

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Mayor and Council  
City of Fitzgerald, Georgia  
July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
6:00 pm**

Mayor and Council of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, met in a **regular** meeting in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor 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 called the meeting to order.

Mayor Puckett called for the invocation provided by Councilman Albert Webb.

**Minutes of June 22, 2020**, tele-conference Council meeting were presented. Mayor Puckett entertained a motion for approval.

Motion for approval: Griffin

Second: Roberts

Mayor Puckett asked if there were any additions or corrections. With none being heard, called for a **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Puckett called attention to the Administrative Report that was provided to all council members.

Reports of standing committees were given by the chairperson.

Mayor Puckett called on City Attorney, Kyle Cook.

Mr. Cook presented **Resolution R20-012**, a resolution approving an amendment to the intergovernmental agreement executed between the Fitzgerald Water, Light and Bond Commission and the cities of Adel, Barnesville, Fitzgerald, Forsyth, Jackson, Monticello and Sylvania, Georgia, for the providing of Electric services to Blockstream USA Corporation.

Motion to dispense with full reading: Roberts

Second: Webb

Mayor Puckett asked if there were any comments. With none being heard, called for a **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Puckett called for approval of Resolution **R20-012**.

Motion to Approve: Webb

Second: J. Johnson

Mayor Puckett asked if there were any comments. With none being heard, called for a **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mr. Cook presented Resolution **R20-013**, a resolution to update an Urban Redevelopment Plan for one or more slum, blighted or underdeveloped areas within the City of Fitzgerald.

Motion to dispense with full reading: Roberts

Second: Brown

Mayor Puckett asked if there were any comments. With none being heard, called for a **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Puckett called for approval of Resolution **R20-013**,

Motion to Approve: M. Griffin

Second: Roberts

Mayor Puckett asked if there were any comments. With none being heard, called for a **Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Under Old Business, a motion to remove **Resolution R20-011** from table was made by Councilman Dennis Jefferson.

Second: Webb

Mayor Puckett asked if there were any comments. With none being heard, called for a **Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 1 No. Councilman Barry Peavey voting no. Majority in favor, motion approved.**

Attorney Kyle Cook presented **Resolution R20-011**, a Resolution to authorize the sale of property known as the Jessamine Street Gym, located in Lots 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 in square 16 in block 9 and all of city lots 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 in square 13, block 10 in the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia.

Motion to dispense with full reading: Roberts

Seconded: Webb

Mayor Puckett asked if there were any comments. With none being heard, called for a **Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes, 2 No. Councilman Barry Peavey and Councilman Jimmy Johnson voting no. Majority in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Puckett called for approval of **Resolution R20-011**

Motion: D. Jefferson

Second: Webb

Mayor Puckett asked if there were any comments or discussion.

Councilman Jimmy Johnson stated that an email had been received with plan of \$9,000 being paid by The Melanie Group and three (3) annual installments of \$22,000. Johnson advised he thought the down-payment was for \$15,000. Mayor Puckett noted that he did not recall any mention of a \$15,000 down payment. Johnson added that the City RLF had loaned funds to the movie industry twice and have not been paid back. Mayor Puckett stated that we are not loaning any money: we are receiving money, selling a piece of property and building that is not longer of any use to the city.

Councilman Jimmy Johnson shared his concern that Brandon Roberts was involved in the two loans to the movie industry that are currently unpaid and delinquent and Mr. Roberts was also a partner in The Melanie Group. Mayor Puckett stressed again that we were not loaning any money to The Melanie Group, but receiving a down-payment of \$9,000 and \$22,000 annual payments for three (3) years on a building and property that would cost the city thousands of dollars to demolish and clear. Mayor Puckett added that we are working diligently to recoup the money from the delinquent RLF loans and assured everyone that The Melanie Group would stand good on this sale of property. Puckett further stated that The Melanie Group was coordinating with the City Attorney to assist in obtaining the money due from Danny Roth. Councilman Johnson stated that they had heard promises before and haven't seen a dime.

Councilman Barry Peavey stated that the resolution at hand authorizes the Mayor to negotiate documents, etc. Peavey questioned the deed to secure debt and if the city would be the first lien holder on the loan. Mayor Puckett advised we would be the first lien holder and directed to more information from Deputy Administrator Cam Jordan. Jordan stated he felt we would need to be flexible. Peavey asked if the city would be first lien holder and stay first lien holder or not. Mayor Puckett advised the city would be first lien holder.

Councilman Albert Webb asked if The Melanie Group had made efforts to help structure a plan to obtain funds from Danny Roth on the RLF loans. Mayor Puckett advised that they met with our City Attorney today and discussed; a plan is being structured to recoup the money.

Councilman Jimmy Johnson stated that it's not the responsibility of The Melanie Group to obtain our funds. Mayor Puckett stated he understood that but they have offered to help to prove their obligations to help and be in Fitzgerald. Puckett further stated I believe in TMG with absolutely no risks to us.

Deputy Administrator Jordan stated that he spoke to a local business that was owed money from Brandon Roberts and they clearly stated that they had rather Roberts be in Fitzgerald working so they had an opportunity to collect their debt instead of him off in California or another location where they had no opportunity.

Councilman Peavey questioned about amending the resolution.

Councilman Jimmy Johnson stated he liked TMG's idea as they presented but there was a common denominator in the mix. Johnson stated we needed a work-session on this. Mayor Puckett stated we held a work-session last week at the gym with The Melanie Group to learn all the details and ask any questions.

Councilman Tommy Roberts stated that he just recently denied an alcohol license application because the applicant was delinquent in their utility bill, but we are asked to approve a resolution where an individual in the group owes utilities and other debt to businesses around town.

Councilman Albert Webb asked if we could amend the resolution. City Attorney Kyle Cook stated the resolution could be amended and voted on at this meeting.

A motion was made by Albert Webb to approve Resolution R20-011, with amendment that for any changes with lien, deeds or other documents would need to come before Mayor and City Council for approval, seconded by Dennis Jefferson.

Mayor Puckett asked if there were any comments. With none being heard, called for a **Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes, 4 No. Councilman Barry Peavey, Councilman Tommy Roberts, Councilman Michael Griffin and Councilman Jimmy Johnson voting no. Majority in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Puckett thanked everyone for their attendance.

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



*Cristina Evans*

**CITY CLERK**

**APPROVED:**

*J. Puckett*

**MAYOR**