



City of Fairburn
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
May 24th, 2021, via Zoom

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst. Mayor Carr-Hurst requested a moment of silence in observance of the late, Mr. Robert Jones the husband of Councilwoman Hattie Portis-Jones. Mr. Jones's service was held on May 24th, 2021.
- II. Roll Call: The roll was called by Interim City Clerk, Shana T. Moss with the following members present:

Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst
Councilwoman Linda J. Davis
Councilman Ulysses J. Smallwood

Mayor Pro Tem Alex Heath
Councilman Pat Pallend
Councilman James Whitmore

Member Absent: Councilwoman Hattie Portis-Jones.

The attendance of Council constituted a quorum.

City Attorney Randy J. Turner was also in attendance.

- III. Invocation was given by Pastor Deris Coto of First Baptist Church of Fairburn.

- IV. Adoption of the City Council Minutes:

May 10th, 2021, Regular Session Minutes: The motion to approve was made by Councilman Smallwood and the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Heath. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

May 10th, 2021, Executive Session Minutes: Attorney Turner sent an email with a revised paragraph for the Executive Session Minutes at 5:30 PM on 05-24-2021 for the 05-10-2021 Executive Session. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitmore and the second was provided by Councilwoman Davis. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

- V. Adoption of the City Council Agenda: The motion to approve the agenda was made by Mayor Pro Tem Heath and the second was provided by Councilman Smallwood. Mayor Carr-Hurst requested that a Police Department presentation be added to the agenda. She further requested that Agenda Item # 2 from the Finance Department be removed and revisited at a later date. The motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Heath and the second was provided by Councilman Smallwood. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

- VI. Discussions: None
Mayor Carr-Hurst added the presentation of the Police Department's State Certification to the Agenda. Chief Stoney Mathis provided Mayor and Council a brief introduction regarding the significance of the State Certification before viewing the video presentation. Mr. Chuck Groover, Director of State Certification of the Georgia Association of Chief of Police, presented a recertification plaque to Chief Stoney Mathis and Mayor Carr-Hurst.

VII. Public Comments

(None)

VIII. Agenda Items

1. Office of the Mayor

Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst

Appointment of the City Clerk. For the Mayor and Council to appoint Ms. Deannia Roberson-Ray as City Clerk for the City of Fairburn. Mayor Carr-Hurst introduced Ms. Roberson-Ray, who stated she has 27 years of experience in municipal and county government. Ms. Roberson-Ray's start date will be June 7th, 2021. Mayor Pro Tem Heath and Councilmembers Davis, Pallend, Smallwood, and Whitmore welcomed Ms. Roberson-Ray to the City of Fairburn. Councilmember Davis inquired about the budget impact of the clerk's office and the clerk's salary. The salary for Ms. Roberson-Ray is \$60,902.40. The motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Roberson-Ray was made by Mayor Pro Tem Heath and the second was provided by Councilman Smallwood.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

2. Finance Department

Mr. Rodrique Taylor

The Agenda Item for Mayor and Council to discuss the Six-Month Update for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021) was removed from tonight's agenda and will be placed on the June 14th Council Agenda.

3. Parks and Recreation

Mr. John Culbreth

For the Mayor and Council to discuss and approve the proposed plan for the opening of Duncan Park, the Pavilions, the Youth Center, Frankie Arnold Stage and the Cora Robinson Park on June 1, 2021. Mr. Culbreth stated the city would be adhering to all CDC guidelines when operating these facilities. Mayor Pro Tem Heath inquired about the opening of the pool. Per Mr. Culbreth, it is not safe to open the swimming pool due to COVID-19. Councilwoman Davis also asked about the pool opening. Mr. Culbreth proceeded by stating with the swimming pool opened to the public, the virus could escalate to another level. The swimming pool puts people together in such proximity, especially the young kids who do not know social distancing. He further stated the staff at the facilities are required to conduct COVID monitoring, such as temperature checks and mask-wearing. Mask will be available at all facilities. Councilman Whitmore spoke about the hours of operation at the facilities, especially Duncan Park. He proposed the hours of dawn to dusk. The motion to approve all facilities opening on June 1st and the extended operating hours for Duncan Park was made by Councilman Whitmore and the second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

Mayor Carr-Hurst stated, at the last City Council Meeting, Council voted to approve the reopening of City Hall on June 1st, 2021. City Hall's opening will be delayed, due to the facility not obtaining the proper safety equipment to be installed on time. The motion to approve delaying the reopening of City Hall until August 1st was made by Mayor Pro Tem Heath and the second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

4. Economic Development

Ms. Sylvia Abernathy

For the Mayor and Council to approve the *Third Fridays on Main Street*, which will occur once a month at the Frankie Arnold State and Courtyard. Ms. Abernathy stated the Economic Development Department is reaching out to all business owners within the downtown district to engage their participation and to help promote their businesses and increase foot traffic during these events. The first event will be on June 18th, which will be a Juneteenth cultural celebration. July 11th, 2021, is entitled, "Under the Stars Movie & Food Trucks." The third event held on August 20th, 2021, will be

a back-to-school family night. This event will allow our residents and citizens to come out and have a night of fun, and we will have presentations from our health department and schools within the area. Lastly, the alleyway project in the redevelopment will be activated and proposed for September 17th, 2021. Discussions with local artists in area churches and high schools are currently underway for this project. COVID-19 protocols will be enacted with sanitization stations located throughout the event. Councilwoman Davis inquired about the downtown construction, and Ms. Abernathy stated she and Community Development Director, Mr. Lester Thompson, have had frequent communications, and she did not see any impediments that would be a barrier. She stated if there was inclement weather (downpour), the events will be postponed. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Whitmore and the second was approved by Mayor Pro Tem Heath.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

5. Utilities Department

Mr. John Martin

For Mayor and Council to approve the Renewal Agreement between the GFL Solid Waste Southeast, LLC DBA GFL, Environmental and the City of Fairburn for Residential Solid Waste Collection Services. Mr. Martin stated GFL has been a customer since February 2009 for the city's residential solid waste collection of recycling and bulk pickup services. The renewal agreement is for an extension of one year and seven months, which is probationary that will expire on December 31st, 2022. Throughout the terms of the previous renewals, there were no apparent issues, and customers were satisfied. Reports have shown that there is a need for improvement of these services, and the results during the length of this agreement will attest to the continuation of an extended Agreement for the future. Mr. Martin stated he and his team met with GFL and reviewed issues that came through the waste portal, and they wanted to expand the service collection. Mr. Martin informed Mayor and Council that there was a problem in Durham Lakes with paint spilling all over the roads in the Parks at Durham Lakes. The spillage could not be pressure-washed. Also, there was a major garbage spill that was a big issue. Customer complaints increased and missed garbage pickups escalated. Mayor Carr-Hurst stated citizens would report that their normal garbage collection day would be Thursday, and GFL might come on Friday evening or Saturday morning. She stated there was no consistency. The Bulk trash pickup was also staggered inconsistent. Mr. Martin also informed Mayor and Council that GFL currently has been very accountable, and problems have diminished. Ms. Mandy Renova with GFL was also present via zoom and joined the meeting. She thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to renew the current contract. She stated there were opportunities for improvement, and they are working with the operations team and the General Manager to ensure that they are responsive to the city's needs. Mayor Carr-Hurst informed Council that the contract was vetted by Attorney Randy Turner. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Davis and the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Heath.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

IX. Council Comments

Councilman Pallend had no comment.

Councilwoman Davis congratulated Chief Mathis and the Police Department on their accomplishment.

Mayor Pro Tem Heath said he is happy that the city's facilities are reopening and that the third Fridays are coming back. The city is finally getting back to some type of normalcy, and he is excited going into this summer.

Councilman Whitmore congratulated Chief Mathis and his team for their recertification. He further thanked Fire Chief Cornelius Robinson and Police Chief Stoney Mathis for the outpouring of their staff to support Councilwoman Hattie Portis-Jones in the passing of her husband.

Councilman Smallwood congratulated Chief Mathis and his department. He stated, "he says that he might travel all around Atlanta, but I feel safe when I come to Fairburn, and it's because we have a stellar police department.

Mayor Carr-Hurst welcomed Ms. Deannia Roberson-Ray to the City Clerk position and congratulated Chief Stoney Mathis and the Police Department for their recertification.

- X. Executive Session: None
- XI. Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made at 8:04 PM by Councilman Smallwood and the second was made by Councilwoman Davis. Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.


Deannia Ray, City Clerk


Elizabeth Carr-Hurst, Mayor