



City of Fairburn
Mayor and Council Meeting
Minutes
July 25, 2022
7:00 pm

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Honorable Mayor Mario Avery.

II. Roll call by Brenda James, Deputy 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
Mayor Pro Tem Hattie Portis-Jones

The Honorable Ulysses J. Smallwood was absent.

Also present was Assistant City Administrator, Jamila Criss, City Clerk, Brenda James, and Assistant Attorney, Serena Nowell.

III. The Honorable Mayor Mario Avery led the invocation.

IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was said in unison.

V. Presentations and Proclamations: N/A

VI. Adoption of the Agenda:

Councilman Heath made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted, with the second provided by Councilwoman Davis. **The motion carried unanimously.**

VII. Approval of Minutes:

Councilman Whitmore made a motion to approve the July 11, 2022, minutes as submitted with the second provided by Councilwoman Davis. **The motion carried unanimously.**

VIII. Public Comments: None

IX. Agenda Items:

1. **FY 2021-2022 Budget Amendment – Retention Bonus**

Finance Director, Peterson David stated the amendment to the FY 2021-2022 budget will address city staffing issues by providing a onetime \$3,000 retention bonus to the Police and Fire departments. The budget amendment will increase the general fund budget by \$305,360.

Councilman Heath made a motion to approve the amended FY 2021-2022 budget ordinance to provide a retention bonus for Police and Fire. The second was provided by Councilman Pallend. **The motion carried unanimously.**

2. SOOFA Smart City Digital Display Installation

Economic Development Director, Sylvia Abernathy stated the Economic Development Department applied for and received a matching grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to implement a pilot program to showcase Fairburn's downtown district's history, arts, and entertainment using the Soofa System. Matching funds were allocated in the FY2022 budget. She said digital technology was submitted for review and received unanimous approval from the Main Street Board of Directors in January 2022, and the Art Advisory Board on February 17, 2022.

The Soofa Neighborhood Navigational System is 100% solar-powered and wireless platform that functions as a digital community board, navigation, and advertisement which provides users access to government services. As a pilot project, the installation is not permanent, and kiosks can be relocated as needed.

Councilman Pallend made a motion to approve the installation of the Soofa Digital Displays within the downtown Fairburn Historic Commercial District and the second was provided by Councilman Heath.

Councilwoman Davis asked how long the pilot program would be and what they were looking for in the program. Ms. Abernathy stated the pilot program will be two years and would give us enough time to place them appropriately and get continuous data. They are looking for customer feedback and to apply for additional grant opportunities in the future.

Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones asked if this was a federal grant and asked about reporting obligations for these funds. Ms. Abernathy stated this is a federal grant and she would report how the funds have been spent in September.

Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones asked how the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) would measure the success of the program. Ms. Abernathy stated NEA have been looking for innovative strategies. This was during COVID, and they were looking for ways to engage with the community. Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones thanked Ms. Abernathy for reevaluating and asked for reports to show how this project is going.

Mayor Avery stated the motion has been made and properly seconded. **The motion carried unanimously.**

X. Finance Director Monthly Report

Finance Director, Peterson David stated he was presenting the financials for month ending June 30, 2022. The City of Fairburn's General Fund concludes it's ninth month of 2022 operation with \$4.9 million in net cash flow and has generated \$18.7 million in revenue with \$13.8 million in expenditures. The City has collected 86% of it's revenues and has expensed 64% of its budget for the General Fund.

Fairburn's Enterprise Fund concludes it's ninth month of 2022 operation with roughly \$300 thousand in net cash flow and has generated \$14.7 million in revenue with \$14.4 million expenditures. The City has collected 73% of revenues and has expensed 71% of its budget for the Enterprise Fund.

XI. City Administrator Monthly Report

Assistant City Administrator, Jamila Criss presented the City Administrator's May and June monthly report. She highlighted a few monthly administrative activities to include:

- Facilitated a successful Senior Leadership Retreat at GMA
- City Hall was reopened to the public and returned to in person Council meetings
- Duncan Pool and Splashpad opened for the summer season with over 900 patrons the first weekend
- Recruiting for all vacant positions to help with our service delivery, we onboarded fourteen new employees in May
- Facilitated an introductory meeting with new and current appointees to the Downtown Development Authority
- On June 17th, the Fire Department celebrated the addition of Squad 22 with a Push-In ceremony
- The Employee Engagement Committee was formed
- The Classification & Compensation Study kick off was on June 13th and anticipate receiving those findings for the September 12th Council meeting
- Installation of the 10-ton HVAC system for the Youth Center
- In June, we onboarded nine new employees

Ms. Criss introduced Interim Director of Planning & Zoning, Rebecca Keefer. Ms. Keefer comes from the CPL Team with over twelve years of experience in Planning & Zoning. The City Administrator's office is actively recruiting to fill the director's vacancy.


XII. Council Comments – None

Mayor Avery stated Fulton County is broadcasting the LOST meetings between the Mayors on FTV. Ms. Criss confirmed they will televise the last public meeting this Friday at 10 a.m.

Mayor Avery stated he will discuss the budget meeting schedule with the City Administrator and the Finance Director.

XIII. Adjournment

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Councilman Heath providing the second. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. **The motion carried unanimously.**


Brenda B. James, City Clerk


Mario Avery, Mayor