

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Mayor and Council
City of Fitzgerald, Georgia
May 10, 2021
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 Puckett presiding and with Council members Brown, Griffin, D. Jefferson, S. Jefferson, J. Johnson, K. Johnson, Peavey, Roberts, and Webb being present.

Mayor Puckett welcomed everyone.

Roll Call

Christine Graham of Family Connections gave a yearly report. She updated everyone on the collaborations that are local and regional. Mrs. Graham did note that we have been awarded a 5 year grant worth \$10,000.00 per year for Community partnership to support youth cohort. She mentioned that we are now in charge of the Salvation Army local service unit, to which over 52 applications were filed this past year for assistance. Mrs. Graham provided hand outs for the council to review. Mayor Puckett encouraged everyone to review the handouts and see what a vital role Family Connections play in our city and county.

Melissa Dark of the Chamber of Commerce gave an update on activities. First, the Fit in Fitzgerald was a proactive campaign for health and wellness which was sponsored by DMC. Last week held a very competitive cornhole tournament. Mrs. Dark is now certified in a program called Drugs don't Work. This program, which will be available for business that are chamber members, can help offer a 7.5% discount off of workers comp insurance. She will be working with different businesses to help get them certified for this program and also employee training as well. With the growing labor prices, Georgia economic projects are still growing. In the short term, be patient and understanding. The COC will be offering job fairs and also working toward a central job board to list available positions that are open for job seekers. Mayor Puckett noted appreciation for all the Chambers hard work in our community.

JROTC, Chief Hope, and FHSCCA Band Director, Jonathan Thurston, came to share a great opportunity that they have been invited to participate in. this invitation is for participation in the 80th Pearl Harbor Parade in Hawaii next November. The cost is \$150,000.00. In six weeks of fund raising, they have collected \$25,000.00. This experience will carry the JROTC and band for 5 days, 4 nights to visit Hawaii, the historic Arizona and Missouri and experience some authentic Hawaiian traditions. Mayor Puckett presented a check to help in this endeavor of \$500.00 and wished them the best of luck.

Councilperson, Barry Peavey, gave a track team update. Last week held the district track meet in East Laurens where we sent 63 runners in 15 events. Of these participants, 20 advanced to the State meet which will be held in McEachern in Atlanta next week for 3 day. This comes with considerable cost and the community is being a great support. We have several chances to bring home state titles. Mayor Puckett presented Barry Peavey a check for \$500.00 to assist with this upcoming event for the student participants.

Mayor Puckett called attention to the administrative report. We had our first, first Friday event featuring Hans Oellerich and was a great success. We also had a great rodeo this past weekend. Mayor Puckett thanked Hal Wiley, Todd Damato and our staff who assisted for making this a great weekend event. Also, congratulation to Chief Smallwood for receiving the public service award Saturday night.

Reports of standing committees was given.

City Attorney, Kyle Cook, presented the following Ordinances:

Ordinance 21-1563: An Ordinance to amend Chapter 18, "offenses and miscellaneous provisions" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, specifically Article III, "miscellaneous" regarding the regulation of the sale of tobacco to underage persons.

Motion to dispense with full reading: Roberts

Second: Peavey

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

Mayor Puckett called for approval of 21-1563:

Motion to approve: J Johnson

Second: Roberts

With discussion to reflect the age from 18 to 21 to which Mr. Cook will update.

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

Ordinance 21-1564: An Ordinance to close to vehicular traffic that portion of the public alley between city lots 4 and 5 in square 1, block 12, in the city of Fitzgerald, Georgia.

Motion to dispense with full reading: Roberts

Second: Webb

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

Mayor Puckett called for approval of 21-1564:

Motion to approve: Webb

Second: Roberts

Under old business: Mayor Puckett spoke regarding the tabled Resolution for the required mask or face coverings in property owned or leased by the City of Fitzgerald. Mayor Puckett noted that the mask resolution was put in place to protect the employees. We have taken steps to put up protective barriers and majority of employees are now vaccinated. Mayor Puckett requested a motion be made to remove from the table.

Motion to remove the Mask Resolution from the table: Roberts

Second: Peavey

With no discussion: **Roll Call Vote: 6 Yes. 3 No. Motion Carried.** Voting No are J. Johnson, K. Johnson and Webb.

Resolution R21-003: A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, repealing Resolution R20-016 which required the use of masks or face coverings in the property owned by or leased by the City of Fitzgerald during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Motion to dispense with full reading: Roberts

Second: Peavey

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

Mayor Puckett call for approval of R21-003.

Motion: Roberts

Second: Peavey

With no discussion: **Roll Call Vote: 6 Yes, 3 No. Motion carried.** Voting No: J. Johnson, K. Johnson and Webb.

Under new business: we need to confirm the project engineer, Watkins and Associates, for the 2021 CDBG EIP for Polar Beverage.

Motion to approve: Griffin

Second: Roberts

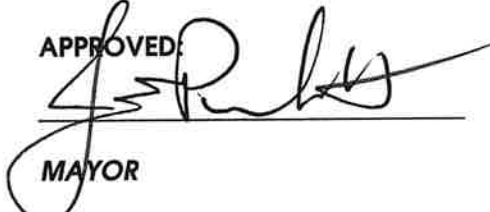
With no discussion: **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Puckett reminded council to please give their recommendations to Cristina Evans regarding the ministerial roundtable so we can get the invitations sent.

Mayor Puckett also noted that the Herald-Leader will be having a City Announcement section in the paper. These announcements will be twice per month per Mr. Tim Anderson beginning May 12. Be on the look out for the latest news from the City.

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



APPROVED:

MAYOR