



City of Fairburn
Mayor and Council Special Called Meeting- Zoom
July 8, 2020
7:00pm

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by the Honorable Mayor Carr-Hurst.
- II. Roll Call was taken by City Clerk, Arika Birdsong-Miller with the following members present:

Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst

The Honorable Mayor Pro-Tem Ulysses J. Smallwood
The Honorable Linda J. Davis
The Honorable Alex Heath

The Honorable Pat Pallend
The Honorable Hattie Portis-Jones
The Honorable James Whitmore

The attendance of Council constituted a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

City Attorney Randy Turner was also present.

- III. The invocation was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood.
- V. Adoption of the Council Agenda:
Motion to approve the Council Agenda was made by Councilman Heath and the second was provided by Councilman Whitmore. Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

VI. Agenda Items:

1. To address the reopening of City Hall and other municipal facilities in response to the existing COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Carr-Hurst explained that Governor Kemp's Executive Order will expire on August 11, 2020 but believes the City will be best served by remaining closed until Monday, September 14, 2020. Mayor Carr-Hurst stated that Municipal Courts are opened and explained that the courts are regulated by the Chief Justice for the State of Georgia, but precautions are in place. Masks are required when entering the courthouse, the building is sanitized and disinfected, and there is a limit on how many people can be inside the building at one time. Councilwoman Davis stated that she agrees with the date of September 14th. Councilman Heath stated that the number of people infected with COVID-19 is rising daily and believes the municipal buildings should remain closed. Councilman Whitmore stated he agrees with leaving City facilities closed to protect our employees and prevent further spreading of COVID-19. Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood rendered his support for leaving municipal facilities closed until September 14, 2020. Councilwoman Portis-Jones stated that she agrees with leaving municipal closed and offered an alternative reopening date of September 28, 2020. Councilman Pallend inquired about the safety precautions in place at the municipal buildings for employees. Mayor Carr-Hurst confirmed that before entering any municipal facility employees are required to have their temperature checked to ensure their body temperature is not elevated. A vote of solidarity was made by Mayor and Council to keep City Hall and other municipal facilities closed September 14, 2020.


2. **Hazard Pay-** Mayor Carr-Hurst informed Council that hazard pay is going into the seventh pay cycle as of Friday, July 10, 2020. Mayor Carr-Hurst stated that if hazard pay continues until September 18, 2020 the budget impact would be about \$200,000 in total expenses since hazard pay was approved. Providing hazard pay to first responders costs the City of Fairburn \$17,500 per pay period. Mayor Carr-Hurst suggested that all remaining funds left in the education and travel account for Mayor and Council be transferred to the hazard pay account for the Police, Fire and Street Departments. A consensus amongst Mayor and Council to relinquish all except \$500 remaining funds in their education and travel accounts to go towards continuing hazard pay until pay period that ends on September 18, 2020 for front line employees.

3. **Proposed Ordinance Mandating Masks-** City Attorney Randy Turner stated that his legal opinion is that counties and cities in Georgia have Home Rule authority to enact ordinances to protect the health, safety and welfare of their citizens. This ordinance will require that all persons entering a commercial establishment be required to wear a face covering. Councilman Pallend suggested that a grace period of one week be in place before mandating masks to give citizens an opportunity to get accustom to the new policy. Councilman Whitmore stated that he believes we should act on mandating masks immediately to slow the increase of COVID-19. Councilwoman Davis suggested that the age for mask requirement be raised to five years old and that the fine imposed for not wearing a mask be reduced to \$25 dollars. Councilwoman Davis also suggested a grace period be in place before enforcing the masks mandate. Councilwoman Portis-Jones stated that she agrees with the mask ordinance and suggested that money collect from fines imposed be used to purchase masks for distribution to citizens. Attorney Turner stated that the mandate is for commercial establishments and states that if a person wants to patronize businesses in the City of Fairburn a mask is required. Motion to approve the Ordinance Mandating Masks in the City of Fairburn with modification that include the maximum fine that can be imposed is \$25 and the age requirement to be raised from two years old to five years old made by Councilwoman Davis and the second was provided by Councilman Whitmore. Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

4. **Fulton County CARES funding-** Mayor Carr-Hurst provided an update to Council on CARES funding stating cities that are within counties that received a direct allocation are no longer eligible to receive funds from the state. We must instead receive our support from Fulton County. Finance Director Angela Jackson stated that municipalities within Fulton County must apply by August 1, 2020 to the county for reimbursable funds for COVID-19 related expenses instead of receiving funds based on population from the State of Georgia. Ms. Jackson also stated that the funding will only cover dates March 1st- May 15th, 2020.

IX. Adjournment: At 8:54pm, with no further business of the City of Fairburn, the Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Davis and the second was provided by Councilman Heath.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.



Arika Birdsong-Miller, City Clerk



Elizabeth Carr-Hurst, Mayor