

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Mayor and Council
City of Fitzgerald, Georgia
November 13, 2017
6:00 pm

Mayor and Council of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, met in a **Regular** meeting in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 302 East Central Avenue, with Mayor Masee presiding and with Council members Coney, Griffin, Holt, Jefferson, Jones, Roberts, Tillman, Webb and Williams being present.

Minutes of October 9, 2017, Regular Council meeting were read. Mayor Masee entertained a motion for approval. Council Person Webb made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Council Person Williams. Having a motion and a second, Mayor Masee asked if there were any additions or corrections. With none being heard, called for a **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Masee welcomed everyone in attendance. Special recognition was given to Mayor Elect Jim Puckett, Council Member elect Jimmy Johnson, Roffie Shephard with family and friends, FBHC Hospital Authority and FWLB Commission.

Mayor Masee called on visitors to speak. Mr. Wayne Young of 407 E Suwanee spoke of safety issues in regards to his request to close the alley. Mr. Young mentioned that closing this alley would not affect any of his neighbors.

Mr. David Hutchinson of Poplar Street mentioned the only way to enter to his garage is through the alley. Services provided by the City are hindered due to the lack of space and non-maintained alley area. The closure of the alley would be an inconvenience.

Mr. Johnny Pope of 119 Poplar stated that in regards to the alley closing, he seldom saw Mr. Hutchinson use the drive. Children on ATV's and golf carts are speeding down the alley which is unsafe. No one can safely drive down the alley due to a cut off valve in the middle of it. Access from Haile Booker is an option for his neighbor. As far as the boundary of the property, the dog pen sits inside the property line.

Ms. Crystal Greer spoke in support of Mr. Hutchinson. Ms. Greer noted that there is no way to get from the front of the house to the back without using the alley and even then, with her subcompact car, it is still difficult due to the limited space. Ms. Greer stated that access to the alley is blocked by the dog pen. This blocked area also prevents the trash trucks from having access. These large trucks also damage property when turning around.

Mrs. Stephanie Pope stated that the family had lived in this house for over 30 years and had allowed others access to the property. Weeks Surveying came and surveyed the property lines. Mr. Cam Jordan came and viewed the property. The dog pen is at the property corner to demonstrate the property boundaries. Through the years, trucks were given access to turn around. Over time, the alley has "migrated" due to overgrown bushes, etc. Mrs. Pope did

mention they have a large family and when all gathered there are many cars and they take up space. She stated that this is no different than parking on Lee or Main Streets.

Council Person Charles Coney called upon Mr. Roffie Shephard to come forward. Mayor Massee read and presented a proclamation to Mr. Shephard for his participation in the Japan America Grassroots Summit. Mr. Shephard served as an ambassador for Fitzgerald as well as the delegations official photographer. Mr. Stephen Haverfield, Special Programs Coordinator for the Japan-America Society of Georgia also presented Mr. Shephard a certificate with several other gifts of appreciation. Ms. Erica L. Woodford, Clerk for the Bibb County Superior Court came to show support. Council Person Coney invited everyone to attend a reception immediately following the council meeting.

Under Reports of City Officers, Mayor Massee invited everyone to review the Administrative Report. Special note was made of calendar items, including the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday schedule.

Reports of standing committees were given by their respective chairperson.

Under reports of special committees, Council Person Michael Griffin presented a beer only license on premises at Hole in the Wall located at 411 E Pine Street. This application has been through the proper channels of the Police and Sheriff Departments, Public Works, Zoning and Administration. Council Person Griffin made a motion to accept this license, seconded by Council Person Holt. Mayor Massee asked if there was any discussion. With none heard, moved to **Roll Call vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

City Attorney, Kyle Cook, presented ***the first reading and initial approval*** to amend the Charter of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, which was created by an act amended on August 17, 1914, as amended, under the Municipal Home Rule Act of 1965, to expand and clarify certain powers that may be exercised by the Fitzgerald Water, Light and Bond Commission. Council Person Coney motioned to dispense with the full reading, seconded by Council Person Griffin. Mayor Massee asked if there was any discussion. With none heard, moved to **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Massee asked for approval of the first reading and initial approval. Council Person Coney motioned to approve the reading, seconded by Council Person Griffin. Mayor Massee asked if there was any discussion. With none heard, moved to **Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes, 2 No. Motion approved. Holt and Roberts voting No.**

City Attorney, Kyle Cook, presented ***Ordinance 17-1507*** to close permanently for all purposes and to sell and convey the right of way the alley at 116 Loraine Avenue. Council Person Coney motioned to dispense with full reading, seconded by Council Person Holt. Mayor Massee asked if there was any discussion. With none heard, moved to **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Massee asked for approval of ***Ordinance 17-1507***. Council Person Holt motioned to approved Ordinance 17-1507, seconded by Council Person Webb. Mayor Massee asked if there was any discussion. With none heard, moved to **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

City Attorney, Kyle Cook, presented **Ordinance 17-1508** to close the alley at 119 Poplar Street to thru traffic. Council Person Griffin motioned to dispense with full reading, seconded by Council Person Coney. Mayor Masee asked if there was any discussion. With none heard, moved to **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Masee asked for approval of **Ordinance 17-1508**. Council Person Holt motioned to table **Ordinance 17-1508** for further review. Council Person Webb seconded the motion to table. Mayor Masee asked if there was any discussion. With none heard, moved to **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

City Attorney, Kyle Cook, presented **Ordinance 17-1509** to close the alley at 407 West Suwanee Street to thru traffic. Council Person Coney motioned to dispense with full reading, seconded by Council Person Holt. Mayor Masee asked if there was any discussion. With none heard, moved to **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Masee asked for approval of **Ordinance 17-1509**. Council Person Griffin motioned to approve Ordinance 17-1509 seconded by Council Person Holt. Mayor Masee asked if there was any discussion. With none heard, moved to **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Cristina Wams

CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

Mark Masee

MAYOR