



**CITY OF FAIRBURN
CITY HALL
56 Malone Street
Fairburn, GA 30213
January 9, 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 at 7:01pm.**
- II. ROLL CALL:** All members were present which constituted a quorum.
- III. INVOCATION:** was provided by Brian Hart of St. John A.M.E. Church.
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** was recited in unison.
- V. PRESENTATION:**

1. Mayor's State of the City Address

The Honorable Mayor Mario Avery presented the 2017 "State of the City" Address as follows:

The City hired and trained youth from Fairburn and the surrounding areas for a total of 19 Red Cross certified lifeguards and 13 pool attendants;

There were several new businesses opened on Highway 74 creating an abundance of job opportunities for Fairburn residents such as Firehouse Subs, Dairy Queen, Marco's Pizza, Shane's Rib Shack, Starbucks and Verizon.

He said Fairburn continues its quest to provide jobs within the industrial area with the acquisition of another 1 million square foot facility & a Fortune 500 company, Smucker's Corporation. Currently Fairburn is vetting another corporation to occupy

the future additional 1.5 million square footage building that's pending completion in 2017.

Negotiations occurred in 2016 that led to the announcement in early January 2017 of Duracell bringing 800 jobs to Fairburn.

The City also completed the widening of Oakley Industrial Boulevard and reconstruction of Bohannon Road. These infrastructure improvements will help to support the increase of jobs in the area.

Mayor Avery stated Fairburn's Mayor, Council & Executive Leaders demonstrated its fiscally responsible culture by ending the 2016 fiscal year by underspending its budget by \$1.4 million dollars. Fairburn's bond rating continues to be an asset to the city with a double AA minus rating, equivalent to a personal credit score of 800.

Fairburn continues to be listed as one of the safest cities to live. In 2016, Fairburn ranked 52nd out of 535 Cities, Towns and County Governments in the State of Georgia as one of the safest places to live. This ranking places Fairburn in the top 9% of safest cities to live within the state. He cited www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-georgia-2016.

Housing continues to be a focal point in Fairburn. The new Executive Apartments on Oakley Industrial will be a welcome addition to the industrial district employees & Fairburn residents as a whole. The City Executive staff, with support from the legislative branch, believes the upscale residential property will complete two-thirds (2/3) of the existing housing plan (Senior Housing, Executive Housing and Low Income Housing) for the city overall. He said there are 308 Unit Class A Resort Style Apartments in the City.

Fairburn understands that "all work and no play" isn't a healthy environment. Fairburn invested over \$10 million for the renovations and upgrades of the swimming pool and infrastructure at Duncan Park. In May of 2016, Fairburn celebrated the opening of the Duncan Park Pool & Splash Pad.

Fairburn continues to be a prime location for entertainment at the downtown Frankie Mae Arnold Stage and Courtyard along with a diversified and well attended Fairburn Fall Festival. The City ended the year with a very successful Christmas Tree Lighting, where numerous youth organizations were the center of attention.

Mayor Avery said we honored two of Fairburn's trailblazers Former Mayor Betty Hannah and Former City Council Member Frankie Arnold.

Loss of funding from General Fund as a result of the new City of South Fulton; all 14 cities will possibly surrender a percentage of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST).

Projected distribution expected late June 2017 for a more definitive status. Fairburn leaders will need to address the projected Fire Station and additional funding needed to facilitate construction. ALL 14 Cities in Fulton County will need to fund the additional operational costs needed to execute the TSPLOST (Transportation Special

Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) project list approved by residents, Countywide. Due to the limited qualified Construction Management, Project Management and Program Management firms needed by all 14 cities, additional costs are inevitable for every municipality.

Fairburn continues to pursue a viable tenant for the Betty Hannah Education Campus to offset the annual \$1.05M debt payment.

Honorable Mayor Mario Avery closed his address by stating “One Fairburn, One Family”.

2. Mental Fitness and Pittsburgh Paint and Glass Presentation

Mr. John Childs, Mental Fitness Program said it was not a mistake to bring the after school program to the City of Fairburn. He said it is important to him as a retired teacher to expose children to experience that they may not be received; and that those experiences be embedded in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. There are always job openings in those areas. We have high expectations for those children that we enroll whether it is for summer camps or after school program. I am looking forward to the progress here in Fairburn. He introduced Marcia of Pittsburgh Paint and Glass (PPG). Mr. Childs said the class was invited to the plant and received a great experience. He said you never know what a child can become if you show them something.

Marcia thanked the Mayor and Council. She said it is very important to her to be involved in the community. She said the company wanted to reach out. She said Allen Johnson stopped in and meet with Dr. Parks and Ms. Payne. She said PPG is a supporter of the STEM program. We are fortunate enough to offer a grant to Mr. Childs and Mental Fitness in the amount of \$15,000.

Mr. John Childs said the money is earmarked to provide scholarships to some of the deserving youths, professional for our teachers and increase our technology.

3. Police Department Presentation

Police Chief Sutherland said we like to acknowledge police officers that go beyond the call of duty. He said in order to do things that most people would not do that go beyond their job duty. Chief Sutherland said this is happening on the National Law Enforcement

Day of Appreciation. He said on Tuesday morning he received a message on his voicemail from young providing accolades to one of our officers. (The phone caller describes the event).

Police Chief Sutherland said one thing we do in law enforcement is the preservation of life; to save a life. He said what we received is a call stating that a vehicle was backing out of the driveway at Food Depot and unbeknownst to the driver a small child was wandering through the parking lot, but Detective Sgt. B. Israel did. Detective Sgt. B. Israel ran to place himself in harm's way to save a child. He presented Detective Sgt. B. Israel with a Certificate of Accommodation on behalf of the entire Command Staff and me; thank you for everything that you did.

Detective Sgt. B. Israel said I could not let it happen and it was not because I wear a uniform or have a badge, but because I am a human being and there was a small child in danger. It is something that I would do as a person; something I believe that each one of you would do if placed in that position. I appreciate the caller. So many times in many professions we see someone do a good job, but you never tell the boss. It feels good to hear that you do a job that the young lady took time to call; it made me feel great, special.

He said that Police Chief Sutherland is a great leader and he really appreciates working with him.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Gloria Jenkins, 3609 Mount Vernon Drive, East Point, Georgia she commended Mayor Mario Avery on the "State of the City Address". She said the City of Fairburn is doing great things. She recognized Mr. John Childs for his achievements with the Mental Fitness Program. Ms. Jenkins said her grandson attended the program last year. Ms. Jenkins, President of the South Metro Democratic Women's Council said she came to make a presentation in recognition of Council Member Hattie-Portis-Jones. Ms. Jenkins said on behalf of the South Metro Democratic Women's Council we are presenting Council Member Hattie Portis-Jones with a corsage for her achievement of the City of Fairburn's Mayor Pro Tem for the 2017 year.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA:

Council Member Glaize made a motion to adopt the Council Agenda and items #4 Resolution to Adopt the Fulton County/City of Fairburn Hazard Mitigation Plan and #5 Greystone Power Franchise Ordinance on the Consent Agenda and to add items #6 Resolution for Fulton County on Transit, #7 Resolution to Support the National Day of Racial Healing and #8 Discussion of Levelized Billing Program with Council Member Heath providing the second. **The motion carried.**

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Resolution to Adopt the Fulton County/City of Fairburn Hazard Mitigation Plan (Administration)

Council Member Whitmore made a motion to adopt the Resolution to Adopt the Fulton County/City of Fairburn Hazard Mitigation Plan with Council Member Heath providing the second. **The motion carried.**

5. Greystone Power Franchise Ordinance (Utilities)

Council Member Glaize made a motion to approve the Greystone Power Franchise Ordinance with Council Member Heath providing the second. **The motion carried.**

VIII. APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES: City Council Minutes of December 12, 2016.

Council Member Glaize made a motion to approve the City Council Minutes of December 12, 2016 with Council Member Heath providing the second. **The motion carried.**

IX. AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Legal Organ for the City of Fairburn for 2017 (City Clerk)

Council Member Hurst made a motion to hold the approval of Legal Organ for the City of Fairburn for 2017 for further research and discussion with Council Member Portis-Jones providing the second. **The motion carried.**

2. Appointment of the Mayor Pro-Tem for the 2017 Year (Mayor Avery)

Council Member Hurst made a motion to appoint Council Member Hattie Portis-Jones as the Mayor Pro Tem for the 2017 Year with Council Member Glaize providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Staff Appointments for the 2017 Year (Mayor and City Council)

Council Member Heath made a motion to appoint Stephen Hood as the Interim City Administrator with Council Member Hurst providing the second. For the record; **the motion carried unanimously.**

Council Member Heath made a motion to hold the appointment of the City Clerk with Council Member Glaize providing the second; **the motion carried unanimously.**

Council Member Whitmore made a motion to appoint Interim Police Chief Vern Sutherland as the Police Chief with Council Member Portis-Jones providing the second. For the record, **the motion carried unanimously.**

Council Member Hurst made a motion to appoint City Attorney Randy Turner of Turner Ross with Council Member Heath providing the second. For the record, **the motion carried unanimously.**

Council Member Hurst made a motion to hold the appointment of the Treasurer with Council Member Glaize providing the second. For the record, **the motion carried unanimously.**

Council Member Glaize made a motion to appoint Monica Ewing as the Municipal Court Judge with Council Member Whitmore providing the second. For the record, **the motion carried unanimously.**

6. Resolution for Fulton County on Transit (Mayor Avery)

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve the Resolution for Fulton County Transit with Council Member Whitmore providing the second. **The motion carried.**

7. Resolution to Support of a National Day of Racial Healing (Council Member Glaize)

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve the Resolution in Support of a National Day of Racial Healing with Council Member Hurst providing the second. **The motion carried.**

8. Discussion on Levelized Billing Program (Utilities/Council/ COF Utility Committee)

Council Member Portis-Jones said she and Council Member Whitmore serves on a Utility Review Committee supported by the Council to review the policy and procedures of the Utility Department. Members of the community were appointed to serve on the committee. She introduced some of the committee members and presented the levelized billing that is being proposed for consideration to offer as a customer service alternative. She introduced Utility Director Tom Ridgway to provide an overview of the levelized billing program.

Utility Director Tom Ridgway said one of the challenges that we have with our utilities are with the large seasonal swings on electric. He said you will typically have increased utility bills in the winter and the summertime. In the spring and fall the bill charges drop off significantly. He said there are two ways to address

the issue. One is with budget billing you will take the last 12 months and divide it by (12) and that is what the customer pays monthly; that is what the customers see on their bill. Mr. Ridgway said the problem with budget billing is that the customer will see the same amount on their bill every month. If it gets cold the customer will adjust the temperature in the home and charges begin to accumulate. Mr. Ridgway stated that customers do not realize they are accumulating within in the (12) month period and then the customer will have to true up. He said the true up period can be as much as much as \$500. Mr. Ridgway said with levelized billing we can take the current month and the previous (11) months and we average the cost. The levelized billing will fluctuate slightly but it will not have a large seasonal swing. We are recommending levelized billing rather than budget billing.

X. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:

Council Member Portis-Jones thanked Mayor Avery and her colleagues for the appointment and support. She thanked her fellow club members of the South Metro Democratic Women's Council. She said I have been involved with the organization for a long time. She said the purpose of the organization is to provide training and to mentor young adults that come behind us. Council Member Portis-Jones acknowledged Detective Sgt. Israel for his heroic efforts. She said the role of the police officer at Food Depot is to provide security on the inside, but Detective Sgt. Israel was in the right position to do what he did; I really appreciate it. She sent kudos to Detective Israel and Police Chief Sutherland. She congratulated Interim City Administrator Hood, Police Chief Sutherland, City Attorney Randy Turner of Turner & Ross, LLC and Municipal Court Judge Monica Ewing; it does take a team to make things happen in the City. She sent congratulations to Mr. John Childs and the S.T.E.A.M Program. She said she knew it was a matter of time before you came to the City. In closing, we support and we want you here because it is truly about our children.

Council Member Pallend said we have another election year coming up in Fairburn; fasten your seat belts, it's going to get bumpy night.

Council Member Glaize said you will get the best work done, working together. This has been a great year with not only expectation, but implementation of projects and working together with staff, administration and the Mayor and Council. We are grateful for the leadership on all three fronts. She thanked all the citizens for their support. She acknowledged Mayor Avery for a great State of the City Address. She thanked P.P.G. for the work they have done in the community and supporting the S.T.E.A.M. program Council Member Glaize thanked Council Member Whitmore for making a great effort for the STEAM program to be here. She thanked the Parks and Recreation Director Chapin Payne. She said she is a mother of seven and keeping kids safe and educated and they have opportunities after they graduate high school. Council Member Glaize closed

by recognizing Detective Sgt. Israel for his work and the time that he took and the care that he gave to save a life will multiply in the community; we are greatly appreciative. She thanked all the department heads and staff members for going above and beyond. Fairburn we are truly “*Situated to Succeed*”.

Council Member Hurst congratulated all the appointments; I look forward to working with all of you in 2017. She congratulated Mr. John Childs and the S.T.E.A.M Program. Council Member Hurst recognized Detective Sgt. Israel. She said “to do what you did took a whole lot”; to place your life in jeopardy to go behind a truck to save a child. I give all respect to you and Police Chief Sutherland. Council Member Hurst acknowledged Randy Turner of Turner & Ross, LLC for their service to the City. She said the year 2017 will bring some challenges to this Council and to this nation but we have to remember, there is a higher being and to maintain the faith. Council Member Hurst thanked everyone for coming out. She said she is looking forward to working with staff. She recognized Harvey Stokes and Mr. Holloway.

Council Member Heath thanked all of the City employees for their dedication during the terrible weather. He said our employees worked during the bad weather to ensure that we are safe. Council Member Heath said 2017 will be one of the best years.

Council Member Whitmore congratulated all of the appointments made tonight. He said I am glad that you are here. Council Member Whitmore acknowledged the staff at P.P.G for their support of the S.T.E.A.M Program. He acknowledged Parks and Recreation Director Chapin Payne for the great job and her support of Mr. Childs and the S.T.E.A.M Program. Council Member Whitmore highlighted that the S.T.E.A.M program is in the process of obtaining a \$100K Scholarship for a web grant and has obtain a \$15K Scholarship from P.P.G. He said Mr. Child’s is currently obtaining his license to be licensed here in the City of Fairburn. He acknowledged Interim City Administrator Hood for his leadership.

Mayor Avery thanked the City's staff. He acknowledged Ms. Hang Nguyen, the Utility and Street departments. Mayor Avery thanked Mayor Kasim Reed for his leadership. He said relationships matters. He acknowledged Parks and Recreation Director Chapin Payne, Dr. Parks and Mr. Bobby Fountain. He also recognized Ms. Tarika Peeks, Interim City Administrator Hood and Lester Thompson. Mayor Avery said Mr. Thompson is currently in Texas for a transportation meeting. Lastly, Mayor Avery recognized Pastor Ingrid Thomas. He said Pastor Thomas spent her birthday raising money for seniors in the City. He thanked First Baptist Church and P.P.G. for their continued support.

XI. ADJOURN:

Council Member Heath made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Council Member Whitmore providing the second. **The motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

Interim City Clerk, Stephanie Tigner

Mayor, Mario Avery