



City of Fairburn
Mayor and Council Meeting- Zoom
April 12, 2021
7:00 pm

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm 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 Alex Heath

The Honorable Pat Pallend

The Honorable Hattie Portis-Jones

The Honorable Ulysses J. Smallwood

Councilwoman Linda J. Davis and Councilman James Whitmore were absent.

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

City Attorney Randy Turner was also present.

- III. The invocation was led by Pastor Gary Taylor of Open Word Christian Ministries led the invocation.
- IV. Adoption of City Council Minutes:
Motion to Approve March 8, 2021, City Council Minutes (Zoom) was made by Councilman Smallwood and the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Heath.
Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.
- V. Presentation: Dr. Mike Looney, Mrs. Franchesca Warren, Mr. Brian Noyes, and Ms. Julie Baldwin: Fulton County Schools COVID-19 Update and FOCUS Plan for Students. Dr. Looney, Fulton County's Superintendent, went over Fulton County School Budget with Governor Kemp's Proposed Adjustments. Dr. Looney detailed the Capital Plans for Facilities within the Fulton County School System. Global Impact Academy has an expected occupancy of late May 2021 and will serve students in South Fulton County. Dr. Looney explained the learning loss student impact and reviewed some of the stats:
 - Evidence suggests significant bias in the assessment scores for early elementary grades due to testing environment.
 - Average losses appear to be higher in reading than in math, ranging from one to four and one-half months of learning in grades 5-8.
 - Average losses are generally higher for students who qualify for FRL students than for students who do not.
 - Hispanic students tend to experience larger learning losses than non-Hispanic White or Black students. Similarly, students who are English Learners (ELs) generally have larger losses than non-EL students.
 - Students with disabilities had less learning loss than their peers without disabilities.
 - Learning loss is substantially greater for male students than for female students.
 - Consistent with the multi-state evidence reported by Curriculum Associates, estimated learning losses were much greater among students taking the assessment at school.

Fulton County's Superintendent, Dr. Looney further explained their action plan for getting students that fell behind during the 2020-2021 school year on track by offering summer school for all grade levels in sessions during the summer break. Mayor Carr-Hurst asked Dr. Looney why students with disabilities had less of a learning loss. Dr. Looney explained that he is not sure, but thinks it may be attributed to the students with disabilities took advantage of the in-person learning option. Councilman Smallwood thanked Mrs. Warren for lobbying for this district and encouraged citizens to take advantage of the summer school program being offered. Mayor Pro Tem Heath asked if Global Impact Academy is only for students in South Fulton County. Dr. Looney explained that Global Impact Academy is for all students in Fulton County. Councilwoman Portis-Jones asked what the requirements were to attend Global Impact Academy. Dr. Looney stated that he does not have the specifics right now and would send an email to Mayor and Council with the requested information. Councilwoman Portis-Jones asked if the schools in South Fulton County have proper ventilation. Dr. Looney stated that Fulton County took advice from professional and switched to a higher-grade ventilation system and increased outside air circulating through the buildings.

VI. Adoption of the Council Agenda:

Motion to Approve the Council Agenda was made by Mayor Pro Tem Heath and the second was provided by Councilman Smallwood.

Vote: 4-0; Motion Carried.

VII. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

VIII. Agenda Items

1. Parks and Recreation

Mr. John Culbreth

For Mayor and Council to Approve the Proposed Plan for the Partial Opening of Duncan Park on May 1, 2021. Mr. Culbreth explained to Mayor and Council that the Parks of the City of Fairburn have been closed for one year due to the pandemic. After considerable discussions during the various emergency mandates implemented by the State of Georgia, the City of Fairburn in acts of caution for its residents has chosen to keep the parks closed. As, some of the restrictions have been lifted and the institution of various vaccine programs designed to fight COVID-19 Fairburn is considering opening its major park (Duncan) on a special use and limited basis. Operational procedures have been established to serve as a guide for all who use Duncan Park. The stakeholders who are primary users of the park are Berry Athletic Association, the Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the residents. Mayor Pro Tem Heath asked will the pool open this year. Mr. Culbreth explained that the pool has been de-winterized but will not open in the 1st phase of the re-opening of Duncan Park. Mayor Carr-Hurst asked are the hours for Duncan Park 7am-7pm daily. Mr. Culbreth said yes, the proposed hours are 7am-7pm. Councilwoman Portis-Jones asked will citizens have access to restrooms in Duncan Park. Mr. Culbreth stated there will be portable restrooms available for use. Councilwoman Portis-Jones asked how many times per week would the restroom be cleaned. Mr. Culbreth stated it will be cleaned 3 times per week by the vendor. Councilwoman Portis-Jones asked do we have allocated funds for Parks and Recreation staff. Mr. Culbreth will provide a copy of the current budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. Motion to Approve the Proposed Plan for the Partial Opening of Duncan Park on May 1, 2021 was made Councilman Smallwood and the second was provided by Councilwoman Portis-Jones.

Vote: 4-0; Motion Carried.

2. City Attorney

Attorney Randy Turner

For Mayor and Council to Discuss and Consider Adoption of the City of Fairburn's 6th Emergency Ordinance. Attorney Turner explained that this update to the City's Emergency Ordinance, first enacted in April 2020, addresses the continuing and evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as changes made by the Governor's Executive Order. This Ordinance (i) reflects that additional compensation for certain City employees ended with the April 2, 2021 payroll, (ii) provides for exceptions to be made by the Mayor and City Council regarding public buildings and parks, and (iii) does not alter requirements imposed by the City's existing Mask Ordinance, Adopted July 8, 2020. Councilwoman Portis-Jones asked if the American Rescue Plan was available yet. Mayor Carr-Hurst stated that the amount the municipalities receive may be reduced because more cities were added to the list of municipalities in Georgia. Mayor Carr-Hurst stated that some funds can be used for infrastructure and the City of Fairburn will get a project list ready. Motion to Approve the Adoption of the City of Fairburn's 6th Emergency Ordinance was made by Mayor Pro Tem Heath and the second was provided by Councilwoman Portis-Jones.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

- IX. Executive Session: At 8:25 pm a Motion to Enter Executive Session for Personnel and Litigation was made by Mayor Pro Tem Heath and the second was provided by Councilman Smallwood.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

At 8:43 pm a Motion to Reconvene into Open Regular Meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Heath and the second was provided by Councilwoman Portis-Jones.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.

- X. Council Comments:

Councilman Pallend had no comment.

Councilwoman Portis-Jones thanked employees who worked through the COVID-19 Pandemic. Councilwoman Portis-Jones also encouraged all employees to be vaccinated against COVID.

Councilman Smallwood thanked employees and staff for their resilience during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mayor Pro Tem Heath stated he has never experienced anything like the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mayor Carr-Hurst stated that the FY19-20 Annual Audit is complete, and that mid-year budget meetings with Department Heads will be scheduled soon.

- XI. Adjournment: At 9:02 pm, with no further business of the City of Fairburn, the Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilman Pallend and the second was provided by Councilman Smallwood.

Vote: 4-0: Motion Carried.


Arika Birdsong-Miller, City Clerk


Elizabeth Carr-Hurst, Mayor