



**CITY OF FAIRBURN
City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall
56 Malone Street
Fairburn, GA 30213
April 28, 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 Mario Avery.

II. ROLL CALL: All Members of Council were present with the exception of Council Member Hurst which constituted a quorum.

III. PRESENTATION AND AWARDS:

Mayor Avery presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Patricia Guice Thomas as a token of appreciation from Mayor and City Council on behalf of Georgia Cities Week.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Council Member Heath made a motion to adopt the Agenda adding item 13; Insurance Coverage with Companion. Council Member Glaize provided the second. **The motion carried.**

VI. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Council Member Alderman made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 14, 2014 with Council Member Portis-Jones providing the second. **The motion carried.**

VII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Presentation of Marketing Survey Report

This item was for discussion only.

2. Discussion of Recreation Facilities and Sites

This item was for discussion only.

3. Cancellation of the May 26th and June 23rd City Council Meetings

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve the cancellation of the May 26th and June 23rd City Council Meetings due to the Memorial Holiday and the GMA Savannah Conference with Council Member Heath providing the second. **The motion carried.**

4. Cancel Professional Services Agreement with Municipal/CMS

Council Member Alderman made a motion to approve the cancellation of Professional Services Agreement with Municipal/CMS for Website Design Services with Council Member Portis-Jones providing the second.

Council Member Heath asked if there was any money given to the company to do this. Mr. Barber said no, they were not prepaid. Council Member Glaize asked about the contractual liability. City Attorney Randy Turner said the contract with this company is to work as they are directed. **After discussion, the motion passed.**

5. Cancel Professional Services Agreement with Lampe-Farley

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve the cancellation of Professional Services Agreement with Lampe-Farley with Council Member Heath providing the second.

City Administrator Tom Barber said we need someone whose methodology includes more of a remedial piece to help us decide as a community what we want to do as we grow. He said this firm only wanted to do art work. We need someone who will get input from the Community, Council and Staff; and hold our hand before we get to the branding process. He said the company has been paid for the work they have already done.

Council Member Portis-Jones asked would the work we are asking them to do incorporate with the Comprehensive Plan or does it differ. Mr. Barber said the Comprehensive Plan is not incorporated in the branding but the line of thinking is the same. He said the land use and the branding of the logo is marketing. He said it is complimentary but they are not the same.

Council Member Heath said there was a meeting at the Education Complex with this company regarding the branding and he was under the impression the company would get back with us on some information. Mr. Barber said that was the only meeting we had with them and there was no response to the requested information.

Council Member Glaize asked what the company was paid. Mr. Barber said they were paid \$4000.00 in 2012. She said if we vote to cancel the agreement and rebid; she agrees with Council Member Portis-Jones to recommend we have a conversation with the firm doing the Comprehensive Plan because that firm has the marketing piece as well. She said she would strongly like for this to be considered.

Council Member Johnson said she remembers the meeting with the company and they only presented a bunch of logos. She said she was ok with cancelling the agreement and moving forward.

Mayor Avery spoke about the Comprehensive Plan and the company that is working with us. He asked if there is anyone in that company who has the expertise in branding and marketing. He asked who we could talk to regarding this role. Mr. Barber said he would ask Michael Hightower who manages the Collaborative Firm. Mayor Avery asked Ms. Jean Barkley Russell if she was familiar with Michael Hightower's operation and would it have the collaborative experience from a branding; and marketing perspective. Ms. Russell said she knows Mr. Hightower's Firm is really focused on the community development aspect and branding is a unique marketing specialty; however, they could take the information from the Comprehensive Plan and bring a company in to use the information. **After discussion, the motion passed.**

6. Ratification of Performance Agreement for One Band (Tonya Greene)

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve the Ratification of Performance Agreement for One Band (Tonya Greene) in the amount of \$700.00 scheduled for the August 16, 2014 with Council Member Glaize providing the second.

Council Member Alderman asked about the different styles of music. Events Coordinator D'Avante Parks said in the past we have found that the audience is more attentive to Jazz and R&B music whereas the Gospel Performers do not bring their own sound system and because it is late at night; they prefer not to participate. He said the Country Western Performers do not participate; however, once the stage is built we will try to get more diverse music. Council Member Alderman said we want some type of diversity.

Council Member Johnson said she agree that we should have some diversity and she understand why they are not getting the participation on Saturday nights. She asked if we had more diversity at the Fairburn Festival. Mr. Parks said yes and we will have diversity at this year's festival.

Council Member Glaize said we have a local band leader who is a Country Western Artist that lives down the street inside the city limits. She said she would give Mr. Parks their information and she would love to see them perform. **After discussion, the motion carried.**

7. Ratification of Performance Agreement for Jazzy Jackie Lee

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve the Ratification of Performance Agreement for Jazzy Jackie Lee in the amount of \$550.00 scheduled for July 19, 2014 with Council Member Glaize providing the second. **The motion carried.**

8. Ratification of Performance Agreement for PHD Jazz Band

Council Member Portis-Jones made a motion to approve the Ratification of Performance Agreement for PHD Jazz Band in the amount of \$575.00 scheduled for June 21, 2014 with Council Member Johnson providing the second. **The motion carried.**

9. Repair Oakley Industrial Water Line Leak

Council Member Alderman made a motion to approve the Ratification Emergency Repair for Oakley Industrial Water Line Leak in the amount of \$18,247.90 with Council Member Heath providing the second.

Council Member Glaize asked about the budget amount. Utility Director Gene Fritz said the Water Budget Contract Services more than \$100,000.00 and assured Council Member Glaize that we are on track.

Council Member Portis-Jones asked about the repair and if it was an emergency repair or a permanent repair. Mr. Fritz said we can only work on 8 inch water main line and this is a 16 inch water main line that was put in place by Atlanta. He said this is a permanent fix because the seal has been removed and a valve has been put in place.

10. Agreement Union City Transportation Enhancement Project

City Engineer Troy Besseche gave an update of the Agreement with Union City for the Transportation Enhancement Project and said it fits with LCI Project. He said the cost estimated \$80,000.00-\$82,000.00. He said we asked them to invoice us at the end of the Design Phase and \$51,000.00 will be our share. He said Union City will manage the project.

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve the Agreement for the Union City Transportation Enhancement Project with Council Member Portis-Jones providing the second.

Council Member Portis-Jones asked if the proposed rendering similar to what we want to do in the LCI Study and the gateway areas within the city. Mr. Besseche said yes, it could be. He said they are starting with the LCI Design Process this week and the materials we chose for the Downtown Area will be the same materials we chose for this project.

Council Member Glaize made an amended motion to the payment. She said if this is going to be in the FY-2016 Budget, maybe we should consider Part-B which is the Construction Cost in the FY-2015 Budget; and do not make the amendment in 2014; and do Part-1 which is the design; and make it a Budgetary Amendment for FY-2014. **The motion failed due to the lack of a second.**

Council Member Johnson said we can do this project together and the budget is not necessary. Attorney Turner said the agenda item is only for the contract and has nothing to do with the money. He said this is a separate item and should be done independently.

Council Member Heath said he would rather see the repair of potholes in this city before we consider taking this project. He said he understand the project is close to \$400,000.00; however, when we are getting complaints from our citizens about the potholes in this city, we need to have some money. So if we are going to appropriate \$82,527.81 to do this, we should first consider repairing the potholes.

Council Member Johnson asked if the LCI funds can be used for this project. Mr. Barber said no, the LCI Study will not be going up to Hwy 29.

Council Member Glaize asked if we could use CDBG Funds for the construction piece of the project.

Mr. Besseche said this is just a local share and he is not sure it will be a large project and it may come back less.

Council Member Portis-Jones asked if this is something we were going to do now. Mr. Besseche said this was identified as a gateway location; however, it was not on his radar. **After discussion, the motion failed with Johnson voting “Yes” and Portis-Jones, Heath, Alderman and Glaize voting “No”.**

11. Purchase of Replacement Pickup Truck- Electric Department

Council Member Glaize made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2014 Nissan Frontier for the Replacement Pickup Truck in the Electric Department in the amount of \$19,396.50 from Nissan of Morrow with Council Member Portis-Jones providing the second.

Council Member Portis-Jones asked how the electric equipment is secure. Mr. Fritz said portable equipment is stored in the shop. Council Member Heath asked if they have considered a camper cover. Mr. Fritz said they would prefer something open. Council Member Alderman said he was not aware that Nissan offered a 10 year, 100,000 mile warranty. **After discussion, the motion carried.**

12. Discussion of Elected Officials Compensation

Mayor Avery said there was a discussion on Elected Officials Compensation and the majority of the party agrees to receiving compensation in the amount of \$9,000 and \$18,000 for the Mayor Pro-Tem and the Special Called Meetings. He asked if they could discuss an amount for the Mayor Pro-Tem.

Council Member Johnson said she thinks we are making a huge jump from \$6,000 to \$18,000. She said she does not think the Mayor Pro-Tem does enough to get more money. She said she recommends \$10,000 or \$12,000 for Mayor and \$5,000 or \$6,000 for the Council.

Council Member Alderman said he recommends \$7,000 for Council and \$10,000 for Mayor or \$8,000 for Council and \$11,000 for the Mayor. He said we should try to keep it around a \$3,000 difference. He also said he agrees with Council Member Johnson that the Mayor Pro-Tem should not get paid more.

Council Member Heath said for so many years the City of Fairburn has not paid the Mayor and Council an appropriate amount and two years ago the Council was only making \$1,500 and the Mayor was only making \$3,000 per year. He said since then our population has grown to 13,720. He said when we look at the cities our size like the City of Covington whose population is 13,118 and their Mayor's compensation is \$18,000 and the Council is \$9,000; and they do not compensate the Mayor Pro-Tem or Special Called Meetings. He said the Mayor Pro-Tem should not be paid and we could live without getting paid for the Special Called Meetings. He said he believes the Mayor and Council should be paid an adequate amount for a city of our size.

Council Member Portis-Jones said the frequency of meetings was not listed on the spreadsheet provided to Council. She said when she attended Mayors Day and spoke with many of the colleagues around the state she was told many of them only meet once a month and they are paid as much if not more than we are. She said they also receive additional compensation for any Special Called Meetings. She said she is not suggesting we pay for Special Called Meetings nor should the Mayor Pro-Tem get paid; however, Fairburn's Mayor and Council is a more active body based on the conversation and research she had with other colleagues. She said Fairburn is in line with our neighboring communities and the population is higher; and it is growing.

Mayor Avery said based on the discussion there is a consensus that the Mayor Pro-Tem should not get paid and there is opposition of payment for Special Called Meetings.

Council Member Johnson said it will depend on whether the salaries are lower that she would go for compensation for the Special Called Meetings. She said she attend a lot more meetings than she did ten years ago when she first became a Council Member. Council Member Alderman said we are attending more meetings and he agrees with Council Member Johnson.

Council Member Glaize spoke about the Elected Officials Survey and said if we use the 5 cities in the survey, she does not have a problem with \$18,000.

Council Member Heath said since 2010, he has watched the Mayor go to meeting after meeting. He said he comes in every morning for staff meetings and prayer on Friday mornings. He said the Mayor has prayed for this City and has brought this city from a \$200,000 deficit to a 1.3 million dollar surplus. So there is a lot more than dollar amounts for what people are paid. He said it a simple fact of the dedication and what a

person should get paid.

He said the citizens of this city are depending on us to keep the City of Fairburn solid. He said people in the past have been very conservative but the Mayor is dedicated to this city and he is worth more than \$18,000.

Mr. Barber said the most obvious thing that is significant about the position is that our Mayor is the CEO here and most Mayors are figure heads. He said when comparing this is not apples and apples with the rest of the state. He said we are asking more of this position.

Mayor Avery asked if we can settle on \$18,000. Council Member Johnson said she wants \$15,000-\$7,500. He said there will be a vote on the \$18,000 and \$9,000 in the next meeting.

13. Insurance Coverage with Companion

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve Tanner, Ballew and Maloof to bind property and liability coverage with Companion, effective May 1, 2014 in the amount of \$228,578.00. Council Member Glaize provided the second.

Council Member Heath asked if the insurance coverage was bided out. Mr. Barber said no, they did not shop the insurance. He said they have been doing 3 year contracts.

Council Member Heath asked if it was a requirement to bid out the insurance.

Attorney Turner said no, it is not a requirement. He said this was taken on as a 3 year program.

Mr. Barber said we are attractive to a provider because of how we manage the place to the extent of executing the Personnel Policy; managing the employees, especially in the place of Public Safety. He said these things have a direct impact on our insurance. He said we are covering all vehicles, all buildings, accidents; and all risks of us terminating someone improperly. He said we have a good track record because of how our staff is managing their operations.

Council Member Portis-Jones asked about the increase cyber coverage and if what we are doing will impact the comments we received from our financial audit.

Mr. Barber said the Cyber Coverage Insurance is to protect the city in case someone hacks our system and does some damage. He said the increase is \$3,000 which is a 15% of the increase.

Council Member Portis-Jones asked if the carrier is requiring us to do anything different as it relates to the Cyber Security that we have. Mr. Barber said no. Council Member Portis-Jones asked if we could review this during the year regarding what the insurance company may or may not require and how it relates to the audit statement. She said she would like to see a plan of action to fulfill the requirements requested by the audit. **After discussion, the motion carried.**

VIII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Alderman had no comments.

Council Member Heath thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He said the Mayor is an asset to the city.

Council Member Glaize said Mayor Avery was awarded the Community Service Award on Friday night at Pascal's in Atlanta by Virginia Union College and Council sent their best regards. She thanked Mr. Parks for his organization of Georgia Cities Week. She said the program was a successful event. She commented Landmark Christian School as they provided the use of their bus. She thanked Minister Danita Jones for bringing her bus to the event. She thanked the Mayor for his faith and family; and the work he does in the city.

Council Member Johnson announced "The Nerd" will be opening on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at the Southside Theater Guild and this show will be free to City Employees. Mr. Parks invited all City Employees to attend the event and to bring their City ID.

Council Member Portis-Jones congratulated Mayor Avery for his Community Service Award from Virginia Union Atlanta Alumni Chapter. She thanked Mr. Parks and everyone for the Georgia Cities Week. She reminded everyone that early voting started today and she encouraged everyone to tell their families to go out and vote.

Council Member Heath said Mr. Parks did a great job bowling with the employees last Thursday night.

Mayor Avery thanked members of Council for the ad in the program for the Virginia Union Atlanta Community Service Award. He thanked staff, residents and his family for coming. He commended Council Member Glaize for the Georgia Cities Initiative. He said the Commissioners enjoyed themselves. He also thanked the staff.

He asked Chief McCarthy and Chief Weller about the Police Officer and Fire Fighter who was recognized by the VFW. He congratulated FTO Mario Jones and Lt. Jason Champion who was honored by the VFW along with the Police and Fire Department for this achievement.

Council Member Portis-Jones thanked the City Clerk Brenda James and Mr. Parks for the ad they did for Mayor Avery's Community Service Award.

Mr. Barber spoke about the Architectural Committee. He said they need to implement some of the constraints in the Downtown Overlay Area. Attorney Turner said this committee will not meet on a regular basis and they will only consider applicants inside of the Overlay District. He said this is not city wide.

Mayor Avery said if we know anyone who fits in number 2, 4 and 5 for this board, to send the names to Mr. Barber and copy him.

Mr. Barber said we may want to consider Michael Hightower's Firm because he has an Architect on staff. Attorney Turner said you do not have to be a resident. Mayor Avery said he would like for the committee to have a quorum to 3.

IX. ADJOURN COUNCIL MEETING:

Council Member Alderman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm with Council Member Glaize providing the second. **The motion carried.**

Brenda B. James City Clerk

Mario Avery, Mayor