

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Mayor and Council

City of Fitzgerald, Georgia

July 24, 2023

6:00 pm

A Public Hearing was held prior to the regular meeting to consider an application to close an alley way by Todd Taylor. This property is located at 113 Appomattox Road. With there being no discussion, the public hearing was closed.

A Public Hearing was held prior to the regular meeting to consider an application #0147 by the Fitzgerald Ben Hill Development Authority, for an amendment of the zoning ordinances for the City of Fitzgerald. The property is located at 192 Jacksonville Highway and asked to rezone from H-I City to G-B City. With there being no discussion, 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 in attendance. Mayor Holt mentioned we had a good conference in Savannah and now the summer is gone and school is about to start.

Minutes of June 12, 2023, Regular Council meeting were presented. Mayor Holt entertained a motion for approval.

Motion: Webb

Second: Roberts

No discussion.

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

A petition was submitted by Tammy L. Jones at 154 Royal Court. This petition was signed by 21 neighbors in opposition to an RV being used as a permanent dwelling. This is against zoning rules. This RV/Camper will have action taken upon it on Tuesday, July 24, 2023, and all other RV/Campers being used as a dwelling in unauthorized areas will be treated the same.

Reports of city officers were given.

Mayor Holt asked that everyone take time to review the administrative report. Mayor Holt mentioned some highlights of the report:

- o MEP had its grand opening and served 90 students this summer
- o Juneteenth had a good representation
- o Many council members received their GMA training certificates
- o July 4 was a big event
- o We received a grant for cameras and a shot spotter
- o 8U and 10U made it to the state playoffs
- o The Fitzgerald Fins had a good showing at their state swim meet
- o We had one new officer complete the training academy
- o The Public works Building is now up and in operation

- o We have submitted our T-SPLOST list
- o There is still a vacancy in the fire department
- o TAP Grant is still going
- o There are new signs at Evergreen
- o Camps with Tourism this summer were well attended

Council Person Peavey mentioned that he received a call regarding public works and what a great job they did for a limb pick up and cleaning up the area.

He also thanked Kathy Young and Cristina Evans for their help in all the obstacles at the GMA Conference. Mayor Holt mentioned that GMA was aware of the issues and that Savannah is the only place that can hold this many people for them. Transportation did work better this year. If there were any other issues anyone experienced, please let Mayor Holt know so we can let GMA know.

Committee reports were given.

Councilman Dennis Jefferson presented an alcohol license for El Nopal located at 109 Ocilla Highway. This license is for beer and wine on premises for the restaurant. This license has been through the proper channels for approval.

Motion to approve the alcohol license: D Jefferson

Second: Roberts

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 23-1592: An *Ordinance* to amend the City of Fitzgerald zoning district map with respect to 2.00 acres, more or less, located in land lot 280 in the fourth land district of Ben Hill County, Georgia, more specifically located at the intersection of the North margin of the right of way of U.S. Highway 319 and the East margin of the right of way of Rhine Road, in the City of Fitzgerald, Ben Hill County, Georgia: to rezone said property from H-I (city) to G-B (City).

Dispense with full reading: Roberts

Second: J. Johnson

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

Motion to approve 23-1592: Webb

Second: Roberts

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

Ordinance 23-1593: An *Ordinance* to close permanently for all purposes a portion of the public right of way located East of Lots one (1), two (2), three (3), Four (4), Five (5) and six (6) and West of lots seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11), and twelve (12) all in block D of Main Street extension subdivision in the City of Fitzgerald, Ben Hill County, Georgia; to sell and convey the right of way of said right of way to the adjoining landowner, subject to the reservation of an easement with respect to the maintenance, repair and replacement of all utilities located over, upon or under said portion of said right of way.

Dispense with full reading: Roberts

Second: Webb

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

Motion to approve 23-1593: Webb

Second: Brown

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

Ordinance Caption: An *Ordinance* to close to vehicular traffic that portion of the public alley between City lots 12 and 13 in Square 6, Block 2, in the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia; to sell and convey the right of way of said alley to the adjoining landowners(s), subject to the reservation of an easement with respect to the maintenance, repair and replacement of all utilities located over, upon or under said portion of said alley.

Ordinance Caption: An *Ordinance* to amend Article II, "Miscellaneous Provisions" of Chapter 18, "Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, specifically section 18-93 "sale of tobacco to minors" thereof.

Ordinance Caption: An *Ordinance* to amend Chapter 4, "Alcoholic Beverages" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, specifically section 4-54.1 "Penalties for sale to minors" thereof.

Ordinance Caption: An *Ordinance* to amend Article IV: liquor by the drink" of Chapter 4, "alcoholic beverages" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, specifically section 4-202, "Violations; Penalty" thereof.

Ordinance Caption: An *Ordinance* to amend Chapter 12, "Garbage, Trash and Weeds" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, specifically section 12-16, "disposal of yard trimmings" thereof.

Resolution R23-007: A *Resolution* pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 authorizing the adoption of the Ben Hill County-City of Fitzgerald pre-disaster hazard mitigation plan.

Dispense with full reading: Roberts

Second: Webb

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

Motion to approve R23-007: Webb

Second: Roberts

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

Resolution R23-008: A *Resolution* to authorize an agreement between the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, and the Board of Commissioners of Ben Hill County, Georgia, and the Ben Hill County Board of Elections, to facilitate electronic voting at all elections to be conducted by the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, for the remainder of the 2023 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: Roberts

Second: Clemons

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

Motion to approve R23-008: J. Johnson

Second: Brown

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

Resolution R23-009: A *Resolution* to call a Regular General Election to fill the Office of Alderman-at-large Eastern and Western District, Alderman-at-large Eastern and Western District, and

Alderman-at-large Eastern and Western District, as well as Water, light & Bond Commissioner-Third Ward and Water, Light & Bond Commissioner-At- Large Eastern and Western Districts all for the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia.

Motion to dispense with full reading: Roberts

Second: Clemons

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

Motion to approve R23-009: J Johnson

Second: Brown

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

Under new business:

Mayor Holt asked for approval for the airport supplemental agreement. This is to extend the contract with GDOT for drainage on runway 02.

Motion to accept: Peavey

Second: J. Johnson

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

Mayor Holt asked for approval to re-appoint Mary Helen Brown to a one-year housing authority board member.

Motion: J. Johnson

Second: Peavey

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

Under new business:

Council Person Kevin Johnson inquired if there would be anymore grants that may be available for the Monitor Center. Yes, there will be other opportunities. We did apply for the monies from the Governor's office but the County also applied and they were awarded the funds. Their funds will go to build where the old Kimball building was.

Council Person Sheila Jefferson inquired about the housing grant. Director, Whitney Justice said that there is training to be done first regarding the funds then applicants can apply. We will keep you posted on this progress.

Mayor Holt noted the Grand Homecoming schedule of events and invitation extension for the upcoming week.


Council Person Sheila Jefferson thanked City Administrator, Kathy Young, for all her help with any complaint.

Mayor Holt asked that we hold a moment of silence for the passing of Horace Hudgins, Mayor of Ocilla.

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



CITY CLERK

APPROVED:


MAYOR