



**City of Fairburn
Council Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2023
7:00 pm**

- I. Roll Call by City Clerk, Brenda James found the following members present:

The Honorable Mayor Pro-Tem Linda J. Davis	The Honorable Hattie Portis-Jones
The Honorable Alex Heath	The Honorable Pat Pallend
The Honorable Ulysses J. Smallwood	The Honorable James Whitmore

- II. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Avery.

Also present was City Administrator Tony Phillips, Assistant City Administrator Jamila Criss, City Attorney RK Starkey, Assistant City Attorney Serena Nowell, City Attorney Valerie Ross, and City Clerk Brenda James.

- III. The invocation was provided by Pastor Carnetta Frazier, Love Deliverance Outreach.

- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was in Unison.

- V. Presentations and Proclamations: N/A

- VI. Public Comments:

Jonathan Hall said he was the proud principal of Global Impact Academy. He is from North Carolina and graduated from Morehouse College and taught previously at Creekside High School and was Assistant Principal at Fayette County High School. He lives in Fairburn and is excited to be a Fairburnite and wants to get to know the Mayor and Council.

- VII. Adoption of the City Council Agenda:

Councilman Whitmore made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, with Councilman Heath providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

- VIII. Approval of the Minutes:

1. Approval of the minutes Regular Council Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2023

Councilman Whitmore made a motion to approve the minutes as written, the second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Davis. **The motion carried unanimously.**

- IX. Public Hearing:

2. Rezoning request from PD (Commercial) to PD (Residential), Durham Lakes – Development Area 5

Planning and Zoning Director, Denise Brookins presented this item and said the applicant requested a continuance of the public hearing for the rezoning request.

Councilman Heath made a motion to continue this rezoning request until the next regular meeting of September 25, 2023. The second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Davis. **The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Fairway Foodies – Swing Golf Mobile Food Truck

Planning and Zoning Director, Denise Brookins presented this item and said the subject parcels are located along Senoia Road, between Milam and Landrum Roads. The applicant is a local business owner that has provided a new miniature golf site and they initially wanted to expand to provide dining establishments. Per our city ordinance, they are required to get a use permit approved before having food trucks on-site full time. Staff is recommending approval of the request.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis made a motion to open the public hearing, with Councilman Heath providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

In Favor:

Nakedra Taylor
Richard Taylor

In Opposition: None

Councilwoman Portis-Jones made a motion to close the public hearing, with Mayor Pro Tem Davis providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Councilman Whitmore made a motion to approve the Ordinance to permit a use permit to allow mobile food trucks, with Mayor Pro Tem Davis providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Councilwoman Portis-Jones asked how many food trucks allowed given the property size. Ms. Brookins stated there are limitations in the supplemental regulations that the applicant would have to adhere to, there is not a certain number but there is a limit to the amount of space and options they could provide. The purpose of the supplemental regulations is to make sure that we allow food trucks but to also balance that with all the restaurants that are brick and mortar establishments.

Councilwoman Portis-Jones had questions regarding parking. Ms. Brookins replied and said they would have to come into the driveway and park, the food trucks would be primarily parked in the front.

Councilman Whitmore asked the owners if they had future plans on expanding their parking lot. Mr. Taylor said it's been expanded already, and we can accommodate about thirty-five vehicles including two ADA handicap parking spaces along with the food trucks. They will only allow two or three food trucks on the property at a time. Councilman Whitmore said it was great attending the ribbon cutting and to see the excitement in adults and children. Having a variety of food trucks is a plus and will help increase the ability to draw people in.

Councilman Smallwood asked who was responsible for paving the parking lot and what was the plan for paving the parking lot. Ms. Brookins said the applicant would be responsible for any on-site conditions. Mr. Taylor said they plan to continuously perform maintenance and update the experience for everyone. They just opened on June 10th with Phase I and as they generate revenue, they plan to enhance things like the parking lot.

Mayor Avery asked if they were planning an event this Friday and if they have considered an agreement with neighboring locations for parking. Mr. Taylor said yes, they have made an agreement with the car lot next door to use their front lawn for overflow parking if needed.

4. Public Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal year 2023 – 2024 Annual Budget

Finance Director, Bryan Stephens presented this item and said he brings the Proposed FY 2023 2024 annual budget to Mayor and Council to provide citizen discussion. The General Fund budget is \$29,167,090, and other funds proposed budget is \$43,609,960, for a grand total of \$72,777,050. He highlighted a couple of items to include a 3% COLA for all employees and said we have a new pay scale for Public Safety, which includes Fire and Police. We are making our initial investment in Architectural Design for our new Public Safety center. The Blight Abatement Program is in this budget as well as street sweeping services and the construction on Fire Station #23, we anticipate groundbreaking before the end of the year.

Councilman Whitmore made a motion to open the public hearing, with Mayor Pro Tem Davis providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

In Favor: None

In Opposition: None

Councilman Smallwood made a motion to close the public hearing, with Councilwoman Portis-Jones providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Councilwoman Portis-Jones said we've done exhaustive review and had numerous meetings regarding the budget and appreciates all the efforts put forth by the departments and city administration. She appreciates Mr. Stephens sharing with the public the status of some lingering projects that have been put off for a long time, like the fire station.

X. Regular Agenda Items:

5. Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA) BOOST Grant Memorandum of Understanding

Parks and Recreation Supervisor, Jada Berry presented this item and said they are requesting approval of the 2023–2024 Georgia Recreation and Park Association Afterschool Memorandum of Understanding for the BOOST Program. The Fairburn Parks and Recreation Department received an award of \$20,000 from GRPA Building Opportunities Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Afterschool Program Grant. The department developed an after-school program designed to support students in building a stronger academic foundation. We aim to bridge the educational gap through literacy enrichment, health and wellness, and STEAM programming. The BRIDGE Afterschool program will include the following focus areas: academic reinforcement, learning acceleration, health and wellness, character, and leadership development, exposure, and innovation. The program will follow the Fulton County Schools academic calendar that starts October 2023 and runs through May 2024.

Councilwoman Portis-Jones made a motion to approve the 2023–2024 Georgia Recreation and Park Association Afterschool Memorandum of Understanding for the BOOST Program. The second was provided by Councilman Whitmore. **The motion carried unanimously.**

XIII. Council Comments:

Councilman Whitmore said staff is doing what they do, and the budget process was good with great information. He is happy about the 3% COLA and is glad it was included in the budget. Since the pandemic, there are a lot of families out there suffering and we must consider our employees as well. This is letting our employees know that this government and administration cares and we are working to ensure that we do the right thing for our employees. He was very excited about the street sweeping services and congratulated Principal Hall with Global Impact Academy and looks forward to future dialogue with him.

Councilwoman Portis-Jones congratulated Principal Hall, it's fantastic he is with Global Impact Academy and looks forward to a continued relationship. She thanked Dana Smith and Jamila Criss for thinking outside the box, the 3D rendering of Fire Station #23 has taken Fairburn to another level.

Councilman Heath said today is the 22nd Anniversary of 9/11. He asked we keep all the

families that were affected in our prayers. He sent kudos to city administration, our police officers and firemen, our street department workers that keep our city looking nice.

Councilman Pallend thanked Councilman Heath for commenting on today's date, 9/11 as he has emotional connection to that building. It sent his son off to war twice with the first Marine Division because of that. Let's not forget the importance of that day and what it means to so many families.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis said she dittoed her colleagues and their comments in reference to our staff. It is absolutely amazing the standard of excellence that has increased, improved and consistency in a year and a half. We just can't give enough kudos to our staff, our administrators, and department directors. We are lifting up our employees with the appropriate pay scale and showing how important they are to the city because without them, we cannot do our vision, or our 3 R's. She thanked the mayor and administration for a lot of ribbon cuttings in the last year and a half for our small businesses and feels that is critical in assisting them in getting started.

Councilman Smallwood said Fulton County schools, that's beautiful. He applauded and saluted Principal Hall for what he is about to do with Global Impact Academy. He shouted out to all our departments. He lives and serves here and knows they are doing everything possible to make sure our city is situated to succeed. We have standards, ordinances, and services in place.

City Administrator Tony Phillips said we still have Utility Assistance available for residents of Fairburn. We will be at the City Annex Building tomorrow on Washington Street from 9 to 5 tomorrow. We encourage anyone who may need utility assistance who are delinquent or in arrears on your utility bills, there is up to \$250 available and \$350 for our seniors.

Mr. Phillips acknowledged we had the homegoing services for one of our own, Mr. Randy Allen, on Saturday. It was a beautiful service, he touched a lot of our employees and staff. He thanked the Mayor and Ms. Criss for being there to support the family. Our prayers and thoughts are still with his family.

Mayor Avery thanked all employees that attended the wake for Mr. Allen, as he was part of our family. He publicly acknowledged Mr. Eldrin Bell, former Chair, for attending tonight's meeting. Mayor Avery discussed the Park and Recreation Master Plan and advised citizens that their input is needed. The information we are acquiring from these in-person meetings will go into a plan, and it will be based off the results we get.

Mr. Phillips encouraged all residents who couldn't attend the initial session to attend the next in-person meeting. We are working on the date, it will be advertised on the City's website under Parks and Recreation, you can participate in an online survey. This Park's Master Plan is designed from square one to be collaborative, we need the voice of our residents, our communities, our neighborhoods. Your input is going to help craft

a roadmap that we're building in the next decade. We're looking not only in our Flagship Park at Duncan Park, but a Parks system across Fairburn. We've grown a lot and we need additional parks. We need different types of parks, we need different types of programming and the way we figure those answers out is by talking to our residents. You can also participate online, please give us your feedback.

Mayor Avery emphasized on how we need citizens input on the Parks Master Plan. He announced that on Third Friday, we celebrate Hispanic Heritage month and said we need your support. The Fairburn Fall Festival is four Saturday's away, please bring your children and your parents, we will have a lot of guests in our city that day. Our goal is to max what we did in 2017 where we brought over 30,000 people to this city. He thanked Principal Hall and looked forward to him being in the parade as we celebrate Educators. The budget process was lots and lots of hours and thanked every department head that played a role in the process, for the level of excellence. We want to remain competitive as we maintain our workforce.

XIV. Adjournment:

Mayor Pro Tem Davis made motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm, with Councilman Heath providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**


Brenda James, City Clerk
Mario Avery, Mayor