



City of Fairburn
Mayor and Council Zoom Meeting
June 8, 2020
7:00 p.m. @ City Hall

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by the Honorable Mayor Carr-Hurst.
- II. Roll Call was taken by City Clerk, Arika Birdsong-Miller with the following members present:

Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst

The Honorable Mayor Pro-Tem Ulysses J. Smallwood
The Honorable Linda J. Davis
The Honorable Alex Heath

The Honorable Pat Pallend
The Honorable Hattie Portis-Jones
The Honorable James Whitmore

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

City Attorney Randy Turner was also present.

- III. The invocation was led by Councilman James Whitmore.
- IV. Discussion:
Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst notified Council that there was a peaceful protest held at Georgia Military College in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement that went without any issues. There were 50 police officers from Fairburn and our neighboring municipalities including: Union City, Palmetto, Chattahoochee Hill. Mayor Carr-Hurst informed Council that she was working on new ideas to promote participation in the Census.
Councilman Heath questioned a drain issue on Malone Street that John Martin and Harvey Stokes will check out. Councilman Whitmore asked about the potholes on I-85N on the ramp from Peachtree City. Councilwoman Portis-Jones asked about the potholes on Hwy74 on Fairburn Industrial.
 1. Donation of \$10,000 for dog park in Duncan Park.
Mr. John Culbreth explained that the City of Fairburn received a \$10,000 donation from Ms. Deborah Mullis that would like to see a dog park in Fairburn. Mr. Culbreth will get cost estimates from municipalities with dog parks for upkeep and maintenance and deliver a report to Mayor and Council.
 2. Fairburn's pool and parks reopening dates
Mr. John Culbreth explained that he feels like it is too soon to open the parks back up, but is in favor of a soft opening granting citizens access to use the park to walk for exercise. Mr. Culbreth also mentioned that the restroom would require 2 employees to wipe down after each use the entire time the park was opened. Mr. Stokes does not have adequate staff to support the restroom maintenance all day long. After much discussion, Mayor and Council will wait to reopen the park until Mr. Culbreth can gather information from

surrounding areas on the date they plan to reopen during the next Council Meeting on June 22, 2020.

3. Resolution for Georgia Hate Crime Bill

Councilwoman Portis-Jones explained that Georgia is one of the states that does not currently support the Hate Crime Bill that is currently at the Georgia Assembly awaiting approval. After much discussion and a consensus between Mayor and Council this item will be added as an item for approval on June 22, 2020 Council Meeting.

IV. Adoption of City Council Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the May 11, 2020 Zoon Council Meeting was tabled for additional verbiage to be added to Item #3: 10-year lease agreement between City of Fairburn and Trion Studios; minutes will be added to the agenda for June 22, 2020 Council Meeting for approval.

V. Adoption of the Council Agenda:

Motion to approve the Council Agenda adding Item #9 Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairburn to Exercise its Power of Eminent Domain for the Howell Avenue Extension Project was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood and the second was provided by Councilman Heath.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

VI. Agenda Items:

1. Office of the Mayor

Mayor Carr-Hurst

For Mayor and Council to appoint Downtown Development Authority Member. Mayor Carr-Hurst asked Council to appoint Mr. Paris S. Hill, the CEO and managing partner of Sliders Burger Joint in Downtown Fairburn to the Downtown Development Authority for a term expiring January 31, 2022. Motion to appoint Mr. Paris S. Hill to the Downtown Development Authority was made by Councilman Whitmore and the second was provided by Councilman Heath.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

2. Office of the Mayor

Mayor Carr-Hurst

For Mayor and Council to appoint Board of Appeals Members. Mayor Carr-Hurst asked Council to appoint Mr. Eric Wallis, Jr. as Councilman Whitmore's appointee, Ms. Synitra Hutcherson as Councilwoman Davis' appointee, and Mr. William Strawn as Councilman Pallend's appointee for terms expiring December 31, 2023. Motion to appoint Board of Appeals Members was made by Councilman Whitmore and the second was provided by Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

3. Office of the Mayor

Mayor Carr-Hurst

For Mayor and Council to approve the Letter of Agreement with Dickerson Communications (Public Relations). Mayor Carr-Hurst explained the City of Fairburn needs to promote all the great things going on in Fairburn and feels like Mr. Dickerson is a great candidate. Mr. Dickerson has over 35 years of Public Advocacy and Communication experience and explained to Council that he welcomes the opportunity to help improve the image of the City of Fairburn. Councilman Heath asked for clarity on the price in the contract and the one mentioned on the coversheet. Mayor Carr-Hurst explained that the

money asked for on the coversheet is from this budget year ending on September 30, 2020. Councilwoman Davis questioned the process of determining that a Public Relations Adocate was needed. Mayor Carr-Hurst stated that no one was involved in the process but stated that Councilman Pallend has asked for a PR representative in the past.

Councilwoman Davis suggested that there are challenges internally with employee turnover and morale and stated that she feels an independent company performing a SWOT analysis of the Human Resources Department would be more beneficial. Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood stated that he believes a PR representative is a wonderful idea and the employees that he had interactions with have nothing but positive things to say about working for Fairburn. Councilman Whitmore stated that the City of Fairburn is overdue for a PR representative to broadcast all the great things happening in the Fairburn.

Councilman Whitmore feels like Mr. Dickerson is the perfect person to tell Fairburn's narrative. Councilwoman Portis-Jones stated her concerns about the way the item was presented to Council and the item not being approved in the budget for the year.

Councilwoman Portis-Jones stated that she feels like the \$20,000 would be better spent on giving all employees that had to work during the pandemic hazard pay. Mayor explained that the Finance Director and the Mayor has the authority to transfer money between budget lines during this budget year for lines. Finance Director, Angela Jackson explained that if appropriation is not increased a line item transfer can be authorized by the Mayor to move funds between line items of a department's budget.

Motion to approve the Letter of Agreement with Dickerson Communication was made by Councilman Whitmore and the second was provided by Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood. Vote for approval (Yay): Councilman Whitmore, Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood, and Councilman Heath. Vote in opposition (Nay): Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Portis-Jones, and Councilman Pallend. As stated in the Fairburn Code of Ordinances Chapter II, Sec. 2-27-Voting; agenda; procedure the Mayor shall vote in the case of a tie. Mayor Carr-Hurst voted to approve the agreement.

Vote: 4-3: Motion Carried.

4. Property Management

Mr. Harvey Stokes

For Mayor and Council to approve the updated 10-year lease agreement between the City of Fairburn and Trion Studio/MFI for Building #3 located at Fairburn's Educational Campus at 336 W Broad Street, Fairburn, GA 30213. Attorney Randy Turner explained to Mayor and Council that this is the same lease agreement previously approved during the Council Meeting on May 11, 2020 and the only change the addition is the 501(c)3 nonprofit status obtained by Trion Studio. Councilwoman Portis-Jones wanted to see the language added to the contract that reflects the \$1.5 Million that Trion Studio committed to invest in the building. Attorney Randy Turner stated that that language is mentioned in the executive summary as an attachment to the contract. Motion to approve the 10-year between the City of Fairburn and Trion Studio/MFI was made by Councilwoman Davis and the second was provided by Councilman Heath.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

5. Community Development

Mr. Lester Thompson

For Mayor and Council to approve the Fulton County CDBG Cooperation Agreement for PY's 2021-2023 & Adoption of the Resolution to be included in the Program. Mr.

Thompson explained that we have used the funds provided by the Fulton County CDBG Program in the past to make infrastructure and facility improvements in the Lightning Neighborhood. Motion to approve the Fulton County CDBG Cooperation Agreement for PY's 2021-2023 & Adopt the Resolution was made by Councilman Heath and the second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

6. Community Development

Mr. Lester Thompson

For Mayor and Council to approve Task Order #8 with Pond & Company for Professional Engineering & Landscaping Architectural Services. Mr. Thompson explained that the City of Fairburn entered into a Master Service Agreement with Pond & Company on July 22, 2019 for On-Call Professional Engineering and Landscape Architectural Services not to exceed the amount of \$25,000. Motion to approve Task Order #8 with Pond & Company for Professional Engineering & Landscaping Architectural Services was made by Councilman Whitmore and the second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

7. Community Development

Mr. Lester Thompson

For Mayor and Council to approve the CDBG, Dodd Street Pedestrian Improvements Project Contract Award. Mr. Thompson stated that the 2019 CDBG Contract with Fulton County with Fulton County in the amount of \$162,487 for the Dodd Street Pedestrian Improvements Project was approved on April 13, 2020 City Council Meeting. These funds will be combined with T-SPLOST funds in order to take advantage of the economies of scale and to satisfy the CDBG match requirements with T-SPLOST funds instead of General Funds. Mr. Thompson explained that the \$409,659 expenditures will come out of the T-SPLOST Infrastructure-Ped & Street and Infrastructure-Roadway account. Motion to approve the CDBG, Dodd Street Pedestrian Improvements Project Contract Award was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood and the second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

8. Planning and Zoning

Ms. Tarika Peeks

For Mayor and Council to approve the Execution of the Sanitary Sewer & Drainage Easement Agreement located at Nowell Drive (Wendover Housing Partners). Ms. Peeks explained that Wendover Housing Partners is proposing a 78-unit multi-family residential development on Brooks Drive. The rezoning of the property to RM-36 was previously approved at the January 27, 2020 City Council Meeting. Ms. Peeks explained that Wendover is proposing to connect to the existing sanitary sewer system, however, to make the connection, an easement is needed on City owned property located at 0 Nowell Drive. Motion to approve the Execution of the Sanitary Sewer & Drainage Easement Agreement located at Nowell Drive was made by Councilman Whitmore and the second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

9. City Attorney

Attorney Randy Turner

For Mayor and Council to approve the Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairburn to Exercise its Power of Eminent Domain to Acquire Property for the Howell Avenue

Extension Project. Attorney Turner explained that reasonable offers based on the appraisal of a licensed real estate appraiser was made to the owner but have not been accepted and at this time is unable to reach an agreement to acquire the rights and interest necessary for the project. Motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairburn to Exercise the Power of Eminent Domain to Acquire Property for Howell Avenue Extension Project was made by Councilwoman Davis and the second was provided by Councilman

Whitmore.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

VIII. Council Comments:

Councilwoman Portis-Jones asked for Mayor to provide her with a timeframe for recruiting a City Administrator and a Utility Director.

Councilman Pallend stated that he wants everyone to do their best we can for our staff and the residents of the City of Fairburn.

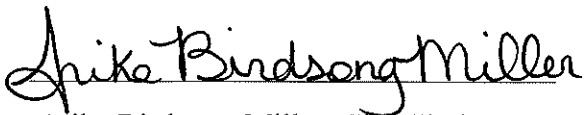
Councilman Heath stated that has been a resident of Fairburn all his life and is happy to see all the growth in the community.

Councilwoman Davis stated that she is proud to be a citizen of the City of Fairburn and is excited for the STEM school and Trion Studios.

Councilman Whitmore stated that he is excited for Trion Studios to be coming to the City of Fairburn. Councilman Whitmore is also excited that Mr. Dickerson will be able to write the narrative about the new businesses in Fairburn like the Cigar Bar and Casablanca.

Mayor Carr-Hurst had no comments.

- IX. Adjournment: At 9:23 p.m., with no further business of the City of Fairburn, the Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Heath and the second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.



Arika Birdsong-Miller, City Clerk



Elizabeth Carr-Hurst, Mayor