



**CITY OF FAIRBURN
City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall
56 Malone Street
Fairburn, GA 30213
February 25, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

The Honorable Mayor Mario Avery

The Honorable Ron Alderman
The Honorable Elizabeth Hurst
The Honorable Jean Barkley Russell

The Honorable Alex Heath
The Honorable Marian Johnson
The Honorable Scott Vaughan

City Administrator:
City Clerk:
City Attorney:

Mr. Tom B. Barber
Mrs. Brenda B. James
Mr. Randy Turner

- I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Honorable Mario Avery.**
- II. ROLL CALL:** All Members of Council were present which constituted a quorum.
- III. INVOCATION:** Provided by Council Member Heath.
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited in unison.
- V. PRESENTATION:** Dr. Robert Avossa, Superintendent of Fulton County Schools

Deputy Superintendent of Academics, Scott Perry with Fulton County Schools apologized for Dr. Avossa absence due to illness. He recognized Board of Education Member Ms. Linda Bryant and Dr. Donald Flennoy, Area Superintendent who were present. He thanked the City of Fairburn for allowing him to attend the Council Meeting and share some information about the Fulton County Schools. He gave an overview of the Fulton County Schools and said they are excited about the work they are doing to build their future. He spoke about the evolution and the strategic plans for Fulton County Schools. He said Fulton County is a very large County serving 18 Cities and the 4th largest School System in the State of Georgia serving 94000 students in the 100 schools in Fulton County. He said they have over 6,800 teachers who serve in these schools and they are diverse with a Majority and Minority School District. He said 45 % of the students are economically disadvantaged; 6 % of the students do not speak English natively as their language; and 10%

of the students receive support services. He said they have made quite a few accomplishments. He said they have one of the largest Charter Schools in the United States. He said they passed a splost package in the amount of 750 million dollars in November 2011. He said they have a new learning community and performance management system that shows how they grow their people; and a new set of teaching and learning standards. He said on July 1, 2012 they introduced four new learning communities. He said some of the services are centralized and provide services within the schools, instead of locating centrally. He said the Charter System has more flexibility and could allow credit internships. He said they have three main goals which include a higher graduation rate of 90%; students should be college ready by 85%; and 100% career ready for work after college and before college. He said the classrooms need better technology, high-quality leadership and this has been added in their strategic plan. Council Member Hurst said all students are not college bound and she was glad to hear they are preparing students in high school for careers. She said her youngest daughter had no desire to go to college; however, she knew what she wanted to do in life, whereas her oldest daughter knew she wanted to attend college.

Council Member Russell said she is hearing a lot of great things about Creekside High School. She said she agrees with Council Member Hurst, all students are not college bound and may require technical training. She asked about the changes made at Bear Creek Middle School. Mr. Scott said a strong Pre-K Program will build high school graduates. He said the standards have been raised since last year for the teachers at Bear Creek Middle and they are looking at a project based learning environment. He said this type of learning help students become better learners.

Mayor Avery asked about the requirements for students who set out of class courses. Mr. Scott said the State of Georgia requires each course to have a set of standards that a student must master and if the student masters the standards they must pass an exam called the End of Course Exam (EOCT) with a passing grade in that particular course. He said the students are also required to have a number of hours in the course. Council Member Johnson asked if the students are given an opportunity to show they have the knowledge to master the course. Mr. Scott said yes.

Ms. Bryant thanked the City for inviting the Fulton County School Board to the Council Meeting. She said they are delighted to work with them and if there are any issues are concerns please contact her.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Troy L. Harrison, 91 Cole Street, Fairburn, GA said he represented the business area on Broad Street and spoke on downtown parking. He said he appreciate the New Plaza the City Administrator has been working on; however, there is not enough parking. He expressed concerns about the

parking at Oz Pizza and objected to moving the parking. He also thanked Council Member Heath for his support with the Home Safe Act Program that was held on last Saturday.

VII. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Council Member Vaughan made a motion to approve the Agenda placing items 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 on Consent Agenda, removed item 8; and added item 9; Resolution by the Mayor and Council to Adopt a Revised Legislative Agenda for the 2013 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. Item 3 remained on Regular Agenda. Council Member Alderman provided the second. **The motion carried.**

VIII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS:

Council Member Russell made a motion to approve Consent Items 1, 2, 4, 5 6 and 7 with Council Member Heath providing the second. **The motion carried.**

1. Approval of the Cancellation of March 11, 2013 City Council Meeting due to the Mayor and several Council Members attending the NLC Conference in Washington D. C.
2. Approval of the Resolution by Mayor and Council to formally endorse Selection of the Partial Cloverleaf Design at Interchange SR74 & Interstate I-75.
4. Approval of the Lease Agreement for two Ricoh Copiers in an amount of \$263.40 per month plus a cost per page for the Finance Department and \$211.05 per month plus a lightly higher cost per page for the Fire Department.
5. Approval of the Agreement of On Call Demolition Services, Fairview Drive Properties in the amount of \$14,385.00.
6. Approval of the Construction Agreement, Fairburn Educational Campus Parking Lot Expansion in the amount of \$599,859.00.
7. Approval of the Construction Agreement, Duncan Park Improvements in the amount of \$1,985,000.00.

IX. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Council Minutes of February 11, 2013

Council Member Alderman made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 11, 2013 with one correction made by Council Member Hurst on page 4; under Mayors Comments, change the word broad to board. Council

member Russel provided the second. **The motion carried.**

X. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS:

3. Resolution by Mayor and Council Re-Adopting the Five Ethics Principles to Recertify the City of Fairburn as a Georgia Certified City of Ethics

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve the Resolution by Mayor and Council re-adopting the Five Ethics Principles to recertify the City of Fairburn as a Georgia Certified City of Ethics with Council Member Russell providing the second.

Council Member Hurst asked about Section 2-4.9 on page 5, Board of Ethics. She said the City became a Board of Ethics in 2008 and asked if it is a requirement that they have a Board of Ethics appointed. City Attorney, Randy Turner said the Ordinance provide for a Board of Ethics although a Board of Ethics has not been appointed; however, the duties assigned to the Board of Ethics are designed to handle investigations and ethics complaints. Council Member Hurst asked if they would have to organize a Board of Ethics if there is a complaint about ethics. Attorney Turner said yes. Mayor Avery said he asked Attorney Sears about appointing a Board of Ethics at the time the City became a City of Ethics and he said Attorney Sears advised him not to do so at that time. Mayor Avery recommended that he and the Council Members make the appointments and select individuals who have a vested interest in the City. Attorney Turner said the intent of the Ordinance is for Mayor and Council to individually come up with two names and create a pool of fourteen people. He said they would select from the pool of fourteen people in the event a compliant comes up. City Clerk Brenda James said they would have 1 year from June, 2013 to re-adopt the Five Ethics Principles to recertify the City of Fairburn as a Georgia Certified City of Ethics.

After much discussion, the motion carried.

9. Resolution by the Mayor and Council to Adopt a Revised Legislative Agenda for the 2013 Session of the Georgia General Assembly

Council Member Alderman made a motion to approve the Resolution by the Mayor and Council to Adopt a Revised Legislative Agenda for the 2013 Session of the Georgia General Assembly with Council Member Heath providing the second. **The motion carried.**

XI. COUNCIL AND MAYOR COMMENTS:

Council Member Vaughan had no comments.

Council Member Johnson said it was good to have everyone present attending the meeting. She commended the City staff and said they have a very faithful staff. She said her daughter has a radio program and asked if everyone would participate in Hoodie Hoo Day which is one month before spring.

Council Member Russell said several weeks ago the Development Authority attended a Downtown Development Authority Training which included strategic planning. She said last Saturday the Downtown Development Authority had a great meeting and they discussed strategic planning. She said they need to focus on the seniors who are age 55 and over Housing Services. She said they discovered from the U. S. Census that 2900 of the 13000 City's population are seniors, which make up 20 % of the City's population. She said this issue needs to be addressed. She said the Development Authority Members have great backgrounds. She said they have Mack McCarthney who has experience in construction management; Suzanne Presley who is an attorney that serve as a board member for Christian Cities; Danita Jones who is a pastor who focus on low to moderate income needs; and Rhonda Appleby who has started Senior Services in the City of East Point. She said she was going to reach out to the Atlanta Region Commission. She said the housing market is going to turn around and the school system is starting to improve; and this would be a great project for the Development Authority. She said the seniors who are 55 and over would be a great asset for the community to support the retail outlets. She commended the Development Authority for the time and energy they have given to provide the City with the information needed to move forward.

Council Member Hurst had no comments.

Council Member Heath thanked everyone for coming to the Home Safe Act Program, which was held on last Saturday at the Fairburn Youth Center. He said three families attended the program and they were able to assist two of the families. He also spoke about Hottie Hoo Day and said a good time to celebrate is when the pool opens at Duncan Park. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a good night.

Council Member Alderman said Hottie Hoo Day could be celebrated on March 16, 2013 during the beginning of baseball season.

Mayor Avery announced that the Council Meeting for March 11, 2013 is cancelled due to the NLC Conference in Washington D.C. He said Council Member Heath will receive an award at the NLC Conference and Council Member Hurst who serves on Board of the NLC will also be attending the Conference. He said the Recreation Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 and Council Member Johnson is the Chairman of

the Committee with several of the citizens. He spoke about Fulton County and the impact that some of the legislature has on Fairburn. He said there is a 50% drop in Fulton County's Revenue. He said he has spoken publicly for the City of Fairburn and how they have benefited from a lot of the services. He said the City will be impacted by the services for E911, Animal Control, Library and Senior Services and these services could be reduced or eliminated. He said he wanted to make the Council aware of this situation because if they are not paying attention, this has the potential to destroy the City's bottom line. He spoke about the loss of the local option sales tax and hopefully it will be resolved by June, 2013. He spoke about the Water Authority and said they are working together trying to make sense the situation.

City Administrator, Tom Barber spoke on the Pension with GMA. He said in the current budget located on the first page of the budget listed under item number 10, they are paying 9.81% of payroll pension. He said the percentage is driven by employee salaries, changes in the number of vested employees and the number of people who are drawing pensions; and the performance of the asset. He said the pension will increase to 11.1% next year. He said the City's salary is 6 million dollars. He said he has been working on a survey with Lamp Farley and the survey will soon be listed on the website. He spoke on the health insurance renewal and said enrollment is completed. He spoke about the construction project and said Brenau has become certified for their nursing program. He said the earliest they can start the program is January 2014. He said this mean Brenau will take over the upper floor and the City will benefit because GMC will need another building. He said timing is good and this is the best news of the year. He spoke on development and said for the last several years they have gone on a road trip and announced there will be a road trip April 27, 2013 and said if this date does not fit everyone's schedule to please notify him by email. He also announced that Fayette Council Chamber will be sponsoring a meeting on Wednesday at the Legislative Building at 8:00 a.m. in room 514 about the Partial Cloverleaf Design for the Interchange at SR74 and Interstate I-85. He said the City is in support of the Partial Cloverleaf Design and encouraged those who would like to be involved to please plan to attend the event.

Council Member Alderman made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:00 p.m. with Council Member Heath providing the second. **The motion carried.**

XII. ADJOURN COUNCIL MEETING:

Brenda B. James City Clerk

Mario Avery, Mayor