angela McCarragher was married to Patrick McCarragher, Jr. for 24 years, and was the devoted mother to two sons, Chase and Devin McCarragher; and

Whereas, Angela McCarragher is a graduate of Riverdale High School and attended Brevard University, majoring in Business Administration; and

Whereas, Angela McCarragher worked with Impark, Inc. for 10 years supporting America's favorite pastime, baseball with the Atlanta Braves; and

Whereas, Angela McCarragher was an integral part of the community in which she lived, dedicating much of her time to the care of her two sons; and

Whereas, Angela McCarragher was an ardent supporter of education regarding Williams Syndrome, a disorder that affects as many as 1 in 10,000 people worldwide, the Special Olympics and the East Coweta Lacrosse Club; and

Whereas, Angela McCarragher lived a life committed to serving her family and leaves them to cherish her memory alongside a community that will forever be indelibly marked by her short time with them.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mario B. Avery and the five members of the City Council for the City of Fairburn do honor and recognize the life and legacy of Angela McCarragher who lived a life devoted to pouring into her family the love and values she held close and as an extension of the City of Fairburn family, this 17th day of October, 2017.

Mario B. Avery
Mayor

Fire Chief/Interim City Administrator Stephen Hood spoke and stated the Fire Department would be supportive of Pat, Devin and Chase and for him to take as much time as he needs, before he return to work.

VI. Public Comments:

1. Mrs. Carol Berry, 113 Shannon Chase Lane, Fairburn, Georgia thanked the city for naming a complex after her family, the Eric Berry Complex. This complex is helping young men all over the county, and her son looks forward to coming back to Fairburn to help the youth. The park is beautiful and is setting a standard.
2. Ms. Linda North, of 502 Hastings Drive, Peachtree City, GA, stated South Fulton Little League has been here since 2004, and to move it would result in splitting

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the league. She has been a volunteer for over 30 years, if little league is moved it would hurt a lot of children; it, is every child's dream to go to the Little League World Series. She would like Mayor and Council to consider all options.

3. Mr. Obie J. Smith, of 535 Shire Lane, stated South Fulton Little League is a good opportunity for our kids, he coached an AAU Softball team and they enjoyed playing throughout the state. Little League is a great option for our youth.
 4. Mr. Corey Williams of 350 Dominique Court, Fayetteville, GA, spoke about Little League being a strong tradition, he is a proud supporter, and it teaches kids rules, regulations, and discipline.
 5. Ms. Rebecca Smith of 5508 Sable Way, stated she is a Little League member and parent, her son plays, he loves the game, she is a strong advocate for it, and would like it to remain in South Fulton.
- VII. Adoption of the Council Agenda: Motion to approve consent agenda, with the addition of Item # 7 being, discussing and choosing a mission statement for a Public Art Grant. Item # 8 being, City of Fairburn's Defined Benefit Retirement Plan, an Amendment to Increase Minimum Years Required for Vesting from five to seven. Item # 9 a Request for Resolution in Support of GMA Legislative Policy Regarding De-annexation Legislation to Create New Municipalities on behalf of the City of Stockbridge. Motion to approve agenda was made by Councilwoman Glaize; motion, seconded, by Mayor Pro-Tem Portis-Jones. Vote: (5-0) Motion Carried.
- VIII. Approval of City Council Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from October 9, 2017 Council Meeting was made by Councilwoman Glaize; motion, seconded by Councilman Heath. Vote: (5-0) Motion Carried.
- IX. Agenda Items:
Consent Agenda for Items 1-5 was made by Councilman Heath; motion, seconded, by Councilman Pallend.

Agenda Item 1

Repairs to Bohannon Road Bridge over I-85.

Mr. Harvey Stokes

Agenda Item 2

ECG Year End Settlement.

Mr. Tom Ridgway

Agenda Item 3

An agreement with Zack's Pest-A-Saurus Rex, LLC of Newnan, the most responsive bidder, to provide wildlife inspection and mitigation services for the creek in St. John's Crossing for \$ 1,000/monthly.

Mr. Tom Ridgeway

Agenda Item 4

Ms. Brendetta Walker

City of Fairburn

Approve the First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement with Union City to Construct the Gateway Project.

Agenda Item 5

Ms. Chapin Payne

To review and approve the facility use agreement for Southside Kickers for the Fall 2017 Season. For Consent Agenda Items:

Agenda Item 6

Mr. Ed Holloway

For Mayor and Council to approve by ordinance the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 City of Fairburn Municipal Budget of \$38,156,147 for expenditures. Motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Glaize; motion, seconded by Councilman Pallend.

Vote: (5-0) Motion Carried.

Council Members asked about tax bills being mailed out, Mr. Holloway stated, the city was awaiting the tax digest to be approved by the Georgia Department of Revenue. City Attorney, Randy Turner stated if the DOR doesn't approve the digest, all municipalities will have to file a Temporary Tax Collection Order (TTCO), which will be based on a proposed tax digest, to proceed with tax collection. Chief Hood recommended a communication plan if the digest isn't passed to inform citizens of the process, which will include an insert in the utility bills, the city's website and the city's social media outlets. Mayor Avery asked at what date, do we give citizens the 45 day notice, Attorney Turner, recommended to see if the digest will be approved or disapproved and we will make a determination from that decision.

Agenda Item 7

Ms. Brendetta Walker

For Mayor and Council to discuss and choose a mission statement for a Public Art Grant. Councilwoman Glaize asked how did the city find out about this grant? Ms. Walker stated it came across the planner's desk, and thought if they could eliminate some spending the city could possibly partake. Mayor Pro-Tem Portis Jones, asked about the cost, Ms. Walker replied, the cost is \$3,000 +, the city will incur the cost of purchasing the supplies, hotel accommodations for 14 days (time limit for grant completion), Mayor Pro-Tem Portis-Jones, asked is there money budgeted for this project, Ms. Walker replied no, and she thought the mural could go under the CSX underpass downtown. Mayor Pro-Tem Portis-Jones, stated she couldn't support this project because more background work need to be performed and the cost is not in the budget. Councilman Heath, stated he would like to see art students from the local high school be utilized it would lower the cost. Councilwoman Glaize stated, Landmark has a great arts department, we need to use our youth, engage them in these cultural opportunities. Councilman Whitmore, stated perhaps, Ms. Walker could develop a public art plan to identify what parts of the city would be feasible. Mayor Avery spoke about the tour the Mayor and Council took to Kennesaw a few years ago the mural that was painted there, which was both attractive and structurally sound. Mayor and Council took no action until further information could be provided to them.

Agenda Item 8

Councilwoman Glaize

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City of Fairburn Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Defined Benefit Retirement Plan; Amendment to Increase Minimum Years Required for Vesting from Five (5) to Seven (7) Years.

Councilwoman Glaize stated this change originated with Mayor-Elect Elizabeth Hurst to change the vesting years from 5 years to becoming fully vested at 7 years. Councilwoman Glaize relinquished the floor to Mayor-Elect Hurst, who stated five years was a small amount of time for employees to be vested, and with the city growing and projected to hire 15-20 employees in the next 10 years, and this will help the city's budget. Mayor Elect Hurst has researched other cities and the norm is 7 years, and she is recommending Fairburn evolve to the 7 year vesting plan. This would only affect employees hired after December 1, 2017. Mayor Avery stated pensions could play a big factor in a city's budget and referenced the City of Atlanta being upside down in its pensions in 2009-2010. Motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Glaize; motion seconded by Councilman Whitmore.

Vote: (5-0) Motion Carried.

Agenda Item 9

Mayor Avery

City of Stockbridge: Request for Resolution in Support of Georgia Municipal Association Legislative Policy Regarding De-Annexation Legislation to Create New Municipalities.

Mayor Avery stated the City of Stockbridge is seeking support from other cities to refute a bill that was passed in the General Assembly to de-annex a large portion of Stockbridge in order to create a new City of Eagles Landing. This de-annexation would have a devastating impact on the City of Stockbridge, taking away nearly 45 % of the city's acreage and an estimated 58% of the city's operating revenue. This unprecedented legislation is not harmful to only Henry County but could set a very dangerous precedent for every municipality in the State of Georgia by pitting cities against one another, and breaking up long-standing communities. Motion to approve resolution was made by Councilwoman Glaize; motion, seconded by Councilman Heath.

Vote: (5-0) Motion Carried.

X. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro-Tem Portis Jones, stated she is in full support of the City of Stockbridge. She extends her heart and condolences to the McCarragher Family, it is hard on Captain McCarragher being left with two young sons, but the family has her full support both personally and professionally. She thanked Mrs. Carol Berry and her family for their work with Duncan Park as well as her colleagues who worked to make Duncan Park a vital part of the City of Fairburn. She is perplexed about the South Fulton Little League, and eagerly awaits more information. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilman Pallend, stated Early Voting is being conducted at the Library and urged everyone to vote, because this election is crucial to the City of Fairburn.

Councilwoman Glaize, stated it is a pleasure and honor to serve. Youth and education are her passion, in conjunction with art and cultural. She urged elected

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officials to go out and support the schools in the area; she named Bear Creek, Creek Side, and Evoline C. West. She further stated, South Fulton Little League has a long standing tradition and she would like to see it continue. Prayer and condolences are extended to the McCarragher family, two young children, with one being a senior is hard. She supports GMA in their support of the City of Stockbridge, and it is an honor to serve the citizens of Fairburn.

Councilman Heath, stated he did something he thought he would never do. He got married on Friday October 20, 2017, he is very happy and he thanks everyone for their well-wishes, and said life is good. Stated he played little league in the 50's and 60's under Coach Brock and it was a joy, he would love to see little league continue in the city. He thanked everyone for the growth of Fairburn and had accolades for Mr. James Berry and his son Eric. Mr. James Berry would be the only person that would cut the grass for the kids to play and he is very proud of Duncan Park. He came on council in 2010; it was a great decision to purchase it from Fulton County. He further expressed his condolences to Pat McCarragher and his family.

Councilman Whitmore, extended his congratulations to Councilman Heath on his nuptials. He talked about the support for Pat McCarragher, as there was standing room only when we attended the visitation for Mrs. Angela McCarragher, he said he understands how Captain McCarragher feel, as he lost his wife to breast cancer with young children, and that Mayor and Council will rally around him and lend their support in any way. He had accolades for Deputy Chief Robinson, he said every time someone said something or provided an update, Deputy Chief Robinson was with Captain McCarragher, and Chief Robinson set the bar high. He further commented about Duncan Park, he watched it incline, he wasn't here in the decline stage, the next phase he would like to see is a community center at Duncan Park whether he is on council or not. Like, Mayor Pro-Tem Portis-Jones, he is perplexed about South Fulton Little League and spoke about his own adventures being an AAU Coach, he traveled and coached on a \$25,000 budget and is an advocated for Little League. He spoke about Veteran's Day where all Veterans' fallen, future, and past will be honored, volunteers are needed and are asked to contact Mr. E.C. West of the PTA; November 10, 2017, Veterans' will be taking food to the kid's classrooms.

Mayor Avery, Thanked the City of Fairburn Family, for their awesome support of the McCarragher Family. He thanked Mrs. Berry for her son's (Eric Berry) donation to the city. He wished all candidates God Speed on the upcoming election on November 7th. Mayor acknowledged Scott Vann as being the former council member who was responsible for the Duncan Park Restoration. He informed everyone that a City Administrator had been hired, she is Ms. Donna Gayden and her first day will be December 4, 2017. The city's Christmas Celebration will be December 2nd; location will be announced at a later date. The Fairburn Festival that was held on October 7th is still being talked about, the video will be on the city's website on October 24, 2017 and one of the highlights of the festival and on the video is seeing Congressman John Lewis trotting at 70 down the parade route.

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With no further business of the city, motion to adjourn at 8:21 pm was made by Councilman Whitmore, motion, seconded by Councilwoman Glaize.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shana T. Moss
Interim City Clerk

Mario B. Avery
Mayor

I Attest: