

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Mayor and Council
City of Fitzgerald, Georgia
March 14, 2016
6:00 pm**

A Public Hearing took place at the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 302 East Central Avenue, Monday, March 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

A Public Hearing was held to consider an application received from Cathy Smith for a City of Fitzgerald Revolving Loan up to \$48,000.00. This request was properly advertised. Mayor Masee opened up for anyone to speak on this application and with none being heard, closed this public hearing.

Mayor and Council of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, met in a **Regular** meeting immediately following the Public Hearing, with Mayor Masee presiding and with Council members Coney, Elrod, Griffin, Holt, Jefferson, Tillman, Webb and Williams being present.

Minutes of February 8, 2016, Regular Council meeting were read. Mayor Masee entertained a motion for approval. Council Person Webb made a motion to approve minutes as presented, 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, Mayor Masee called for a **Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Masee welcomed the visitors in attendance: Sherry Sue Davis, Tommy Roberts, Sandra Wilcox, Martha Powers-Jones, Brad King, Michael Melton, Ruthie Smith, Ola Freeman, Ken Williams, Carolyn Player and Rev. Bob E. Player.

Mayor Masee recognized those who wanted to address Council. Mrs. Carolyn Player spoke to council regarding property across the street from 226 W. Altamaha. Mrs. Player requested to know the appropriate council member to discuss issues at hand. Council Person Alex Tillman stated that he is her representative. Mayor Masee suggested that any issues can be further addressed with her representatives and the community development office.

Mayor Masee invited Chief Smallwood of the Fitzgerald Police Department to introduce a new department member. Chief Smallwood introduced McGruff the Crime Dog. McGruff will be part of the departments public outreach plan. McGruff will be at the upcoming Chicken Festival and already has a time to visit First Baptist Church. He will also be working at the Primary and Elementary Schools. We welcome McGruff to our community.

Mayor Masee invited Martha Powers-Jones to speak. Mrs. Jones is the new director at the Ben Hill County Library. Mrs. Jones gave an update on the outreach the library has in our community. She also presented upcoming monthly activities and summer programs. Mayor Masee thanked her for sharing. Mayor Masee noted that there are at least two library board members present, being he and Ms. Sherry Sue Davis, and that Mrs. Jones came in November. He further stated that Ms. Powers-Jones has brought a new vision and vitality to the library and looks forward to future updates throughout the year.

A communication was read from the family of Virginia H. Whitley.

Under reports of City Officers, Mayor Massee invited everyone to review the upcoming calendar items from the Administrative report. This week we will have the Wild Chicken Festival events and street dance. Holy Week will bring our Downtown Easter Egg Hunt in which our Tourism department is heavily involved. With no questions or comments, he moved to Standing Committee reports.

Reports of Standing Committees were given by their respective Chairperson. Mayor Massee thanked the finance department for their good work and the departments for their assistance.

License Committee Chairperson, Council Person Elrod, presented an alcohol license for La Lomita Grocery Store. This application has followed the proper channels. Council Person Elrod motioned to accept this application, seconded by Council Person Griffin. Mayor Massee asked if there was any discussion. With none being heard, moved to **Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

City Attorney, Gill Braddy, presented **Resolution R16-003** to authorize the conveyance of all of the city's interest in a certain parcel of real estate to Ben Hill County, Georgia; to authorize the conveyance of all the city's interest in certain parcels of real estate to the Ben Hill County School District acting by and through the Ben Hill Board of Education. Council Person Coney made a motion to dispense with the full reading of the ordinance, seconded by Council Person Williams. Mayor Massee asked if there was any discussion. With none being heard, moved to a **Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Massee entertained a motion for approval. Council Person Coney motioned to approve **Resolution R16-003**, seconded by Council Person Holt. Mayor Massee asked if there was any discussion. With no discussion, moved to a **Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain. Motion approved. Council Person Tillman abstained from voting.**

Under new business, Mayor Massee mentioned that the RLF presented earlier in the public hearing was approved last month. The application approved had the applicant's business name, not the applicant's name, as was done on other associated loan documents. To keep continuity, we corrected the RLF to reflect the applicant's name. Mayor Massee entertained a motion for approval. Council Person Coney motioned to approve the RLF application, seconded by Council Person Elrod. Mayor Massee asked if there was any discussion and with none, moved to **Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Massee asked for consideration to appoint Cliff Ward to the unexpired term of John William Mooney on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Ward is a local developer and business man. Council Person Coney motioned to accept the appointment of Cliff Ward to fill the unexpired seat of John William Mooney, seconded by Council Person Elrod. Mayor Massee asked if there was any discussion or comments, and with none, moved to **Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Massee asked for consideration to appoint Stuart Smith to replace C. C. Hall, Jr. and the re-appointment of Steve Taylor to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Council Person Coney motioned to accept the appointment Stuart Smith to replace C. C. Hall, Jr. and the re-appointment of Steve Taylor, seconded by Council Person Holt. Mayor Massee opened the floor for discussion or comments. Council Person Webb asked if Mr. Hall had been notified of the replacement of his position on this board. Mayor Massee stated that this board does not meet on a regular basis and has not met in quite some time. Mayor Massee noted Mr. Hall's declining

health and felt it in his best interest to be replaced. With no further questions or comments, moved to **Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes, 1 No. Motion approved. Council Person Webb voting no.**

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

APPROVED:

(SEAL)

MAYOR

ATTEST: _____

CITY CLERK