

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Mayor and Council
City of Fitzgerald, Georgia
May 8, 2023
6:00 pm**

A Public Hearing was held prior to the regular meeting to grant a special exception with respect to the property at 311 N. Merrimac Drive, Fitzgerald, GA, 31750. With no one to speak on the matter 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, D, Jefferson, S. Jefferson, J. Johnson, K, Johnson, Roberts, and Webb being present.

Mayor Holt welcomed everyone in attendance. Mayor Holt mentioned the year is going quickly as soon school will be out.

Minutes of April 10, 2023, Regular Council meeting were presented. Mayor Holt entertained a motion for approval.

Motion: Webb

Second: J. Johnson

No discussion.

Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

Presentations were made to Rebecca Oellerich for her completion in the GMA human resources administration certificate program and Shalanda Ferguson in her completion in the GMA Municipal revenue administration certificate.

Wes Ehlers with TruVista came and spoke about his company and the work they are trying to do in Fitzgerald with a broadband element to provide affordable connectivity to the web. This would be a fiber network system. They are currently in the planning stages with Fitzgerald Utilities working on permits. They anticipate being available first quarter of 2024. This would be for city residents and some of the close unincorporated areas.

Reports of city officers were given.

In the administrative report, Mayor Holt noted the palm trees at Jessamine and Main are now gone. Grand Homecoming and Juneteenth are coming up soon. We hosted the GMA district 11 meeting with Tommy Roberts leading this and had the largest group in attendance so far. Memorial Day will be May 29. We are in our summer slump with revenue. Our next big revenue source will be the insurance premium then taxes will be coming in. The LOST is above budget. We have invested some of our reserves in CD's to get a better rate of return. We received another grant for the humane society. The DLS is winding up spring sports, will host some district play and the pool is ready for the swim team. The police department is one short, one in school and one needed for animal control. Public works has the new K truck here and in operation. Parks are underway. The airport has had good weather for flying. The fire department passed their annual inspection. Community Development received a CHIP grant for \$400,000 to help in the area of N Sherman to N Monitor and E Ohoopee to E Oconee square. We had a busy Georgia Cities week.

Arts camp is coming up. We were in the Braves magazine with an advertisement. Mayor Holt also introduced our new city chaplain Gary Mimbs. He is the pastor at the church of the Nazarene. He also does lunch n learn here on Thursdays at lunch.

Committee reports were given.

Councilman Dennis Jefferson presented an alcohol license for Fitzgerald Fuel Stop, LLC, located at 227 E Central Avenue. This license has been through the proper channels for approval.

Motion to approve the alcohol license: D Jefferson

Second: Webb

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

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

Resolution R23-004: A **Resolution** to authorize the City of Fitzgerald to enter a contractual agreement with the Georgia Department of Human Services to provide afterschool care services through the monitor enrichment program.

Dispense with full reading: Roberts

Second: Brown

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

Mayor Holt asked if there was any discussion and with none:

Motion to approve: Roberts

Second: J. Johnson

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

Resolution R23-005: A **Resolution** to recognize municipal court clerk's week.

Mayor Holt asked if there was any discussion and with none:

Motion to approve: J. Johnson

Second: D. Jefferson

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

Ordinance 23-1591 An Ordinance to grant a special exception with respect to the property at 311 N. Merrimac Drive, Fitzgerald, GA 31750.

Motion to dispense with full reading: Roberts.

Second: Webb

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

Mayor Holt asked if there was any discussion. Councilman Jimmy Johnson asked what kind of museum this would be and it is to be a Black history museum. Roberts inquired if it passed planning and zoning and it did. J. Johnson asked if a neighborhood was really close and it is. He also named 3 museums we already have. Further discussion went into the building is zoned for business. The business owner wanted to put in some artifacts she had and since this is neighborhood commercial she had to ask for a special exception.

With no further business, Mayor Holt called for a vote: **6 Yes 1 No. Motion approved. J. Johnson voting no.**

Under new business:

Mayor Holt asked for approval to execute a contract on the Airfield Electrical rehabilitation for the airport project.

Motion to accept: Webb

Second: Brown

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

The GMA Annual Convention is in June and Mayor Holt requested to be the voting delegate.

Motion to accept: J. Johnson

Second: Roberts

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

Discussion regarding carrying the City Flag in the opening ceremony and Dennis Jefferson volunteered to do this.

Mayor Holt opened the floor for any discussion. J. Johnson mentioned the neighborhood garden. Tim Gray, who oversees the garden, reported there are some disrupting the garden area and wondered if we could put up cameras to see who is doing this. Brandy Elrod will look into this and get back with Tim Gray.

J. Johnson also inquired on the SPLASH Pad. The splash pad will be a Boggus Park and is already staked out and prepped to begin. We are waiting some expert guidance and also trying to see if we are able to receive a grant that would be helpful in this area.

J. Johnson also inquired about the chicken. The committee is to meet with the government building committee for the city. The building committee will then bring to council to make a final decision. We will first have to relax the moratorium and then come up with a plan and cost for the decision.

Earl Brown wanted to thank Chief Smallwood for always being accessible. He thanked David Walker and Lamar Bradford for their work as well.

K. Johnson inquired on the CHIP Grant. See Whitney Justice in community development for more details. This is round of money for the specified area square for owner occupied homes.

S. Jefferson mentioned she watched all the Facebook events and there are lots of good things in the City.

There is a Rodeo Friday and Saturday at Hal Wiley's Farm.

Memorial Day is May 29.

Happy Mother's Day.

We will have one more meeting prior to the GMA convention.

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



Cristina Lamm

CITY CLERK

APPROVED: *Jose R. [Signature]*

MAYOR