

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**Mayor and Council**  
**City of Fitzgerald, Georgia**  
**July 12, 2021**  
**6:00 pm**

A Public Hearing took place at the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 302 East Central Avenue, on Monday, July 12, 2021.

A **Public Hearing** was held to give consideration to application number 0131 by Double H Properties, LLC, for an amendment of the Zoning Ordinance for the City of Fitzgerald. It is desired and requested that the following property be rezoned from R-9 City to MHP City at the location of 172 Wilson Avenue.

Speaking in regards to the rezoning was Jennifer Brinson of 173 Wilson Avenue, Fitzgerald, Ga. Ms. Brinson stated she lives directly across the street and asked it not be rezoned. There are already apartments across the way. Also, the road is extremely small.

Also speaking was Josh Larkey of 1305 Golf Club Road, Douglas, Ga. He is partners with Jay Paulk and this is their business venture. He thanked council for their consideration and noted the amount of information given to them. First, this project meets a real need in the community as there is no place to rent. Secondly, the survey of the landlords noted all but 2 units available but they were for elderly or disabled. He further stated that at one time this lot was zoned as a multi house property. Also, that there are other mobile home parks in the area. He added that the quality restrictions are reasonable and are strict. This property and mobile homes will be owned by them and only rent the units. They will be responsible for the upkeep as noted in the ordinance.

Gene Jowers of 173 Wilson Avenue, Fitzgerald, Ga, also spoke. He noted that there are already apartments across the road, a trailer park at the intersection and speeding on the roads. The trailer park is not ideal for the area and not knowing who is in the units is troublesome. His main concern is the safety of his children.

With no further discussion, the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Pro Tem and Council of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, met in a **Regular** meeting immediately following the public hearing with Council members Brown, Griffin, J. Johnson, K. Johnson, and Webb being present.

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roll Call

Minutes of June 14, 2021, regular meeting was presented. Mayor Pro Tem Roberts asked for approval of these minutes.

**Motion:** J. Johnson

**Second:** Webb

With no discussion, called for **Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes. 0 No. All in favor motion approved.**

Melissa Dark, Chamber of Commerce Director, spoke to us about the community wide job fair that will be held on Tuesday, July 13, from 4:00 – 7:00, at the FHSCCA Mike Ellis Gymnasium. There will be over 30 businesses participating with over 500 jobs available. There will be resume

and skills training available. Please drop by and see what is going on and see the thriving businesses we have in our area.

Mrs. Dark also spoke regarding the redistricting in Georgia this fall and part of a concern is losing Tyler Harper, who is to run for Agriculture Commissioner. We don't want to be overlooked for representation.

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts thanked Mrs. Dark for her hard work and all the Chamber does for the businesses and community.

Attention was called to the administrative report. Please note the calendar items.

Reports of standing committees was given.

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

Ordinance 21-1565: An Ordinance to amend the City of Fitzgerald zoning district map with respect to 4.3 acres, more or less, in five-acre tract 927 in land lot number 150, in the third land district of Ben Hill County, Georgia, located at 172 Wilson Avenue, Fitzgerald, Georgia, 31750, in the City of Fitzgerald, Ben Hill County, Georgia.

Dispense with full Reading:

**Motion:** Webb

**Second:** Griffin

With no discussion, **Roll Call Vote:** 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts asked for Approval of Ordinance 21-1565:

**Motion** to approve: Webb

**Second:** Griffin

With no discussion, **Roll Call Vote:** 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

Ordinance 21-1566: An Ordinance to authorize and agreement between the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, and the Board of Commissioners on Ben Hill County, Georgia, and the Ben Hill County, Georgia Board of Elections, to facilitate electronic voting at all elections to be conducted by the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, for the remainder of 2021 Election Cycle; to provide for the duties and responsibilities to be discharged by the respective parties to said agreement; to provide payment for services to be rendered and equipment to be used.

Dispense with full reading:

**Motion:** K. Johnson

**Second:** Brown

With no discussion, **Roll Call Vote:** 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts asked for Approval of Ordinance 21-1566:

**Motion** to approve: Webb

**Second:** Griffin

With no discussion, **Roll Call Vote:** 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

A representative for the USDA grant application was here to present the terms and conditions for the grant with terms that the city would contribute \$55,000 to the grant amount of \$65,000.

Resolution R21-009: A Resolution of the mayor and council of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, authorizing the execution and delivery of all documents and instruments related to the application for and pursuit of a rural business development grant for the repair or replacement

of the pumping system at the underpass at Longstreet street and agreeing to responsibilities required therewith.

Dispense with full reading:

**Motion:** K. Johnson

**Second:** Webb

With no discussion, **Roll Call Vote:** 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts asked for Approval of Resolution R21-009:

**Motion** to approve: Webb

**Second:** J. Johnson

With no discussion, **Roll Call Vote:** 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution R21-009: A Resolution for authorization of Mayor and Council to accept Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) contract for coronavirus response and relief supplemental appropriation act (CRRSAA) for costs associated with operational expenses at the Fitzgerald Municipal Airport.

With no discussion: **Roll Call Vote:** 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution R21-007: A Resolution to call a regular general election to fill the office of Alderman-First Ward, Alderman-Second Ward, Alderman- Third Ward, Alderman-Fourth Ward, Alderman-at-Large Eastern District, Alderman-at-Large Western District and Mayor of the City of Fitzgerald as well as Water, Light & Bond Commissioner-First Ward, Water, Light & Bond Commissioner-Second Ward, Water, Light & Bond Commissioner-Fourth Ward, Fitzgerald, Georgia.

Dispense with full reading:

**Motion:** Webb

**Second:** Griffin

With no discussion, **Roll Call Vote:** 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts asked for Approval of Resolution R21-007:

**Motion** to approve: Webb

**Second:** J. Johnson

With no discussion, **Roll Call Vote:** 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution R21-008: Authorization to accept funds from U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of public Affairs, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds established by The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Dispense with full reading:

**Motion:** Griffin

**Second:** Brown

With no discussion, **Roll Call Vote:** 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Roberts asked for Approval of Resolution R21-008:

**Motion** to approve: Griffin

**Second:** Webb

With no discussion, **Roll Call Vote:** 5 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

Under new business: Mayor Puckett asked for the reappointment for Jack Paulk to the Downtown Development Authority.

**Motion** to approve: Griffin

**Second:** Roberts

With no discussion: **Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Puckett thanked the department heads for all their good work for the city.

Mayor Puckett also noted that Monday, June 21, 2021, will be the first meeting of the Ministerial Roundtable. We are still sending invitations. This will meet once per quarter to help open lines of communication in the community. Mayor Puckett invited the council to attend and requested they let him know if they do as the meal will be catered.

Kevin Johnson mentioned the Men of Vision Juneteenth festival to be held Saturday with music and activities. Then Sunday, Praise in the Park at the Blue and Gray Park. Please come and join.

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



ATTEST:

*Cristina Evans*

**CITY CLERK**

APPROVED:

*J. Puckett*

**MAYOR**