



City of Fairburn
Mayor and Council Meeting- Zoom
March 28, 2022
7:00 pm

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by the Honorable Mayor Mario Avery.
- II. Roll call by Brenda B. James, City Clerk, found the following members present:

The Honorable Mayor Mario Avery

The Honorable James Whitmore
The Honorable Alex Heath
The Honorable Linda J. Davis

The Honorable Pat Pallend
The Honorable Ulysses J. Smallwood
Mayor Pro Tem Hattie Portis-Jones

Also present was City Attorney, Rory Starkey, City Administrator, Tony Phillips, and City Clerk, Brenda B. James.

- III. The invocation was led by Pastor Donald Dorsey with Miller Grove Baptist Church.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was presented by Dr. D'Avante' Parks.
- V. Adoption of the Agenda: Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve the agenda and the second was provided by Councilman Heath. **The motion carried unanimously.**
- VI. Adoption of the Minutes: None
- VII. **Public Comments:**

Braelynn White with Girl Scouts Troup 16908 asked Mayor and Council for permission to use Duncan Park for her Girl Scouts project. Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity where participants use a mobile device or navigational technique to hide and seek containers called geocaches. This teaches kids how to read maps and they earn awards with these projects.

Amy Brumelow spoke in favor of the rezoning on Elder Street and would like to see the project on their property.

Inga Kennedy stated she was in support of the rezoning on Elder and Strickland Street.

Sherri Rivers opposed the rezoning of Elder Street.

Dianne Sinkfield stated she was not opposed to the property being developed on Strickland Street, she opposed too many structures being built.

Jonathan Clark spoke in support of the use permit for A Step at a Time Early Learning Center Daycare.

Carole Ann McKenzie commented on the water runoff from Broad Street down to Strickland and Elder Streets on the R2R4 rezoning.

Russell Hargraves opposed the rezoning of Elder Street.

Floyd McKenzie spoke about his traffic concerns and opposed the rezoning of Elder Street.

Carolyn Hodges opposed the DRB rezoning request.

Ciamaruel Fears reported some utility poles on the ground at the I-85 exit and asked Council to change policy to inform or notify residents that live more than 500 feet on locations being rezoned.

Jazmine Fanning – Skye Washington spoke on behalf of Jazmine Fanning to show support of the use permit for A Step at a Time Early Learning Center Daycare.

VIII. **Agenda Items**

1. Ordinance to Rezone Certain Property 2021159 DRB Group Georgia, LLC

Motion died due to lack of no motion. The applicant can come back in six months to resubmit request to rezone property. **No Action Taken.**

2. Ordinance 2022-001TA/Text Amendment – Small Box Discount Retail Stores

The public hearing was opened for public comments.

Lydia Glaze spoke in support of the text amendment.

No one spoke in opposition.

Councilman Heath made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-001TA/Text Amendment with Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones providing the second.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Ordinance 2022-002TA/Text Amendment – Small Box Discount Retail Stores in the Highway 29 Overlay District

The public hearing was opened for public comments.

Lydia Glaze spoke in support of the text amendment.

No one spoke in opposition.

Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-002TA/Text Amendment with Councilwoman Davis providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Spoke in Favor:

Vaneesa Thompson
Kimberly Holmes
Tanisha Waller
Ms. Kemp
Jelissa Hammond
Lydia Glaze
Jasmine Fanning
Dawn Matthews
Doctor Luther Daniel
Doctor Danielle Baker

Spoke in Opposition:

None

Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones made a motion to approve the use permit for A Step at a Time Early Learning Center with Councilwoman Davis providing the second.
The motion carried unanimously.

9. Approval to Transfer Position to Property Department

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve a budget amendment to move funds and position from Streets Department to Property Management Department with Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

10. Appointments to the Development Authority of Fairburn

Councilman Heath made a motion to appoint Patricia Chambers of Chambers Drum Company, Inc. and Chris Wiley of Oz Pizza to the Downtown Development and Development Authority of Fairburn whose terms will expire January 31, 2026, with Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

IX. Mayor and City Administrator's Update:

Mayor Avery stated he has received several alerts on his cell phone regarding missing persons and thanked Fairburn Police Department being instrumental in finding these people. He also mentioned that Fairburn is now in compliance with EPD on the water situation that Mr. Tony Phillips, City Administrator will explain in his report.

Mr. Tony Phillips first commended Chief McCarthy and all our first responders, both police and fire for how diligently they responded to the missing person alerts.

He also stated the EPD reached out to the City and made us aware that Fairburn was out of compliance from a violation back in February and October of 2020. The violations were a lack of sight sampling and when these violations occur, the ordinance requires the public be given notice, which did not occur, under the old administration. Mr. Phillips stated that he has been

working with John Martin, Utilities Director and Fairburn is now in full compliance with all EPD requirements as we speak. Notices will be sent out to residents on their upcoming utility bills. We've also posted an update on the City's website as well as on all social media platforms. These are the steps we've taken to ensure we continue to comply and that our water supply is safe and healthy for all our residents.

Mr. Phillips had a couple other brief highlights to include:

- Continuing to recruit for all open positions in the City
- Announced the new staff we've hired:
 - New Utilities Billing Operations Manager, Quakita Lane
 - Assistant City Administrator, Jamila Criss
 - City Clerk, Brenda James
 - Three new police officers
- The renovation of Fire Station 21 is ongoing
- Welcomed a new business in the downtown district, Realty One Group Terminus located at 4 N West Broad Street
- The American Rescue Plan Act has supplied approximately \$3.1 million to the City of Fairburn and was previously allotted. We are reviewing and updating based on the new guidance around the parameters for ARPA. We will bring this back to Mayor and Council at a later date to discuss what projects are now permitted under the American Rescue Plan Act.

X. Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Portis Jones also thanked Fairburn Police Department for finding the persons as she had the same experience when the police department found her husband. She stated with Alzheimer's, early onset of dementia has increasingly become an issue. She asked for a review of skills that the City needs to enhance their efforts regarding this issue. She also thanked the Community Development team for all the text amendments, giving the City a better handle on issues and better guidance. She welcomed the new Assistant Administrator, Jamila Criss, and City Clerk, Brenda James.

Councilman Whitmore also thanked Fairburn Police Department for doing an excellent job with the missing persons. He is familiar with a program that they used with his mother having dementia and shared that with the police department which is reviewing and will come to council later for presentation. Councilman Whitmore acknowledged losing one of our Planning and Zoning Commissioners, Jerry Williams.

Councilwoman Davis congratulated Assistant City Manager, Jamila Criss and City Clerk, Brenda James and welcomed them on board. She also gave kudos to Tarika Peeks and her department that worked on the text amendments. She stated they were right on target with the things we needed in the City.

Councilman Heath stated it was a delight to be able to interject various things that are taking place in our City. He received a lot of calls on the first vote we had, and the number of homes threw him for a loop. Thanked everyone for the confidence as the City Council will do what needs to be done in each situation. He welcomed Jamila Criss, Assistant City Administrator.

Councilman Smallwood stated he was really excited to be a part of an effective change with the text amendments. He is also on board with notifying people outside the distance of 500 feet on proposed zoning changes around them.

Councilman Pallend agreed with everything that everyone said and stated its going to get better for all of us and for the folks who live in this town.

Mayor Avery wanted to acknowledge the presence of Lydia Glaze, one of the former members of this governing body.

Mayor Avery welcomed the Assistant City Manager, Jamila Criss.
He thanked Attorney Serena Nowell for her help today.
Mayor Avery also welcomed Brenda James back as City Clerk.

Mayor Avery stated that Mr. Jerry Williams was a proud member who served on the Planning and Zoning Board. He thanked the members of Planning and Zoning as well as Councilman Whitmore for attending his homegoing.


Mayor Avery thanked Councilman Smallwood for a program where he's helping Creekside High School Band go to D.C. Councilman Smallwood confirmed that this is the only school in Fulton County that was selected to represent the state in the Independence Day parade on July 4th.

XI. **Executive Session** – N/A

XII. **Adjournment:**

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to adjourn with Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones providing the second. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. **The motion carried unanimously.**


Brenda B. James, City Clerk


Mario Avery, Mayor

