



City of Fairburn
Mayor and Council Meeting
May 9, 2022
7:00 pm

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Honorable Mayor Mario Avery.
- II. Roll call by Brenda B. James, 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
The Honorable Ulysses J. Smallwood
Mayor Pro Tem Hattie Portis-Jones

Also present was Assistant City Attorney, Serena Nowell, City Administrator, Tony Phillips, and City Clerk, Brenda B. James.

- III. The invocation was led by Pastor Dwight Boone with Crossroads Church.
- IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was said in unison.
- V. Adoption of the Agenda: Councilman Heath made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. The second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones. **The motion carried unanimously.**
- VI. Adoption of the Minutes:

April 25, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes – Councilman Smallwood made a motion to approve the April 25, 2022, minutes with the second provided by Councilman Heath. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Avery gave an overview of the City Council Retreat. He stated the Mayor, City Council, and staff members spent eleven hours in constructive deliberation, reviewing and discussing pertinent information. He thanked staff for putting all this data together.

In our efforts to go into the 2023 budget season, we will have internal controls and proper protocols in place. City Council and staff came up with three areas to work on. They are to Refresh our city government, Rebrand our image and Renew the confidence in our city both internally and externally. We have hired a professional consultant, a Communications Director to assist with branding our image and getting news out to residents. City Council and staff want to renovate buildings, provide rental assistance, assist small businesses and transform our downtown area. We want to compile all the vacant property that the city owns or can acquire, and with a master plan, we will be able to enhance the city in many ways. Mayor Avery thanked GMA for a great job facilitating the retreat.

VII. Public Comments: No Public Comments.

VIII. Agenda Items

1. Agreement Between Trees Unlimited and the City of Fairburn

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to approve the trimming and clearing of tree limbs/vegetation from around the overhead circuits exiting substation #2 and approve the agreement with Trees Unlimited not to exceed \$69,640.00. The second was provided by Councilman Heath.

Utilities Director, Mr. John Martin stated the completion of this service will prevent numerous power outages due to overgrowth of vegetation near power lines. He stated Substation #2 are the main circuits that control essential facilities throughout the city; such as Georgia Military College, Fulton County STEM School and all subdivisions along Rivertown Road. This agreement will allow three months and three days of tree trimming service.

Councilwoman Davis asked what percentage of outages are due to fallen trees, limbs, and vegetation. Mr. Martin stated 85% of the outages are due from those reasons.

Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones stated the tree trimming is very necessary and asked if there was a schedule for this service to be done annually. Mr. Martin stated there are four areas, two areas were done last year and prior to that, it hasn't been done in three years.

Councilman Smallwood discussed the pine beetle infestation causing dead trees and his concern for being proactive. Mr. Tony Phillips stated that the City has a lot of dead trees, and this is something we are looking into in year FY2023.

Councilman Whitmore stated there are areas where other electrical companies are responsible for their lines that have caused problems on the homeowner's property and wanted to know how we address this issue. He feels that the homeowners should have a stake in this responsibility.

Mr. Martin stated in case of storms, the city cuts their part off in the right of way and the city informs the property owners to take care of the situation on their property.

Councilman Whitmore asked what is in the ordinance to make homeowners address this situation because if they are not doing anything, when the storms come in, we are expending tax payers money and again the homeowners are not accepting responsibility.

Mr. Phillips stated this may be a policy consideration and he will discuss it with the city attorney before the next city council meeting and will bring back to Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones agreed with Councilman Whitmore about this being an issue and also, regarding water main leaks and who's responsible for the lines. She stated in the Charter, we are required to have an arborist help us with this issue and asked this be considered and bring back to council for review.

Mr. Phillips stated they have consulted with an outside arborist for Duncan Park, there are a lot

of dead trees out there and this is an ongoing issue. It is peak season and wanted to get an immediate consultation so we will come back to council to propose how we should handle this.

Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones asked that our current tree ordinance be reviewed.

Councilman Smallwood asked if we revise the current policy to check if there are any State or Federal agencies that can help residents with this type of expense, it can be very expensive.

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

2. Purchase of One Case CX57C Mini Excavator from Border Equipment

Councilman Whitmore made a motion to approve the purchase of one Case CX57C Mini Excavator in the amount of \$64,370.00. The second was provided by Councilman Heath. **The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Approval of Task Order #12 with Atlas Technical Consultants for Construction Engineering and Inspection Services

Councilman Smallwood made a motion to approve Task Order # 12 with Atlas Technical Consultants for Construction Engineering and Inspection Services on the Roadway Improvements on various City roads project and authorize the Mayor to sign the Task Order for an amount not to exceed \$58,000.00. The second was provided by Councilman Pallend. **The motion carried unanimously.**

4. Budget Amendment: Establish Procurement Manager Position in the Finance Department

Councilman Smallwood made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment to establish the Procurement Manager position. The second was provided by Councilwoman Davis.

Mayor Pro Tem Portis-Jones asked if there would be administrative support for this person.

Finance Director, Mr. Peterson David stated the department heads and administrative assistants are currently preparing the RFP's and RFQ's. When the Procurement Manager comes on board, it will be a team effort.

Mr. Phillips stated this position is a huge step in the right direction.

Mayor Avery stated as a person in this profession, this position is very critical for our government. There are a lot of federal monies that require ongoing audits. The purchasing department will ensure that the volume of money brought in will be in compliance with the procurement requirements and proper reporting that is required by state and federal law. The Department of Treasury and the IRS has made it very clear to governments that they are coming to audit every dime that has been distributed so our books need to be in order.

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

IX. Council Comments:

Councilman Whitmore stated it was a pleasure to be back in person and stated the upgrades to Council Chambers are a touch of class. He wanted to recognize that the City of Fairburn has made it to the Top 10 list of the Safest Cities in Georgia.

Councilwoman Davis stated it was nice to be back in person. She thanked the staff and Mr. Phillips for his leadership and getting City Hall up to the 22nd century, we see all the hard work you've done and we appreciate it.

Councilman Smallwood stated it was good to be back and happy to be here. He stated he loved the new staff and applauded them and all the department heads for all the great work they do. Also, being the Top 10 Safe City, he feels good about that.

Councilman Pallend stated he feels we are headed in the right direction with the results from the retreat.

Councilman Heath stated he was delighted to be back; the zooms were great but nothing like seeing people in person. Staff is tremendous and Mr. Phillips is out of sight. Tonight, has been a pleasant experience. He felt many great ideas came from the retreat and wants to see the traffic on Hwy 74 more manageable.

Mayor Pro-Tem Portis Jones stated she was very impressed with the changes at City Hall especially the line up in the back of the room with all the department heads. She thanked everyone for the outstanding retreat. She congratulated the Southside Theatre who is a second time recipient of the Fox Theatre Foundation Grant. Please vote, early voting is going on right now.

Mayor Avery discussed staffing issues not just in Fairburn, but job staffing is down. We will be looking for street department employees to keep our city looking beautiful. He thanked Mr. Phillips and staff for the retreat and bringing employees together.

X. Adjournment:

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to adjourn with Councilman Pallend providing the second. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. **The motion carried unanimously.**


Brenda B. James, City Clerk


Mario Avery, Mayor