



City of Fairburn
Mayor and Council Meeting- Zoom
January 10, 2022
7:00 pm

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Alex Heath.
- II. Prayer was led by Pastor Taffi Dollar.
- III. Roll Call was taken by Deannia Ray, City Clerk with the following members present:

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Alex Heath
The Honorable Pat Pallend
The Honorable Ulysses J. Smallwood

The Honorable James Whitmore
The Honorable Hattie Portis-Jones
The Honorable Linda J. Davis

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

IV. Approval of City Council Minutes:

Councilwoman Davis asked for the December 13, 2021, City Council minutes be amended to reflect her comments and the Mayor's comments to Item 6, to discuss issues relating to the inspection of new home construction, use of private inspectors and the interaction between such services and private architectural and building covenants. Councilwoman Portis Jones asked for the minutes be amended by adding the word, with, to same item.

Motion to approve the December 13, 2021, City Council Minutes (Zoom) was made by Councilwoman Hattie Portis-Jones with the amendments as discussed. The second was provided by Councilman Whitmore.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Whitmore to approve the December 13, 2021, Executive Session minutes and the second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

V. Adoption of the Council Agenda:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hattie Portis-Jones to approve the agenda and the second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.

Vote: 5-0: Motion Carried.

VI. Swearing-In Ceremonial:

VII. Mayor

The Oath of Office was administered to Mario Avery by Pastor Taffi Dollar.

VIII. Three (3) Council Members:

- Hattie Portis-Jones, Councilmember Elect At-Large
The Oath of Office was administered to Hattie Portis-Jones by her nephew Dominique Portis.
- Ulysses Smallwood, Councilmember Elect At-large
The Oath of Office was administered to Ulysses Smallwood by Pastor, Michael T. Smith.

- Hiram “Alex” Heath, Councilmember Elect at Large
The Oath of Office was administered to Hiram “Alex” Heath by Judge Monica Ewing.

IX. Mayor’s Inaugural Address:
Mayor Mario Avery delivered the Inaugural Address.

X. Appointments for 2022:

City Administrator

Motion: Councilman Pallend made a motion, Councilwoman Davis seconded the motion to appoint Tony Phillips as City Administrator. Motion carried 6-0.

Chief of Police

Motion: Councilwoman Davis made a motion, Councilman Smallwood seconded the motion to appoint James McCarthy as Police Chief. Motion carried 5-1.

City Attorney

Motion: Councilman Smallwood made a motion, Councilwoman Davis seconded the motion to appoint Rory Starkey Sr., as City Attorney. Motion carried 6-0.

Municipal Judge

Motion: Councilwoman Davis made a motion, Councilman Smallwood seconded the motion to appoint Monica Ewing as Municipal Court Judge. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Pro Tem

Motion: Councilwoman Davis made a motion, Councilman Smallwood seconded the motion to appoint Hattie Portis-Jones as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion carried 6-0.

City Clerk

The City Clerk position will be appointed at a later date. Ms. Ray will continue to serve as clerk until such time. No Action Taken.

XI. Mayor and Council Comments:

Councilman Whitmore congratulated Mayor Avery, Councilwoman Portis-Jones, Councilman Heath, Councilman Smallwood, the new City Manager, Tony Phillips, and our new City Attorney, Mr. Rory Starkey, and the new police chief, Mr. James McCarthy, on their election and appointments to this body. He also congratulated Councilwoman Portis-Jones on her appointment as Mayor Pro Tem and to the Municipal Judge, Monica Ewing. Councilman Whitmore thanked our previous attorneys, Randy Turner, Valerie Ross and Meredith Jermaine for doing a great job for the City of Fairburn. He also recognized Chief Stoney Mathis for the 60% reduction of crime in the City of Fairburn and gave kudos to all our police officers for such a great job.

Mayor Avery stated that Valerie Ross will continue to be the Planning & Zoning Board attorney.

Councilwoman Davis stated she was excited for the new beginning for the City of Fairburn, and she is excited for all the new possibilities, our citizens, and unity that she envisions happening starting today. She is excited for staff and wanted to let them know she appreciated them and all that you do, and some of the circumstances they have been under. She is excited everyone is still here and will always support them whenever she can. She thanked department heads and all staff for everything they have done and what they will do in the future. She congratulated her colleagues being re-elected and she's looking forward to working with them. There's a lot of things that we need to do, and we are going to do much more because we are going to be unified and focused and on track.

Councilman Smallwood echoed what his colleagues said. He wanted to thank the people that are no longer with the City and especially Chief Mathis. He did bring a level of safety to the City and it was always good to hear the reports that were constantly going down as it relates to crime numbers. Congratulations to Mayor Avery. He is very happy, loves the agreement and is ready to do great work in 2022.

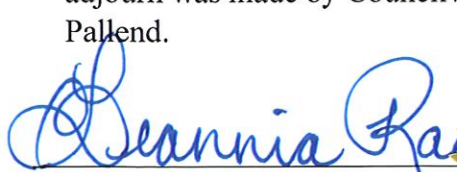
Councilman Pallend stated it's all been touched upon and agrees with what's been said. He is glad to see Mayor Avery back so we will be headed in the right direction again.

Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones stated that she echoed everything that her colleagues have said and wanted to thank those employees who are no longer here. With the new administration, comes new changes. She is so excited to have been re-elected and truly appreciates the citizens of Fairburn for their endorsement. She thanked her colleagues for voting her to be the new Mayor Pro Tem. Lastly, she thanked her nephew, Dominique Portis, for flying in from Milwaukee to support his Aunt and to her cousin Annette Davis for coming to support her as well.

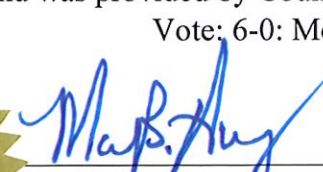
Mayor Mario Avery thanked everyone. He stated it was a privilege to be back as the Mayor of the City and looks forward to helping the members fulfill obligations and things that your trying to get done because at the end of the day, all the projects, regardless of who came up with them, actually is the beneficiary of the citizens. He thanked his wife for being here tonight.

Councilman Heath stated it has been a privilege to serve on City Council for the last twelve years and thankful that the people of Fairburn saw fit to let me have another four years. He stated that he is looking forward to finishing some projects. The interchange at 74 and I-85 is one of the projects that he is working to eliminate some traffic congestion. He thanked each of his friends on Council for their support and for all they have done for the citizens of Fairburn. He thanked the citizens and appreciated their efforts in all they do for the City.

- XII. Adjournment: At 8:02 pm, 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 Pallend. Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.


Deannia Ray, City Clerk




Mario Avery, Mayor