



**CITY OF FAIRBURN**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**City Hall**  
**56 Malone Street**  
**Fairburn, GA 30213**  
**June 9, 2014**  
**7:00 P.M.**

The Honorable Mayor Mario Avery

The Honorable Ron Alderman  
The Honorable Elizabeth Hurst  
The Honorable Lydia Glaize

The Honorable Alex Heath  
The Honorable Marian Johnson  
The Honorable Hattie Portis-Jones

City Administrator:  
City Clerk:  
City Attorney:

Mr. Tom B. Barber  
Mrs. Brenda B. James  
Mr. Randy Turner

- I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Honorable Marian Johnson Mayor Pro-Tem.**
- II. ROLL CALL:** All Members of Council were present which constituted a quorum. Mayor Avery was absent.
- III. INVOCATION:** Provided by Council Member Heath.
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited in unison.
- V. PRESENTATION:** City Administrator Tom Barber introduced Torri Martin the new Executive Assistant to the Mayor. He said Mr. Martin came aboard on Thursday of last week from Washington D. C. and asked the Council to come by and welcome him to the City.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
  1. Walt Brown, 171 Azalea Drive, Fairburn, GA. 30213, said he is a veteran and the veterans in this room are fortunate enough to not have given their lives for our country. He said last Sunday was Memorial Day and Union City and Palmetto had their flags up but the City of Fairburn did not have up any flags. He said the VFW had a presentation at Holly Hills Cemetery but there was a small crowd because there was not much advertisement. He said he has been in Fairburn for 42 years and this is the first year he can remember the City not having any flags. He said the flag on the pole outside of City Hall is faded and the wrong size. He said he is sure it is an oversight to not have flags and hope it will not happen again.

2. Thomas W. Cochran, 467 Fire Leaf Way, Fairburn, GA. 30213, said the City has grown and we do not have speed straps controlling the streets the way we should. He said there have been break-ins and the Police has spoken with them. He said Fairburn is like the Capital of South Fulton County and he is very proud of Fairburn. He said we have not had any whistleblowers in Fairburn and we have not had any raises for years. He said he went online and looked at the pay for Mayor and Council and we are at the bottom of the list. He said Mayor and Council do not get extra money for monthly expenses or Special Called Meetings; and they should be awarded for the progress they have made in the City.
3. Andrew Whitmore, 25 Somerset Hills, Fairburn, GA. 30213, representative for the Durham Lakes Golf and Country Club said he supports the pay raises in the amount of \$18,000 and \$9,000 for Mayor and Council. He said he looked at the population of 13,720 for the City and compared it to similar cities. He said the Mayor and Council attend meetings, provide representation and communication to us; and they have a relationship with the Fulton County Commissioners; and the National League of Cities with a 22 year history. He said we have a representative from Fairburn who serves on the Executive Board of the NLC, which is Council Member Hurst. He said we have a balanced budget and have increased the bond rating. He expressed concerns about the Water Authority and said since 2001 we have spent 1.1 million dollars annually and the Water Authority has spent \$14,508,000. He thanked the Mayor and Council for trying to stop the bleeding for the taxpayers in the City of Fairburn. He said this Board is working and yes, we support them, and they should vote for the increase. He said there is a dump on Hwy 29 and he does not know which Mayor and Council approved it for the City but he has to look at this dump outside his door which is an unpleasant sight.
4. Jerry Williams, 333 Riverview Court, Fairburn, GA. 30213, said when he first moved from California in 2008 he lived in Union City and then moved to Fairburn. He said he lives in a very safe community and was told Union City and Fairburn are the two fastest growing cities in South Fulton County. He said since he has lived in Fairburn he has seen growth, change and progress in the City. He said Fairburn is growing and people should be compensated for their efforts. He said servants of the City should be paid and when we look at the salaries and population of other cities, he feels the Mayor and Council are underpaid. He said they should vote to increase their salaries and let them continue to do their job.
5. Scott Vaughan, 63 Cole Street, Fairburn, GA. 30213, spoke in opposition of the pay raises for Mayor and Council. He said the employees of the City had not received a pay increase for the last 7 years until the current fiscal year, when they received a 3% pay raise. He said the City could not find money to pay the employees and as soon as the City found the

money to pay employees, they then considered to give themselves a 200% raise. He said this is an additional \$48,000 per year on the budget and he can think of a lot better ways to spend taxpayer's money than putting it in your pockets. He said there are plenty of needs in the City and until those needs are met Mayor and Council should not be rewarded. He said when he served on the Council he opposed the increase and one of the reasons he opposed it is because what we do not consider is the \$10,000 Budget for training and travel. He said our City fall into Group-C of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and we are at the bottom-end of that group with an average pay of about \$7,500 dollars for Council Members and \$9,000 for Mayor. He said when you put \$20,000 on the table you have another incentive to run for office other than public service. He said he thinks it is insulting for them to consider this raise with a tripling increase of their pay. He said the City of Fairburn belongs to GMA and NLC. He said he attended those classes and you cannot convince him that going to those classes over and over again are beneficial for the City of Fairburn. He suggested this item be tabled and consider giving the \$10,000 travel/training funds to Mayor and Council as pay; and do not pay for the trips; and then see how many trips they take.

6. Tony Smith, 570 Windsor Way, Fairburn GA. 30213 said he supports the pay raises for the Mayor and Council of this great city. He said he see Fairburn as a City that is moving forward and we live in a diverse city with a diverse City Council. He said it is time to bring our Mayor and Council up to standards with the rest of our metro cities.
7. Larry W. Portee, 1120 Buckingham, Terrace, Fairburn GA. 30213, said a 200% pay raise for Mayor and Council does not make logical sense especially when they have passed on 3% to the employees who are the people who clean the streets, perform maintenance to the City, take a bullet and put out a fire. He said when the person who leads the City Council does not show up and listen to the people there is no way this can be justified; and to have him defended makes it harder to accept. He said the Mayor and Council have done a wonderful job but at no point does he recall anyone getting a 200% raise unless you are a CEO of a company.
8. Brenda Cooper, 7185 Magnolia Lane, Fairburn GA. 30213, said she supports the pay increase for the Mayor and Council. She said the pay increase is deserved because we are at a low pay scale. She asked if the Mayor and Council would listen to the people and support what the citizens want. She said the City Workers deserve a pay increase. She said she is representing the Magnolia Subdivision and they have extremely high utility bills. She said some of the bills are as high as \$800 and her bill is as high as her house note. She said this should be a top priority for the City and they need support as citizens just as the City need their support. She asked if the City would not base the budget solely on

utilities. She said the City has a lot of buildings and asked why they have to pay to use the buildings when they are already taxpayers. She said she would like to see something done about that.

9. Horace Cooper, 880 Buckingham Cove, Fairburn, GA. 30213 said a 200% pay raise is extreme for Mayor and Council. He said Congress received an 18.1% pay increase and the Federal Government received a 1% increase; and the VA gave themselves bonuses. He said if Mayor and Council feel comfortable giving themselves a raise then go for it. He said when he think about the way the Employees are being treated because they cannot talk to the Citizens or Council Members unless they are in fear of getting fired; that is wrong. He said if the Mayor and Council can do something about that then yes, give yourselves a raise. He said anytime you try to control people, it means you are trying to hide something; so what are you trying to hide. He said we should let the employees talk to the citizens because that is who they work for and do not come up with a Personnel Policy that reminds him of Cuba. He said Fairburn is acting like a 3<sup>rd</sup> World Country that has something to hide.
10. Pastor Danita Jones, 740 Pinehurst Drive, Fairburn, GA. 30213, said she thanked the City for their support during their Annual Prayer Walk. She thanked Chief McCarthy for allowing his fine officers to support them with the event. She addressed her concerns about the speed race in the Lightnin Community. She commended the Mayor and Council for doing an outstanding job for taking the City in another direction. She said the Mayor and Council needs a raise because of the different meetings and the support they give. She said we need to address how we treat the employees. She said we need to go back and revisit some of the decisions we have made because there has been a tremendous change that the employees cannot talk to the citizens who they work for. She said we need to find out why we have made these decisions. She said she agrees with Mr. Cooper; what are we hiding that we do not want the employees to talk to the citizens.
11. Ernie Brooks, 33 Cole Street, Fairburn, GA. 30213, said he supports some type of compensation for the efforts of the Mayor and Council. He said he knows they are not in office for the money but to serve the community. He thanked them for their efforts and all that they do and noticed they are eligible for the Employee's Pension Plan. He said he has concerns about the Tractor Trailers traveling down Oakley Industrial and Hwy 92, passing by Landmark Christian School.
12. Albert Smith, 76 Pearl Street, Fairburn, GA. 30213, said the Mayor and Council deserve a raise, however; they need to determine how much. He said \$3,000 and \$10,000 equals a \$13,000 raise. He said he calls himself the dog man and said when he is walking the streets in the City, the big

trucks do not stop for red lights and people are running stop signs. He said he wish there was more traffic enforcement and he wish Police Officers could be put over by the courthouse and the Landmark Christian School. He also said he spoke with Mr. Besseche about adding rumble strips in an effort to slow down traffic and alert drivers to slow down.

13. Gerald Todd, 300 Rivertown Road, Fairburn, GA. 30213, said he supports the Mayor and Council receiving a pay increase. He said in order for the City to have good talent we must have an incentive for those people. He said everyone is talking about patriotism, however; he feels we are all patriots and it has been too long since Mayor and Council received a raise. He said the City Employees have received raises and now it is time for the Mayor and Council to get one because they have been making the same amount for a long time. He commended the Police and Fire Department; and said they are doing a great job. He said he knows it is because our Mayor and Council have gone out and got the best people to come to Fairburn. He said he has been in Fairburn a long time and we have had some chiefs and firemen that were bad. He said they should vote in favor of the raises and he appreciates the great job Mayor and Council are doing.

## **VII. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve the Agenda placing items 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23 on Consent Agenda with Council Member Portis-Jones providing the second. **The motion Carried.**

## **VIII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS:**

Council Member Glaize made a motion to approve Consent Items:

8. Approval of the Zoning Text Amendments for Animal Control Regulations Sections (2014-TA-13).
10. Approved the appointment of P. David Orr to the Downtown Development and Development Authority.
11. Approved the purchase of One Zero Turn Turf John Deer Z920M Z-Track Mower with a 60" cutting deck from Border Equipment listed on State Contract at a price of \$8,798.98.
12. Approval of the Contract Agreement with Velocity Road Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$19,200.00 for four days of pothole repair.
14. Approval of the Revised Plat: 136/138 Shadow Creek Court.

15. Approval of the Construction Agreement with Sunbelt Structures for the Johnson Road over Line Creek Bridge Replacement Project in the amount of \$1,166,374.77.
16. Approval of the Change Order #2 LMIG Roadway Resurfacing and Repair Project with ER Snell in the amount of \$14,260.00 for edge milling of all Deer Drive.
17. Approval of the request to increase Expense Funds for Travel and Training for Council Member Hurst in the amount of \$1,520.00.
18. Approved the Rental Agreement for the Use of the Artificial Turf Football Field at Duncan Park for World Changers Church on July 3, 2014 for \$300.00.
19. Approved the Renovation of a Bay Door at Fire Station #22 authorizing the Mayor to engage Atlanta's Professional Door, Inc. to renovate two (2) ten (10) foot Bay Doors into one (1) twenty (20) foot Bay Door on the Church Street side of Fire Station #22 in an amount of \$5,453.24.
20. Approved the Amendment of Power Sales Contract for Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4.
22. Approved of the purchase of Football Field Lights at Duncan Park from Gresco in the amount of \$19,604.00.
23. Approved the Ratification for the Repair of Rivertown Road Sanitary Sewer Line Collapse in the amount of \$18,960.86 at the intersection of Malone Street.

Council Member Portis-Jones provided the second. **The motion carried.**

#### **IX. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Council Member Alderman made a motion to approve the Minutes with corrections made by Council Member Hurst on page 3, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph; delete the word has, and on page 6, in the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of the last sentence; delete in an amount not to exceed to lessor amount; and delete the period under Council Member Glaize said she had been contacted by; and on page 8 under Council Member Portis-Jones in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; delete the period, and on page 12, in the last paragraph of the last sentence; change from at the City of Fairburn to and the City of Fairburn. Council Member Heath provided the second. **The motion carried.**

## **X. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

### **1. Zoning Text Amendment: Definitions (2014-TA-06)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson opened the Public Hearing and asked to hear from those who were in favor of the Zoning Text Amendment: Definitions (2014-TA-06).

#### **Spoke in Favor:**

No one came forward.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked to hear from those who were in opposition of the Zoning Text Amendment: Definitions (2014-TA-06)

#### **Spoke Against:**

No one came forward.

After hearing no comments, Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson closed the Public Hearing.

Council Member Portis-Jones made a motion to approve the Zoning Text Amendment: Definitions (2014-TA-06) with Council Member Heath providing the second. **The motion carried.**

### **2. Zoning Text Amendment: R-2 (Single Family) Residential Zoning District (2014-TA-07)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked to hear from those who were in favor of the Zoning Text Amendment for R-2 (Single Family) Residential Zoning District (2014-TA-07).

City Planner Toussaint Kirk gave an overview of the Zoning Text Amendment for R-2 (Single Family) Residential Zoning District (2014-TA-07).

#### **Spoke in Favor:**

No one came forward.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked to hear from those who were in opposition of the Zoning Text Amendment for R-2 (Single Family) Residential Zoning District (2014-TA-07).

**Spoke Against:**

No one came forward.

After hearing no comments, Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson closed the Public Hearing.

Council Member Glaize made a motion to approve the Zoning Text Amendment for R-2 (Single Family) Residential Zoning District (2014-TA-07) with the correction of ½ acreages with Council Member Hurst providing the second. **The motion carried.**

3. Zoning Text Amendment: Festival or Event, indoor or outdoor (2014-TA-08)

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked to hear from those who were in favor of the Zoning Text Amendment: Festival or Event, indoor or outdoor (2014-TA-08).

City Planner Toussaint Kirk gave an overview of the Zoning Text Amendment: Festival or Event, indoor or outdoor (2014-TA-08).

**Spoke in Favor:**

No one came forward.

**Spoke Against:**

No one came forward.

After hearing no comments, Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson closed the Public Hearing.

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve the Zoning Text Amendment: Festival or Event, indoor or outdoor (2014-TA-08) with Council Member Glaize providing the second. **The motion carried.**

4. Zoning Text Amendment: M-1 (Light Industrial Zoning District) (2014-TA-09)

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked to hear from those who were in favor of the Zoning Text Amendment: M-1 (Light Industrial Zoning District) (2014-TA-09).

City Planner Toussaint Kirk gave an overview of the Zoning Text Amendment: M-1 (Light Industrial Zoning District) (2014-TA-09).



**Spoke in Favor:**

No one came forward.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked to hear from those who were in opposition of the Zoning Text Amendment: M-1 (Light Industrial Zoning District) (2014-TA-09).

**Spoke Against:**

Debbie Condon representative of Georgia Military College spoke in opposition of the Zoning Text Amendment. She said they have been in Fairburn since 2008 and occupy a portion of the Fairburn Education Complex. She said she enjoy being there and hope to be there for the future. She said this is the first time she has heard about the Zoning Amendment and would like to express her concerns that were specifically mentioned of other colleges, universities and trade schools; and taking off the current constraints so other colleges can come into Fairburn. She said she believes the intent of the Education Complex is to keep the education there and have other universities to come there. She said she think this is the wrong thing to do for Fairburn.

Council Member Alderman asked if someone would provide clarification to Ms. Condon as to why this is being done.

City Attorney Meredith Germain said we are trying to allow private colleges, universities and trade schools to come into the city in all different districts and not just M-1. She said we wanted to make the Ordinance more uniform. She said we are creating a Use Permit for private colleges, universities and trade schools. So they will have to come before Planning and Zoning and Mayor and Council for approval. She said the Zoning Ordinance will consist of M-1, M-2, C-1, C-2 DC-1 and DC-2.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked if the current campus is zoned M-1. City Planner Toussaint Kirk said it is zoned O & I. Attorney Germain said this is for private schools, colleges and universities; it is not for schools owned by a public body.

After hearing no further comments, Mayor Pro-Tem closed the Public Hearing.

Council Member Hurst made a motion to approve the Zoning Text Amendment: M-1 (Light Industrial Zoning District) (2014-TA-09) with

Council Member Heath providing the second.

Council Member Glaize said she strongly suggest when we are considering other trade schools, colleges and universities coming into the City, we should not make it a 3-step process the way we are now because we have 3 high schools in one City averaging about two thousand graduates. She said we hope our graduates will go on to trade schools, colleges and universities. She said she supports the Ordinance but she strongly suggest not putting an encumbrance in the way of progress for our students as they get ready for the marketplace.

Council Member Portis-Jones said she has the same concerns as Council Member Glaize. She said she also has concerns about how we are requiring a Use Permit and we have instituted a charge that we have not had before. She said when the revised amendment is brought back before Mayor and Council, please address the concerns we have about the 3 step process and the concerns made by Debbie Condon of GMC. She said she thinks it is incumbent that we understand everything going on so we want have challenges later on down the road. She said she supports the Text Amendment. **After much discussion, the motion carried.**

**5. Zoning Text Amendment: Colleges, Universities and Trade Schools, private (2014-TA-10)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked to hear from those who were in favor of the Zoning Text Amendment: Colleges, Universities and Trade Schools, private (2014-TA-10).

**Spoke in Favor:**

No one came forward.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked to hear from those who were in opposition of the Zoning Text Amendment: Colleges, Universities and Trade Schools, private (2014-TA-10).

**Spoke Against:**

No one came forward.

After hearing no comments, Mayor Pro-Tem closed the Public Hearing.

Council Member Glaize made a motion to approve the Zoning Text Amendment: Colleges, Universities and Trade Schools, private (2014-TA-10) with Council Member Portis-Jones providing the second. **The motion carried.**

6. Zoning Text Amendment: Massage Parlor Use Permit (2014-TA-11)

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked to hear from those who were in favor of the Zoning Text Amendment: Massage Parlor Use Permit (2014-TA-11).

**Spoke in Favor:**

No one came forward.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked to hear from those who were in opposition of the Zoning Text Amendment: Massage Parlor Use Permit (2014-TA-11).

**Spoke Against:**

No one came forward.

After hearing no comments, Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson closed the Public Hearing.

Council Member Alderman made a motion to approve the Zoning Text Amendment: Massage Parlor Use Permit (2014-TA-11) with Council Member Heath providing the second. **The motion carried with Council Member Glaize voting “No”.**

7. Zoning Text Amendment: Regulated Sign Permit (2014-TA-12)

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked to hear from those who were in favor of the Zoning Text Amendment: Regulated Sign Permit (2014-TA-12).

City Planner Toussaint Kirk gave an overview of the Zoning Text Amendment: Regulated Sign Permit (2014-TA-12)

**Spoke in Favor:**

No one came forward.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked to hear from those who were in opposition of the Zoning Text Amendment: Regulated Sign Permit (2014-TA-12).

**Spoke Against:**

No one came forward.

After hearing no comments, Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson closed the Public

Hearing.

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve the Zoning Text Amendment: Regulated Sign Permit (2014-TA-12). **The motion died due to the lack of a second.**

Council Member Hurst said if and when the item comes back to Council they would like to be given more clarity. She said we need to know what is what because she has a problem approving something she is not sure of.

Council Member Alderman spoke about the use of a Special Use Permit.

Council Member Portis-Jones said the issue has to do with numerous churches that have been granted permits to be in residential areas. She said several of the churches have requested illuminated signs that are of a certain size. She said these institutions in some instances want to operate like a business and since we have received numerous requests from churches; we as a body need to address churches wanting to be in residential areas.

She said we want to continue to maintain our residential neighborhoods and we need to find some balance since we have approved the churches to build in residential areas. She said we need to figure out a way to work with them as they operate their institutions as churches.

## **XI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 9. Ordinance to Amend Section 2-58 of the City of Fairburn Code to increase the Annual Compensation of the Mayor and Council**

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve the Ordinance to Amend Section 2-58 of the City of Fairburn Code to increase the Annual Compensation of the Mayor and Council in the amount of \$9,000 for Council and \$18,000 for Mayor with Council Member Portis-Jones providing the second.

Council Member Alderman made a substitute motion to approve the Ordinance to Amend Section 2-58 of the City of Fairburn Code to increase the Annual Compensation of the Mayor and Council in the amount of \$6,000 for Council and \$12,000 for Mayor. **The motion died due to the lack of a second.**

Council Member Portis-Jones said she received documentation from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs which states in 2012 the US Census population for the City of Fairburn Georgia was 13,720 and the 12,950 of the comparable population listed on the document which was

provided to Council were 2010 population estimates. She said 2012 estimates indicate we are 2 years behind in terms of the city's population never the less; the city's growing. She said this body put forth a flat rate of \$9,000 for Council and \$18,000 for the Mayor wanting to be completely transparent to the citizens of Fairburn about the compensation. She said we are not asking for any extra compensation for Mayor Pro-Tem, monthly expenses, Special Called Meetings or for being on call for the citizens of Fairburn twenty-four hours a day. She said we need to put this amount in perspective. She said with a population of 13,720 at our present \$3,000 compensation; we are receiving 23cents per resident and if that is elevated to \$9,000; we would receive 66cents per resident in Fairburn. She said we are asking to be in the range with other sister cities in the metro area. She said she has only been on the Council for a short time and it is unbelievable that people know what the City of Fairburn is doing because the city's elected officials and staff is very busy on behalf of this community. She said we are working very hard to be comparable to other cities and to become a destination; and all of that requires extensive work. She said we receive no additional compensation. She said she is asking the Council and citizens to support the \$9,000 for Council and \$18,000 for Mayor effective, January 2016.

Council Member Hurst said she has been on City Council for seven years and she did not get on the City Council for the salary. She said when she first got on City Council the compensation was \$1,500 per year and then it increased to \$3,000 per year. She said she takes her position very seriously and if any of us take the salary here to pay our bills we are in bad shape. She said most of us get paid once a year which is in December and for the last seven years she would cash her check and give it to her church. She said the people talk about the travel and the trips we go on; however, these trips are to better ourselves for Fairburn. She said for the last twenty two years since Fairburn has been a part of the National League of Cities, there has only been two Council Members who have made the Diamond Level which is the top level in training that is she and Ron Alderman. She said she is the only Council Member to serve on the National League of Cities Board. She said there are some who go to meetings and it is a vacation to take their families; and she does not have anything to say about that but she goes to learn. She said if the City has allocated her \$10,000 per year to travel with and she wants to learn, that is what she is going to use it for and she does not use it for anything else. She said if she stay in a \$200 per night hotel she did not choose it because it is chosen by the association. She said there is one thing she prides herself in and that is to respect another person and if you cannot respect a person then she will agree to disagree. She said she has always spoken her mind sitting on this Council. She said \$9,000 per year is not going to pay her bills. She said she is a retiree from the State of Georgia and she still plan on getting paid once a year if she decides to seek re-election. She said we are not talking about

getting this money now; this raise will not start until 2016. She said we have given employees bonuses and we gave them a raise this year. She said it looks like we are getting all this money but when you look at cities our size; we are still below average based on our population. So in order to get up to that point we would have to get a raise every year for the next 5 or 8 years. She said she is going to vote for the raise tonight because she believes it is long overdue. She said she thinks the Mayor does a fantastic job because he is always doing something for the City of Fairburn. She said he uses his own gas and does not ask for reimbursement. She said if she has to print off a one hundred page document, she prints it at her house. She said she does not have a budget at her house for office supplies. She said she does not get travel money or reimbursement mileage to go to a Water Authority Meeting. So when you look at \$3,000 and where we go within the city and the surrounding cities, we have spent it. She said she makes no apologies tonight because it is time we did this and it was not going to matter if we started at \$8,000 or \$10,000 for the Mayor; and \$7,000 for the Council there was going to be push back. So we needed to go to a place we could at least be comfortable.

Council Member Glaize said she likes to work with data and data drives her to make a decision. She said she compared the data with 3 cities that are our size in the metropolitan area. She said with the exception of College Park, we are the largest land mass City with 7 public schools inside of the city limits and 3 private schools outside of the city limits. She said we are the only City with an Educational Center with two colleges in queue. She said we have two industrial corridors that are bringing in jobs and they are using the electricity so we can keep cost comparable. She said we are the only City that owns a park and we have the downtown development; and bridges that must be built. She said we have 91 miles of streets and roads with infrastructure that needs to be repaired, improved or built out so we can have more businesses in the City. She said she has heard from the citizens and she thanked them for coming and sharing their concerns, challenges; and support. She said there is a raise necessary and the word for her is parity and data. She said yes, we are public servants and we spend a lot of money to run for office. She said the time she spends to be a good Council Member for this City requires training. She said the training is necessary to have intelligent informed people to be leaders of this City. She said she supports the raises of \$9,000 for Council and \$18,000 for Mayor.

Council Member Heath said he came from a law enforcement background, but he has built houses and owned his own businesses. He said he has a good idea how business works and before he went into those businesses; he had to learn what was necessary to make those businesses go. He said education is a must. He said we are budgeted \$10,000 for training and the money can only be used to attend the training sessions. He said some of

the people were running out of their budget before they could go to their classes. He said we do two NLC classes and two GMA classes and the previous Mayor and Council also attended these classes. He said this was the tradition that was passed down and he understands there are some people who go and use it as a vacation. He said he and some of the other Council Members go to gain knowledge. He said when you gain knowledge you are able to make rational decisions on how things should be done especially in city government. He said the cost of everything has increased. He said in a 4 year period he went from bronze, silver and gold with the NLC. He said people who were in their second term had not made it that far. He said you would wonder and ask if they are attending all these meetings or are they just goofing off. He said he has never used the city's money in any other way then it is supposed to be used. He said an \$18,000 increase for the Mayor and a \$9,000 increase for Council will bring us up to what other cities our size are making; as Abraham Lincoln once said "you can please some of the people some of the time but you cannot please all of the people all of the time."

Council Member Portis-Jones said as a newly elected official she and Council Member Glaize were required to attend the training by the State of Georgia. She said the State of Georgia is one of the two states in the United States that require elected officials to attend training. She said it make sense because one of the classes she took was Excellence in Utilities and that is where she learned and got a feeling of understanding about the Water Authority. She said this is the biggest issue we have to deal with as a City. She said we have been in this Water Authority since 2001 and have spent more than 14 million dollars; and we have not broken ground or moved a single ounce of dirt. She said we need to really keep things in prospective. She said they were told they are the first governing body who has attempted to do something about this issue. She said we had an extensive discussion at the last Council Meeting about what all this means and all the work we are going to have to do in order to save this City from spending over 1 million dollars a year for nothing. She said she wanted to leave the information with the citizens about what is really going on in Fairburn. She said \$9,000 for the Council and \$18,000 for the Mayor compared to 1 million dollars a year; you do the math.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson said she agrees it is time for a raise but triple is extreme and none of us do this to pay our bills, however; the amount we spend on salaries compared to our total budget is a drop in the bucket. **After much discussion, the motion passed to raise the salaries to \$18,000 for the Mayor and \$9,000 for the City Council with Council Member Alderman voting "No".**

13. Approved the reconsideration of a previous action denying an Agreement with Union City for a Transportation Enhancement Project at the

Intersection of Highway 29 and 138.

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve the reconsideration of a previous action denying an Agreement with Union City for a Transportation Enhancement Project at the Intersection of Highway 29 and 138 with Council Member Glaize providing the second. **The motion carried.**

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Union City for the Transportation Enhancement Project at the intersection of Hwy 29 and 138 with Council Member Portis-Jones providing the second. **The motion carried.**

**21. Purchase of a Utility Truck for the Water Department.**

Council Member Alderman made a motion to approve the Purchase of a Utility Truck for the Water Department with Council Member Heath providing the second.

Council Member Hurst said we purchased a new truck in the Utility Department a few months ago and it was her understanding that we were going to surplus the old truck. She asked if we have surplus the truck. Mr. Fritz said no, we are still using the truck. She said she was confused about this because if Council votes on something she would like to see it done or come back to Council and say it was not done. She said it is her understanding that the truck has been repaired and it is still used in the city. She said this is not pleasing to her. She asked about the heavy duty truck for the stormwater personnel to clean out the storm drains and if the truck has a hitch; and a trailer. Mr. Fritz said yes, the current Superintendent's vehicle has a hitch and a trailer. She asked if the amount for the truck was included in the Budget. Mr. Fritz said yes. She said she was going to go ahead and vote to approve the truck to be purchased, however; now she is wondering if there is anything else that has not been done and she is going to start scrutinizing some other stuff. She said when she fine out that something was supposed to be done and it has not been done, she is not happy about it. So let this be a word to the wise that whenever the Council votes to have anything done, we need to do what the Council say do. She said that is her comment on the truck and she hope that we do not do that anymore.

Council Member Glaize said if we just purchased a new truck for the supervisor and he has allowed that truck to be used by the two new staff members to clean the sewer drains and the other vehicle has been repaired, then she cannot vote for a new truck and we already have a new truck and a truck to carry a trailer. Mr. Fritz said the vacuum machine is one device built onto a trailer. He said it has the vacuum pumps, water



tanks and the waste tank. He said it weighs quite a bit when it carries the waste or the fresh water. He said when they finish a vertical structure they have to take the waste out to dump it. He said the superintendent's vehicle is not heavy duty enough to do this and the vehicle will not last long because it is an F-250; and we need an F-350.

Mayor Pro-Tem asked if we will surplus the F-250 in the near future. Mr. Fritz said yes.

Council Member Hurst said we bought a truck to replace Chip Flowers truck. **After much discussion, the motion passed.**

#### **24. Rental of 15-passenger van for up to eight weeks for Summer Camp**

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve the rental of the 15-passenger van for up to eight weeks for Summer Camp with Council Member Portis-Jones providing the second for discussion purposes only.

Council Member Hurst said her greatest issue with the van is that she does not know where we stand regarding the issue with the kids. She said she does not know how many kids we have or how much has been paid. She also said she does not know how many summer staffers we have. She said she thinks there was a figure of about \$30,000 dollars for the program and asked if we are close to the \$30,000; and if we are going to make \$30,000. Mr. Barber said we have 21 children who have signed up and we have a maximum of 45 students at the Youth Center. He said we did not hire any of the additional people we budgeted. So we have 4 people who have been working with us for the last 3 months and if we maintain that level we will have the revenue and less expense because we did not bring on additional employees. He said he has asked the Youth Camp Coordinator Shondra Evans to provide an update of the Summer Youth Program to the City Clerk and include it in the Mayor and Council Packet.

Council Member Glaize said we budgeted for 45 children and we have 27 children which would put us to bringing in about \$10,000 with no new staff members. So we are going to expense over \$4,000 on a van. She said she was one of the Council Members who wanted to make sure the Summer Camp was going to be done right and if it was not going to be done right we should not do it. She said there were issues about supplementing the camp and she would like to see more of what the camp is doing because we have not been able to get any information; and yet we keep voting on getting more money; and more opportunity for things to happen at the camp. She said she asked for that information a month ago and if she had received the information it would be easy for her to make a decision to spend \$4,000 on a van. She said she needs more information about what we are doing inside the Summer Camp. Mrs. James said she

has a grandson at the camp and the transportation is for going to Welcome All Park for swimming and Duncan Park for events. She said there is a fee of \$10.00 charged for additional field trips. She said she would send Council a copy of the flyer that has a schedule of the difference activities that are provided. Council Member Glaize said we asked for that information the first time they heard about the program and they did not get the information. She said we must have accountability because we cannot do government business like this. **After much discussion, the motion was denied with Council Members Hurst, Glaize, Portis-Jones voting “No” and Council Member Heath and Alderman voting “Yes”.**

## **XII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Council Member Portis-Jones apologized to Mr. Walt Brown on behalf of the City regarding the flags for Memorial Day in the Downtown Area. She said this will not happen again. She said she just buried her uncle who was a World War II Navy Veteran and to hear about the ultimate sacrifices made by him and his colleagues was an awesome celebration of his life. She also said she participated in the Memorial Day Program at the Holly Hills Cemetery and she was very impressed by the tribute to all of our veterans and we as a city, state and country must do more to make sure we take care of those individuals who have fought, are fighting and will fight for our freedom. She said she secondly wanted to thank those who came out to the meeting tonight especially those who commented, both pros and cons because that is what democracy is all about. She said it is the freedom to express your concerns and to provide your opinions without any trepidation or expectation of any harm of any kind. She said she is a huge advocate for civic engagement. She said she welcomes it and she wants it; and please continue to do so. She said sometimes we win and sometimes we lose but please know that she is sitting in her seat on behalf of the City and for the betterment of the City of Fairburn. She said she is a resident of this City and she wants the same thing the citizens want for this City.

Council Member Glaize said she is saddened we did not celebrate our veterans. She said her husband is a veteran and she was out of town. She said we take the responsibility as elected officials and asked the citizens to forgive us and be assured it will never happen again. Secondly, she thanked those who made comments and came out to support. She said her first commitment is to respect our citizens but at the same time we expect respect. She said those of you who have been an elected official should give us the same respect you received when you were an elected official. She acknowledged those who are having a difficult time with their utility bills. She said she is not sure how to handle that yet. She said we need to look at bringing grant money to this city so we will not have to use our budget on infrastructure and other major budget items. She said she was saddened that this is not on the agenda tonight. She said she is committed to getting federal funding in this city so we do not have

to rely solely on the utilities for the budget because it is really difficult for the average family to pay \$800-\$900 for utility bills. She said the medium income for this City is about \$45,000 which creates a hardship. She said she is concerned about the big trucks causing safety issues on our streets. She said she thinks there needs to be Ordinances in place to determine where, when and how these trucks move in and out this city. She said we will seek out a solution to this issue and bring it back before Council to vote. She thanked the fellow Council Members for being here tonight and taking on a very difficult issue such as pay raises. She said we will honor each other and honor the process; and when you honor the process you honor the people. She thanked the citizens for allowing her to serve them.

Council Member Hurst apologized to Mr. Brown on behalf of the City of Fairburn regarding why there were no flags downtown. She said he was very disappointed. She said the veterans are very dear to her heart. She said she has a daughter who is a physician at the Veterans Hospital in Birmingham Alabama and she has been on staff for the last 9 years. She said she asked her daughter what was going on at the VA Hospitals and her daughter said there are many issues concerning the veterans and there is only so much they can do because they are being pushed aside; and some of them are dying before they can see a doctor. She said she knows this breaks her daughters' heart to know she cannot solve the problem by herself because this is one of her daughter's lifelong passions. She thanked everyone for coming out to speak at the meeting tonight about the raises. She said she respect your views and please know we are here for you. She said she appreciates the comments, pros and cons; and know we are doing the best we can. She said respect is due to everyone. She said she hopes to see everyone at the next meeting.

Council Member Heath thanked everyone coming to the meeting. He said he knows we all have a difference of opinion as it relates to how things are suppose to be done but if you have a dispute in the City please come and let us know because that is the only way we will know that you want something done that is different. He said the Veterans Memorial Day Event was a great service and VFW did a great job. He said Mr. Brown called him about the flags on Memorial Day and the Mayor said we would take care of it. He thanked all those people who were in favor of the raise as well as those who were against the raise. He said this is how democracy works, everyone have their opinion. He acknowledged that City Engineer Troy Besseche is leaving and he hates to see him leave. He said he knows he will do great on his next assignment.

Council Member Alderman said his father was a Military Veteran of World War II and he participated in the Memorial Service. He said he was glad to be a part of the service and honor the veterans. He appreciates those who spoke for and against the pay raises and said we will leave here as friends. He said he believes in training and learning from other Council Members. He said he

has always been able to excel in the GMA and NLC training.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson said she hates to see Mr. Besseche leave.

Council Member Hurst made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:15pm to discuss a Real Estate Matter and Pending Litigation with Council Member Alderman providing the second. **The motion carried.**

### **XIII. ADJOURN COUNCIL MEETING:**

Council Member Alderman made a motion to come out of Executive Session and adjourn the meeting at 10:00pm with Council Member Hurst providing the second. **The motion carried.**

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Brenda B. James City Clerk

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Mario Avery, Mayor