



City of Fairburn
Mayor and Council Meeting- Zoom
September 27, 2021
7:00 pm

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

The Honorable Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst
The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Alex Heath The Honorable James Whitmore
The Honorable Pat Pallend The Honorable Hattie Portis-Jones
The Honorable Ulysses J. Smallwood The Honorable Linda J. Davis

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

City Attorney Randy Turner was also in attendance.

The invocation was led by Mayor Pro Tem Alex Heath.

- III. Adoption of City Council Minutes:
Motion to approve the September 13, 2021, City Council Minutes (Zoom) was made by Mayor Pro Tem Heath and the second was provided by Councilman Smallwood.
Vote: 5-1: Motion Carried.
Motion to approve the September 13, 2021, Executive Session City Council Minutes was made by Councilman Whitmore and the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Heath.
Vote: 5-1: Motion Carried.
- IV. Mayor Carr-Hurst asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add the Georgia Cities Week Proclamation. Motion to approve amending the agenda was made by Councilman Whitmore and the second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.
Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.
- V. The Proclamation recognizing Georgia Cities Week, October 3-9, 2021, was read by City Clerk, Deannia Ray. The schedule of events were discussed. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Heath to approve the Proclamation as read. The second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.
Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

VI. **Public Hearing:**

1. **Finance Department**

Mr. Rodrique Taylor

To Set the 2021 Millage Rate at 8.100 for the City of Fairburn.

The motion to open the public hearing was made by Councilman Smallwood and the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Heath.
Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

Mayor Carr-Hurst stated that thirty (30) minutes has been allotted for the public hearing to discuss the 2021 Millage Rate. Fifteen (15) minutes for the City and fifteen (15) minutes for the public. First, the City of Fairburn presented.

Mr. Taylor stated that the City of Fairburn's Finance Department is announcing the 2021 millage rate at 8.1 for the City of Fairburn. Mr. Taylor discussed the millage rate had been set at 8.1 for the last five years. The exemptions have increased this year and typically those exemptions include the homestead exemptions, the Veteran's exemptions, and the Freeport exemptions. The Freeport exemption is based on an incentive program for Georgia counties offering manufacturing and warehouse companies an exemption for a certain period of time. He stated there was a decrease due to the exemptions, and the net levy percentage decreased by negative 22.79 from the previous year. Mr. Taylor is recommending that Mayor and City Council approve the 2021 millage rate at 8.1, the same as the previous year.

Mayor Carr-Hurst asked the City Clerk if there were any citizen comments. The clerk stated that she has not received any citizen comments.

Councilwoman Portis-Jones asked Mr. Taylor to explain to the Citizens even though the millage rate is unchanged, why have the taxes increased?

Mr. Taylor explained that in many cases, the property values have increased.

Councilwoman Davis stated that she has noticed other cities, particularly in the South Fulton area, that allow exemptions for their citizens, but Fairburn does not. After a brief discussion, Mr. Taylor advised the Mayor and Council that he would find out what type of exemptions are offered, how much and would distribute those findings to them.

Councilwoman Portis-Jones requested instructions on how to apply for these exemptions be added to the request.

Mayor Carr-Hurst asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilwoman Davis and the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Heath. Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Smallwood to approve the 2021 millage rate at 8.10. A second was provided by Councilwoman Portis-Jones. Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

VII. **Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

VIII. **Agenda Items**

1. **Office of the Mayor**

Mayor Carr-Hurst

For Mayor and Council to appoint Mr. Gemorial Johnson to the East Point-Fairburn Housing Authority.

Mayor Carr-Hurst explained that East Point-Fairburn Housing Authority has had a vacancy about a year. The terms of the members are staggered four (4) year terms or until their successors are appointed.

The Mayor introduced Mr. Michael Spann, Director of East Point-Fairburn Housing Authority.

Mr. Spann stated that they were excited to bring candidate, Mr. Gemorial Johnson to Council tonight. Mr. Johnson is a very accomplished young man, and we are honored and privileged to

present him to the Fairburn City Council tonight for consideration for an appointment on the Board of Commissioners for the Fairburn Housing Authority. Mr. Gemorial Johnson is an experienced leader, non-profit manager, and education administrator. He also has an extensive background working in nonprofits, the Chick-fil-A Foundation, the Habitat for Humanity Foundation, and a number of successful volunteer activities.

Mr. Johnson thanked everyone and stated he was very excited about this opportunity to join the Board.

Motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Gemorial Johnson to the East Point-Fairburn Housing Authority was made by Mayor Pro Tem Heath and seconded by Councilman Whitmore.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

2. Planning & Zoning

Ms. Tarika Peeks

For Mayor and Council to approve the Highway 74 & Meadow Glen Parkway Final Plat.

Ms. Peeks explained that the applicant, Foresite Group, is requesting to subdivide the 9.511-acre parcel at the intersection of Highway 74/Senoia Road and Meadow Glen Parkway into three (3) tracts. The three (3) tracts will be subdivided as follows:

Tract #	Acreage
1	5.275
2	2.953
3	1.283

Mayor Pro Tem Heath asked if the property was being subdivided to sell smaller tracks. Ms. Peeks stated yes, they are in the process of developing this property and tract number one is an approved site for Tractor Supply, and they are in the land disturbance permit process. Tract numbers two and three are also on future site developments for commercial properties.

Councilwoman Portis-Jones asked if Ms. Peeks could share what was being proposed for track two and three. Ms. Peeks stated that on tract three, no future tenant has been proposed for that location but on tract two, we have received a conceptual plan for a Dollar General store. The conceptual plan has not been approved. After a brief discussion about having the same type of commercial proposals, Ms. Peeks stated that the Dollar General is in close proximity of the Family Dollar, but we do not have any ordinances in place to limit certain types or restrict certain types of commercial developments. The only thing we have in the regulations are for gas stations and fast-food restaurants with drive-thrus.

Councilwoman Portis-Jones showed some concern about the lot sizes and what businesses can and cannot be located at the site.

Councilwoman Davis and Councilman Smallwood also showed concern about Dollar General going there and wants to explore options on what can be done.

Attorney Randy Turner suggested Council to table this agenda item until the October 25th City Council meeting.

Councilwoman Portis-Jones made a motion to table this agenda item until the October 25th City Council meeting with research provided to Mayor and Council. The second was provided by Councilwoman Davis. Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

3. Finance Department

Mr. Rodrique Taylor

For Mayor and Council to adopt the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021 – 2022.

Mr. Taylor stated that the City of Fairburn's finance department has compiled the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. The fiscal year 2021 proposed budget totals \$59,623,418 which represents an overall increase of \$2,486,140 or 4% over the fiscal year 2020 adopted budget. The General Fund has a proposed budget of \$21,220,184 which represents an overall increase of \$3,409,119 or 16% increase from the prior year. Budgeted funds include General fund, Confiscated Drugs fund, American Rescue Act fund, Go Bond fund, TSPLOST fund, Water and Sewer fund, Storm Water fund, Water and Sewer Bond fund, Electric fund, Sanitation fund and Educational Complex fund. This budget includes increases for Community Outreach, holiday bonus pay including taxes, professional services, flex fuel vehicles, Juneteenth holiday and six percent (6%) salary increase for all eligible employees.

After a brief discussion concerning the Community Outreach, holiday bonus pay and the six percent salary increase to eligible employees, a motion as made by Councilwoman Portis-Jones to adopt the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021 – 2022 as presented. The second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Heath.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

IX. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Heath stated he appreciates the people of our city, and they are able to work together very well and he appreciates that. Not too many cities are working together as we see on the news but there are greater things coming and he just can't wait to see them come.

Councilman Whitmore stated that he was glad to see that the Mayor and Council has approved another budget moving forward for the first of October. I'm really ecstatic about the opportunity to give our employees a 6% increase as well deserved.

Councilman Smallwood had no comment.

Councilwoman Portis-Jones had no comment.

Councilman Pallend had no comment.

Councilwoman Davis stated that she missed the last Council meeting and she's glad to be back and looking forward to all those great things that is in store for our citizens here in the City of Fairburn.

X. Executive Session – N/A

Mayors Comments:

Mayor Carr-Hurst stated that she saw some employees online at tonight's meeting and they're going to spread the news tomorrow that the bonus' have been approved and they are excited. The employees will get the increase on the first pay period in December so they will have time to spend it before Christmas. She wished everyone a safe week, to take care of yourselves and if you have not gotten the shot, please go get the shot.

XII. **Adjournment:** There was no motion to adjourn. The meeting ended at 7:56 pm.


Deannia Ray, City Clerk


Elizabeth Carr-Hurst, Mayor

