

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Mayor and Council
City of Fitzgerald, Georgia
June 12, 2023
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 Holt presiding and with Council members Clemons, D, Jefferson, S. Jefferson, J. Johnson, K, Johnson, Peavey, Roberts, and Webb being present.

Mayor Holt welcomed everyone in attendance.

Minutes of May 8, 2023, Regular Council meeting were presented. Mayor Holt entertained a motion for approval.

Motion: Webb

Second: Roberts

No discussion.

Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.

Mayor Holt called on Debra with the USDA to come and speak to council. Ms. Debra came and spoke to the council regarding the grant for the firetruck. A vote for this approval will be handled under new business.

Mayor Holt called on Crystal Neal. Ms. Neal spoke to us about the MEP Program and the great success they are experiencing in the growth of the children attending. She was also very thankful for the work on the addition for the MEP. She presented a pamphlet to all the council members with the information she presented.

There were 2 citizens that asked to speak. Mayor Holt called on Gina Camponale to come forward. Ms. Camponale expressed her concerns regarding the name addition of MLK to the Palm Street sign stating that this has caused problems with deliveries and people getting to her home.

Mayor Holt then called on Sherry Jasko and family to come forward. Mrs. Jasko came and had a great idea for the chicken that could include assistance from the Boy Scouts and be a recyclable option. They presented a prototype of an aluminum can that could be used for the wings of the chicken.

Reports of city officers were given.

Mayor Holt asked that everyone take time to review the administrative report. Mayor Holt mentioned we had a moving Memorial Day event. Juneteenth will be this coming weekend. GMA Convention is upcoming. July 4 events will be before we have our next meeting.

Committee reports were given.

Councilman Dennis Jefferson presented an alcohol license for Durga Enterprises, LLC, located at 816 E Central Ave. (the old Red Rooster) This license is for beer and wine off premises. This license has been through the proper channels for approval.

Motion to approve the alcohol license: D Jefferson

Second: Peavey

With no discussion: Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor. Motion approved.

Councilman Dennis Jefferson presented an alcohol license for Jay Ambe Krupa, LLC. located at 516 W Roanoke Drive. (the Sav a ton) This license is for beer and wine off premises. 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: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor. Motion approved

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

Ordinance Caption: 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).

Ordinance Caption: 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.

Resolution R23-006: A *Resolution* of the mayor and council of the City of Fitzgerald, Georgia, approving the fourth 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; authorizing the execution and delivery of the third amendment; and for other purposes.

Dispense with full reading: Roberts

Second: K Johnson

With no discussion: Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor. Motion approved

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

Motion to approve: Webb

Second: Roberts

With no discussion: Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor. Motion approved

Under new business:

Mayor Holt asked for approval to execute a lease with Sinclair Air for an 8000 square foot hanger.

Motion to accept: Peavey

Second: Roberts

With no discussion: Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor. Motion approved.

Mayor Holt asked for approval on the USDA grant for the firetruck.

Motion: Webb

Second: Roberts

With no discussion: **Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor. Motion approved**

Mayor Holt called on Barry Peavey of the general government buildings committee to give an update on the chicken. Councilman Peavey gave the handout to all council of the options for the chicken: demolition, \$40,000 approximate; topiary option with an upkeep of \$50,000 approximate and not guarantee would always look its best; create a skin of metal or fabric and could not find anyone willing to make a proposal or how to do financially or logistically; and the option that was decided upon next. There is an option to do moderate improvements and use lighting. There are 10 keys areas the committee recommended with estimated costs (see attached)

After a brief explanation, Barry Peavey made a motion to lift the moratorium placed on spending on the topiary in November 2021, approve the recommendation of the general government buildings committee and fund the stated improvements with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds currently held in the City Reserves, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00. **Second:** Webb Mayor Holt Called for discussion. Councilman Jimmy Johnson noted his appreciation for the work of the committee. He also asked would there be any revenue from the items that are taken out. City Administrator Kathy Young mentioned selling the items on govdeals and estimated a potential of up to \$5,000. News Editor, Tim Anderson, asked about the time line for the completion with the made recommendation and the projection is Christmas time. Councilman Tommy Roberts asked if there was a way to safeguard against something like this reoccurring and the response was the council holds the control. Not to rehash the past, but this was done within the framework of what they thought was correct. Councilman Jimmy Johnson asked if there was a way to get out to the public and the paper will have the information on Wednesday and there were also other media sources that have been in contact.

With no further discussion, **Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Holt mentioned that we found out the FWLB at their last meeting voted on giving their employees Juneteenth off as a Holiday and the County has done the same. Mayor Holt asked the council for their approval of the Juneteenth holiday as a paid holiday for the employees.

Motion to accept the holiday: J. Johnson

Second: Clemons

With no further discussion, **Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No. All in favor, motion approved.**

Mayor Holt asked if there was any other new business we needed to address. Councilwoman Sheila Jefferson asked to speak. Rotten trees on side of N. Lee Street. If these are in the 300 block we have addressed this issue. We would need a block or house number to further address.

Next, Ms. Jefferson asked about a shred day for documents like other cities offer. Administrator Kathy Young mentioned this is usually part of a grant that is received.

Next, Ms. Jefferson mentioned the alley at N Jackson and W Altamaha needs to be cleaned of trash. It is dirty around the area and this is located near the ambulance bay. We will look into this. Administrator Kathy Young asked that we remember one of our firefighters, Brandon McBryant, lost his father.

Mayor Holt reminded everyone that the July meeting will be held on July 24. We will be sending out information to remind everyone of the change in the regular schedule day for July's meeting. Councilman Kevin Johnson mentioned that the Juneteenth celebration, provided by Men of Vision, will begin Friday with activities on Saturday and Sunday a gospel celebration beginning at 2:30.

We will have the July 4 celebration at Paulk Park as normal and the schedule will be coming out soon for the activities. Mayor Holt asked the department heads if there was anything else to be mentioned.

Keith Morris, DLS director, mentioned that the 8 and under boys will be playing for state in Adel and the 10 and under boys will be playing state in Screven county.

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



Cristina Evans

CITY CLERK

APPROVED:
[Signature]
MAYOR