



**CITY OF FAIRBURN
CITY HALL
56 Malone Street
Fairburn, GA 30213
April 24, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

The Honorable Mayor Mario Avery

The Honorable Lydia Glaize
The Honorable Elizabeth Hurst
The Honorable Hattie Portis-Jones

The Honorable Alex Heath
The Honorable Pat Pallend
The Honorable James Whitmore

Stephen Hood
Stephanie Tigner
William Randy Turner

Interim City Administrator
Interim City Clerk
City Attorney

- I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: by Honorable Mayor Mario Avery.**
- II. ROLL CALL:** all members were present which constituted a quorum.
- III. INVOCATION:** was provided by Mayor Avery.
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** was recited in unison.
- V. PRESENTATION:**

City Planner Tarika Peaks read into the record the press release acknowledging the City of Fairburn Joins Main Street network program as an Affiliate.

Fairburn, GA –The City of Fairburn is proud to announce that it has joined the Georgia Main Street network as an Affiliate. The program, which follows the National Main Street Center's™ Approach to downtown revitalization, is a tried and true management strategy helping activate volunteers in breathing life into main streets across America. Becoming an Affiliate is one of the first steps to learn more about the program to determine if the community would like to apply to become a Classic Main Street community. Acceptance as a Classic Main Street community signifies the communities' commitment to downtown revitalization and historic preservation. The program advocates community self-reliance, local empowerment, and the rebuilding of central business districts based on their traditional assets of unique architecture, personal service, and local ownership. The City of Fairburn will be joining seventeen other

communities at the Affiliate level. In total, there are currently 106 Georgia Main Street communities in the Affiliate, Classic and GEMS tiers.

The Georgia Main Street Program is housed within the Department of Community Development. The program's administrator, Jessica Reynolds, is happy to welcome Fairburn to the network. "A city's main street is the heart of the community. We look forward to learning more about Fairburn and understanding how the Main Street Program might help in mobilizing stakeholders to highlight the history of the community while generating economic investment."

In addition to joining the Affiliate program, the City will begin to develop a strategic plan to identify key initiatives to pursue in the near future. To find out more about Main Street Fairburn, visit www.fairburn.com.

Council Member Glaize wanted to know if facade grants are available under the Main Street Program.

City Planner, Tarika Peeks said yes, I believe they are.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Greg Holland, 100 Howell Avenue, said his business had been cited for not having the required screening on the fence. Mr. Holland feels as though the screening will create a safety and security issues for his business. Mr. Holland said cars cannot see what is coming because of the screening. He said there had been two burglaries and two dump trucks stolen from his yard and I am expecting crime to increase; police officers will not be able to see. He said he does not see the benefit to the City of having the screening up. Mr. Holland said there is a construction project next door to his business doing work without a permit; the utilities have been relocated and they have installed a fueled tank.

2. Margo Young, 33 W Campbellton Street, spoke on the denial of an outside display permit. She said the denial has cut into her income about 80%. Ms. Young said I was denied the permit for placing my displays in the parking area. She said the City uses the parking area at the college for their yard sales. Ms. Young requested reconsideration.

3. Michael Byrd, C.F.O. A-Knights Traffic School, PO Box 21 Fairburn, GA, said small businesses create benefits for the community. He then spoke in opposition of not being provided proper notice. Mr. Byrd said we did not receive proper notice that the lease was not going to be renewed, but this is a government. Mr. Byrd asked what you have affected. He said "you have affected the students that have had to take a defensive driving class."

4. Homer Knight, 148 Durham Lake Parkway, said I was in shock when the lease was not renewed. He said I have been transparent with the information that I have provided to

the City. Mr. Knight said I believe that it was personal. He said during the discussion; I learned something; the City needs a better way to communicate. He went on to say Ms. Young is 80% shut down; A-Knights Traffic School is shut down for 3 to 6 months. He said the issue is if you had provided me with (90) days, I would have exited. He said if there is something that will benefit the campus everyone should be united. So, we need to change that and work with the business owners more. Mr. Knight said the City needs to host more workshops for the business community.

5. David Cuadrado, gave his time to Homer Knight, who spoke on coordinating a workshop for business owners and Council. He said some of the policies that are being enforced has placed hardships on the business community and may be a safety issue. Mr. Knight said you could sit in the audience at a meeting and tell how a vote will go; that is not good business for the City. He said the message should be uniform. There are a lot of things that is brought forth and get voted down; this is not a dictatorship. It should not be a color issue when you make a decision. He said we have a good team here, we should work together. Mr. Knight said he heard that a city official or a staff member offered \$5,000 to a business owner to comply with a rule or regulation.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA:

Council Member Whitmore made a motion to adopt the Council Agenda with Council Member Glaize providing the second. **The motion carried.**

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

Council Member Hurst made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items #1-#4

1. Purchase of (1) 2017 SUV (Explorer) for the Police Department (Police)
2. Adoption of the Resolution of Commitment to Implement a Phase 2 Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) Project (Engineering)
3. Approval of Contract for Acquisition of Right of Way on the LCI Project and the Associated Resolution (Engineering)
4. Annual Insurance Renewal (Administration)

Council Member Heath provided the second. **The motion carried.**

IX. APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES: City Council Minutes of April 10, 2017.

Council Member Glaize made a motion to approve the City Council Minutes of April 10,

2017 with Council Member Portis-Jones providing the second.

Council Member Glaize wanted to add the references to Cora Robinson Park and GICH Lightning Cleanup to her comments on page (5). **The motion carried.**

X. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:

Council Member Whitmore said the STEAM Program is focusing on grades K-12. He said in 10 to 15 years we would like to see these kids come back and offer those same training and skills to the other youth. Council Member Whitmore addressed the passing of Fulton County District 4 Commissioner Joan Garner. He asked everyone to keep the family in your prayers.

Mayor Avery recognized State Representative Derrick Jackson who was present at the meeting.

Council Member Heath had no comment.

Council Member Hurst announced the LIHEAP Program would be in the City for one day this Friday, April 21, 2017 at the City Annex. She said there is still funding left for heating assistance. I would like to have the program back in the City within the next 30 to 60 days. She then thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting tonight; it is good to see everyone.

Council Member Glaize said it is a pleasure to serve in this City. She said “I have seen a lot of progress” in the City; it does not mean that we are there. She said we had reached milestones, but there is still room for improvements. Council Member Glaize acknowledged Mr. Knight’s request for a workshop with the business community. She announced Georgia Cities Week began on April 23rd and will continue through April 29th. She thanked the Parks and Recreation Director Chapin Payne and staff for hosting a great job fair today. Council Member Glaize said Tuesday is Family Night. She said there will be an Essay & Art Contest held at the Frankie M. Arnold Stage and Courtyard. Council Member Glaize thanked Landmark Christian School and Evelyn C. West Elementary for participating in Georgia Cities Week. She said Wednesday is business focus day and we are asking the public to visit our businesses on Highway 29; Highway 74 and beyond. She said on Thursday students will come to work with their parents and on Friday night we will host the first concert series. We cannot thank Dr. Parks and Ms. Payne enough for their leadership. She then thanked City Administrator Assistant Ms. D. Hang Nguyen for judging the essay contest. She then thanked the Mayor’s Executive Assistant Mrs. Akilah Moody and H.R. Assistant Ms. Gabrielle Rocker for getting the program completely together for Georgia Cities Week.

Council Member Pallend had no comment.

Council Member Portis-Jones said, "I heard you Mr. Knight and I appreciated the conversation that we had". She said communication is the key, but it has to be done early and often. She said we would work to avoid some of the misunderstandings that occurred as a result of this. She thanked Mr. Knight for the conversation. She congratulated Harvest Soul Organic Juice; a new business in the City. Council Member Portis-Jones said I am planning to visit and I encourage others to visit as well. She congratulated the new City of South Fulton for the election of its governing body. The first step was City Hood and the second step was electing their governing body; congratulations. Council Member Portis-Jones announced the 3rd Annual Fairburn Farmer's Market would be opening Friday, May 19, 2017. There will be lots of activities planned. She said we will now be accepting EBT at the market. Council Member Portis-Jones said research has shown there are economic benefits that will add "boom" to the market and will open access to quality foods to those recipients. She then closed by stating she is saddened by the loss of Fulton County District 4 Commissioner Joan Garner. She said Commissioner Garner was a stalwart in the community. She said she was a warrior and champion for health. Commissioner Garner worked hard to bring quality healthcare to her community; I would like to follow in her footsteps in that regard.

Mayor Avery reiterated the first concert series in Fairburn this Friday. The concert will begin at 8 pm. He announced the memorial services for Fulton County District 4 Commissioner Joan Garner will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017, at 3 pm in Atlanta. Mayor Avery sent prayers to the families of four teenagers killed in an automobile accident in South Fulton County. He thanked Dr. Parks and Parks & Recreation Director Chapin Payne for a great job with the job fair. He said Cracker Barrel is seeking employees. Mayor Avery thanked Mr. Todd Long for explaining the transition of the unincorporated Fulton to the new city. He congratulated Mayor Bill Edwards and all seven council members.

XI. ADJOURN:

Council Member Heath made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for (1) Litigation and (1) Real Estate Matter with Council Member Glaize providing the second. **The motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Council Member Whitmore made a motion to reconvene the meeting with Council Member Heath providing the second. **The motion carried.** There was a brief discussion regarding the upcoming council retreat.

Council Member Heath made a motion to adjourn with Council Member Pallend providing the second. **The motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Interim City Clerk, Stephanie Tigner

Mayor, Mario Avery