



City of Fairburn  
Mayor and Council Meeting- Zoom  
September 28, 2020  
7:00 pm

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm 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 Bishop Aaron Lackey of Temple of Prayer Family Worship Cathedral.
- IV. Adoption of City Council Minutes:  
Motion to Approve September 14, 2020, Council Meeting Minutes (Zoom) with corrections was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood and the second was provided by Councilman Heath.  
Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.  
Motion to Approve September 23, 2020, Council Meeting Minutes (Zoom) was made by Councilwoman Davis and the second was provided by Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood.  
Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.
- V. Adoption of the Council Agenda:  
Motion to approve the Council Agenda was made by Councilman Heath and the second was provided by Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood.  
Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.
- VI. Presentation: Ms. Keli Kemp, Co-Founder of Modern Mobility Partners, LLC presented the South Fulton Comprehensive Plan Recommendation Summary. Ms. Kemp explained that the CTP update has been underway since February 2019. The study area includes the eight cities in southern Fulton County (Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Palmetto, South Fulton, and Union City) as well as the portion of unincorporated Fulton County along SR 70/Futon Industrial Blvd. Following the inventory of existing conditions, assessment of project needs, and extensive public outreach, a list of potential projects has been developed. Ms. Kemp stated that the final SFCTP must be adopted by at least 5 of the 8 cities in order to be considered an adopted plan by ARC. To apply for federal funding as part of the ARC's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and/or Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project solicitation process, projects must be included in the SFCTP adopted plan. If a project arises after the SFCTP is adopted in 2020, the SFCTP can be amended by the Cities to reflect new projects. Councilman Heath stated that he would like to see something spectacular in south Fulton County like in things are in north Fulton County. Councilman Heath also explained that he would like to see heavy rail

extending to south Fulton County in the future. Ms. Kemp stated that Councilman Heath's ideas are included in the long-range plans.

VII. Public Hearing:

**1. City of Fairburn's Millage Rate for 2020.**

Mr. Rodrique Taylor, Interim Finance Director, explained that the proposed Millage Rate for 2020 is 8.100, the same as the last 5 years. Mr. Taylor explained the proposed 2020 Tax Digest and Five-Year Levy.

Motion to open the hearing for public questions and comments was made by Councilman Heath and the second was provided by Councilman Whitmore.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

There was no public questions or comments for the Millage Rate Public Hearing.

Councilman Heath asked what determines the rollback rate. Mr. Taylor explained that the rollback rate is determined by Fulton County.

Motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Whitmore and the second was provided by Councilman Heath.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

VIII. Discussion:

1. Mr. John Culbreth: Proposed Donation of land for Citizens Park. Mr. Culbreth explained to Mayor and Council that Mr. David Hughes would like to donate 2.57 acres of land to the City of Fairburn and that land could provide a passive park for citizens in the City of Fairburn. Ms. Tarika Peeks, Planning and Zoning Director, explained that she thinks the site is a great location for a park on that side of the City. Ms. Peeks explained that the land includes a retention pond and the business owners on Hwy 74 will maintain the pond. Councilman Heath inquired about the cost of the project. Mr. Culbreth informed Councilman Heath that he would have to place the construction up for bid to get a cost for construction. Councilwoman Davis asked who will maintain the park. Ms. Peeks stated the park will be maintained by the City. Councilman Whitmore stated that adding a park would beautify the area and add additional parking.

VIII. Agenda Items:

**1. Finance Department**

**Mr. Rodrique Taylor**

For Mayor and Council to Approve the City of Fairburn's 2020 Millage Rate at 8.100.

Motion to Approve the City of Fairburn's 2020 Millage Rate at 8.100 was made by Councilman Heath and the second was provided by Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

**2. Finance Department**

**Mr. Rodrique Taylor**

For Mayor and Council to Approve the City of Fairburn's Proposed FY 2020-2021 Budget.

Rodrique Taylor, Interim Finance Director, explained the Proposed Budget for the FY2020-2021 is \$57,137,278, which represents an overall increase of \$2,954,740 or a 5% over the FY2019 adopted Budget. Mr. Taylor stated that the General Fund has a Proposed Budget of \$17,811,065 an increase of \$517,938 or 3% from the prior year. Councilwoman Portis-Jones

stated that she was very disappointed that the employee incentive pay was not in the budget from the budget. Councilwoman Davis stated that she did not notice the incentive pay was not in the budget and would like to see it added during mid-year. Mayor Carr-Hurst stated that she would be glad to revisit additions during the mid-year budget adjustment. Councilman Pallend stated that he disagrees with the \$60,000 in the budget in proposed expenses for a Public Relations Specialist because he has not seen any work done to promote the City by Mr. Jeff Dickerson. Mayor Carr-Hurst stated that she is happy to provide Council with a report and will do so this week. Motion to approve the FY2020-2021 Budget was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood and the second was provided by Councilman Whitmore.

Vote: 4-2: Motion Carried.

*Councilwoman Portis-Jones and Councilman Pallend voted in opposition.*

### **3. Planning and Zoning**

**Ms. Tarika Peeks**

For Mayor and Council to Approve the LCI Downtown Master Plan Contract Award in the amount of \$115,425. Motion to Table the LCI Downtown Master Plan Contract Award in the amount of \$115,425 until the October 12, 2020 Council Meeting was made by Councilwoman Davis and the second was provided by Councilman Pallend.

Vote: 4-2: Motion Carried.

*Councilman Heath and Councilman Whitmore voted in opposition.*

### **4. Parks and Recreation**

**Mr. John Culbreth**

For Mayor and Council to Decide the Use of the \$10,000 Donation for the Proposed Dog Park. Mr. John Culbreth, Parks and Recreation Director, explained that location and cost of maintenance of creating a dog park is an issue that must be addressed before the City of Fairburn can implement a dog park. Mr. Culbreth explained that after a conversation with the Ms. Debbie Mullis, donor of the \$10,000 to the City of Fairburn, she would like to install a dog fountain instead of a dog park. After much discussion, it was decided by Mayor and Council that Mr. Culbreth will provide cost estimates for the installation of dog fountain as well as a proposed location and report to Mayor and Council.

## **VIII. Council Comments:**

Councilwoman Davis had no comment.

Councilman Pallend had no comment.

Councilman Whitmore had no comment.

Councilwoman Portis-Jones stated that she is disappointed that we were not able to provide incentive pay for employees in the budget since we are receiving CARES Act funds to supplement continuing hazard pay. Councilwoman Portis-Jones explained that we have always had incentive pay for employees in the spirit of Christmas.

Councilman Heath thanked Mayor and Council for the support of the dog fountain for Ms. Debbie Mullis.

Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood had no comment.

Mayor Carr-Hurst stated that there is a proposed Special Called Meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2020 to discuss CARES Act expenditures. Mayor Carr-Hurst also informed Council that she will present information on the new fire station in the next few weeks.

At 8:40 pm a Motion to enter Executive Session for litigation from the Regular Meeting was made by Councilwoman Davis with the second provided by Mayor Pro-Tem Smallwood.

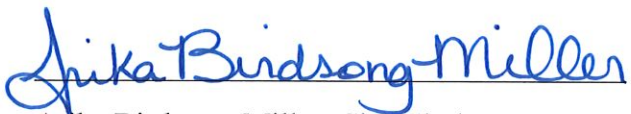
Vote: 6-0 Motion Carried.

Motion to enter Open Session at 9:47 pm was made by Councilman Pallend and the second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.

Vote: 6-0 Motion Carried.

IX. Adjournment: At 9:49 pm, with no further business of the City of Fairburn, the Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Davis and the second was provided by Councilwoman Portis-Jones.

Vote: 6-0: Motion Carried.

  
Arika Birdsong-Miller, City Clerk

  
Elizabeth Carr-Hurst, Mayor