

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Mayor and Council  
City of Fitzgerald, Georgia  
August 8, 2022  
6:00 pm**

A Public Hearing took place at the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 302 East Central Avenue, on Monday, August 8, 2022.

A **Public Hearing** was held to give consideration to application number 0140 by David Evans & Tommy Spivey. The properties located at 2 acres tract N-NW corner Franklin Avenue & Benjamin H Hill Dr. Legal description 6 8 56 to rezone 2 acres of said property from R-15 city to G-B city. With no one to speak, the public hearing was closed.

A **Public Hearing** was held to give consideration to RLF application for Marie's D & S Appetizers for a loan up to \$37,500. With no one to speak, the public hearing was closed.

A **Public Hearing** was held to give consideration to RLF application for SixTwo Electronic Repair, LLC for a loan up to \$8,000.00. With no one to speak, the public hearing was closed.

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 Holt presiding and with Council members Brown, Clemons, D. Jefferson, S. Jefferson, J. Johnson, K. Johnson, Peavey, Roberts, and Webb being present.

Mayor Holt welcomed everyone.

Minutes of July 25, 2022, Regular Council meeting were presented. Mayor Holt entertained a motion for approval.

**Motion:** J. Johnson

**Second:** Roberts

No discussion.

**Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Holt welcomed all the visitors at tonight's meeting and thanked them for attending. He then called on Oscar Neal to come and speak to council.

Mr. Neal of 101 S. Walden Avenue, came and spoke to council regarding the grass being cut behind his residence, the former B.B. Rogers warehouse lot next to Flossie's restaurant. Mayor Holt thanked him for bringing this to our attention and we would look into the issue.

Mayor Holt called on Eric Lewis to come speak to council.

Mr. Lewis of 162 Van Demon Ct., came and spoke regarding the Blue and Gray Park. His concern is with the fencing of the area. The fencing does not allow for any loading/unloading area for events. Mr. Lewis mentioned he had spoken with DLS Director Keith Morris about the policy at the park. Mayor Holt thanked him for bringing this to our attention.

Reports of city officers were given.

Mayor Holt mentioned highlights from the administrative report.

Revenues appear to be high due to the ARPA funds being received. This is the second draw of ARPA funding.

Police were busy assisting with several school locations with the traffic as school returned to session. DOT didn't finalize the school zone so extra help was needed with traffic control.

In the administrative area we have a new tax software system that will go live with the new tax year. This software is with the same vendor as the county and should make this a smoother tax process. We are looking into a new cemetery software. Also, come January 1, 2023, a new finance software will go live. Things are buzzing in the administrative offices.

DLS had a good swim season. Fall sports will begin soon. The lights for Lions Park will be installed in October.

The police department is down 5 officers. The police department is also working to prepare for state certification.

Public Works has a new tractor, thanks to SPLOST, for right of way mowing. Last week, we lost a garbage truck but a new one is on the way thanks to SPLOST funding. Please be patient with garbage pick up until we can get our new truck in and in service.

The fire department is currently one position down. They have been busy lately with several structure fires.

MEP construction was delayed 1 week due to the rain.

Tourism is busy with activities. Paulk Park has been full at the camp site.

This past week the airport saw one of the biggest jets come in for one of our industries.

Councilman Dennis Jefferson presented an alcohol license for the Royal Nail Spa located at 262 Ocilla Hwy, Ste B. by Kaden Tran. This application has been through the proper channels of the sheriff and police departments, zoning and administration.

**Motion** to accept this application: D. Jefferson

**Second:** Peavey.

With no discussion: **Roll Call Vote: 9 YES, 0 NO. All in favor, motion approved.**

City Attorney, Kyle Cook, presented the following Ordinances and Resolutions:

**Ordinance 22-1577:** An Ordinance to amend the City of Fitzgerald zoning district map with respect to 2.00 acres, more or less, located in land lot 92 in the third land district of Ben Hill County, Georgia, more specifically located at the intersection of the North margin of the right of way of GA Hwy 107 and the West margin of the right of way of Franklin Avenue, in the City of Fitzgerald, Ben Hill County, Georgia; to rezone said property from R-15 (City) to G-B (City).

**Dispense** with full reading: Roberts

**Second:** Brown

**Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Holt called for approval of the ordinance.

**Approval** of Ordinance 22-1577 Webb

**Second:** Roberts

**Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

**Ordinance Caption:** An Ordinance levying a tax to meet the ordinary current and extraordinary expenses of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, for the year 2022 and other purposes.

**Ordinance Caption:** An Ordinance to amend the city of Fitzgerald zoning district map with respect to lots numbers 3 & 4 in square number 9, in block number 3 of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, formerly Irwin, now Ben Hill County, as shown by the plat of said city made by or for the American Tribune Soldiers Colony company of file in the office of the Clerk of The Superior court of Irwin County, Georgia, located at 605 N. Main Street, Fitzgerald, Georgia, 31750, in the city of Fitzgerald, Georgia, Ben Hill County, Georgia; to rezone said property from P (city) to G-B (city).

**Ordinance Caption:** An Ordinance to close to vehicular traffic that portion of the public alley between city lots 12 and 13 in square 1, block 12, in the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia.

**Ordinance Caption:** An Ordinance to close to vehicular traffic that portion of the public alley between city lots 4 and 5 in square 9, block 9 in the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia.

Mayor Holt noted that the alley closures are petitions made by the property owners.

Under New Business:

Marie's D & S Appetizers applied for a RLF loan for up to \$37,500.00. This is located in the 900 block of S Sheridan. Mayor Holt noted that this has been approved by the RLF committee and the DCA. Councilman Jimmy Johnson inquired about the available monies in the account. There is roughly \$238,000 in the RLF account.

With there being no further discussion, a **motion** was made to approve this request by Roberts and **seconded** by Brown. **Roll Call Vote: 9 YES, 0 NO. All in favor, motion approved.**

SixTwo Electronic Repair, LLC applied for a RLF loan for up to \$8,000.00. This is location at 610 N Grant Street.

**Motion** to accept: Webb

**Second:** J. Johnson

With no discussion: **Roll Call Vote: 9 YES, 0 NO. All in favor, motion approved.**

Councilman Albert Webb inquired about the tickets being given on Monitor Drive. Per Chief Smallwood we are still enforcing and gave an average of between 25 and 30 tickets. Mayor Holt called on Kathryn Hart to work to get citation numbers to council.

Councilman Kevin Johnson referenced back to Mr. Lewis and his concerns regarding the fencing at the Blue and Gray Park. Councilman K. Johnson wants to work on some type of solution for events at the park. Mayor Holt replied that there is a fine line in protecting the parks. Mayor Holt referred Councilman K. Johnson and Mr. Lewis to the DLS Board. The board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 12 noon. This is a public meeting.

Councilman Earl Brown reflected on Mr. Neal's concern as he had brought this to Mr. Brown's attention. City does own this property and we will get something done.

Councilman Webb mentioned the alley ways between Church Street and Walden Avenue and Walden Avenue and the Warehouse and all the way to Ben Mills Trailer Park. Bushes are growing over the alley. There is an attachment ordered to help with the alley clean up that will be here in early September.

Council Woman Leslie Clemons inquired on the splash pad and the chicken.

City Administrator Kathy Young said the area is completely marked off. We are just waiting on our helper to be able to work with us. The location is in front of the Tourism Office in the median.

Chicken update: Mayor Holt said he did not have a good answer. There is a committee to be formed of 2 council members, Kathy Young, Brandy Elrod and community members and some external people to help us figure out what can be done. There are no monies to be spent on it so we are letting it "roost" for the time being. We want the community's input on this project. What some may not know is that SPLOST is vital to our survival. We don't want the SPLOST money already spent on the chicken to cost us any future SPLOST dollars. If we don't keep the SPLOST dollars you can go ahead and double the millage rate. Mayor Holt stated he is not trying to string anyone along but he just does not have a good answer.

Mayor Holt mentioned October 15 is our follow up retreat. We don't believe this will take all day.

Renovation's on the council chambers will begin after this meeting. We will keep everyone posted on the progress of the council chambers.

In closing, Mayor Holt requested to remember all city employees who are limited with resources. Public Safety needs our thoughts and prayers. The Fire Department had an insurance adjuster let them know that this is only 1 of 2 warehouse fires that was not completely destroyed. The Police department is down 5 members. Two of the members have recently lost parents and one has a sick child.

Barry Peavey thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers during his sickness. We are glad Barry is back and feeling much better.

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



ATTEST:

*Cristina Young*

**CITY CLERK**

APPROVED:

*Jane Stees*

**MAYOR**