

**CITY OF FORT VALLEY GEORGIA  
MEETING MINUTES  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2018**

6:30 P.M.

Council members present: Mayor, Barbara Williams, Mayor Pro Tem, Lemario Brown, Alonzo Allen, Jimmy Barnes, Juanita Bryant, Carla Gowen,

Absent: Marvin Crafter

Others presents: City Attorney Hayden Hooks, Director of Public Safety Lawrence Spurgeon, Assistant Public Works Director, Antonio Lopez, other staff members, members of the public

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Barbara Williams at 6:30.

The invocation was given by Bishop Jamie Johnson.

Councilmember Gowen Motioned to Approve the Agenda, with the amendment of removing Item VIII #2 from the agenda. Councilmember Allen seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

A public hearing was held regarding the Rezoning of the Property at 601 Blue Bird Blvd from Industrial to C-2. No one spoke against the proposal. Developer Kevin Hanna presented his plans to the City for a hotel development with a movie theater, conference facilities and restaurant. The mayor noted that the planning and zoning commission had approved the rezoning request. After the public hearing concluded, Councilmember Allen motioned to rezone the property from I to C-2. Councilmember Gowen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Williams announced that Ben \_\_\_\_\_ had resigned his employment with the City and Mr. Lopez would serve as the interim director of public works. She also announced she had a meeting scheduled with Mr. Tom Berry the next day to discuss an interim city manager. Mayor Williams also made announcements about Peach County High School Homecoming and Ft. Valley State Homecoming festivities.

Mayor Williams recognized the employees of the month and gave proclamations in honor of National Recovery Month, Rolling Thunder and the Ride Home and National Literacy Month. Mayor also recognized the recent Citizen Academy graduates.

Councilmember Bryant motioned to approve Kelvin Black's alcohol license application for Eighteen 36 Restaurant & Lounge. Councilmember Gowen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Bryant motioned to approve the local chapter of Delta Sigma Theta's request to adopt Spruce Street Councilmember Allen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Williams abstained from any discussion and Mayor Pro Tem Brown presided over the vote.

Councilmember Bryant motioned to amend the budget to account for the City's Tax Anticipation Note and Grant Funds. Councilmember Barnes Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Barnes motioned to use funds from SPLOST 15 to purchase a crack sealer. Councilmember Gowen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Bryant motioned to use funds from SPLOST 15 to pay for parking lot repairs. Councilmember Gowen Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Brown motioned to adopt a mileage rate increase for the next tax year. Councilmember Allen Seconded the motion. There was discussion regarding the reasons for the mileage rate increase and the hope that the rate would go back down the next year when things had been resolved with the Utilities Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Brown motioned to purchase tasers for the police department. Councilmember Gowen Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Bryant motioned to waive vendor fees for homecoming and declare the event a street festival. Councilmember Allen Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Allen motioned to approve the resolution regarding the proper use of City Letterhead. Councilmember Gowen Seconded the motion. Councilmember Brown abstained from the vote. Councilmembers Allen, Gowen, Bryant, and Barnes voted in favor of the motion. The Motion carried.

Councilmember Gowen motioned to restore employee Scakajawea Wright to a forty hour work week. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Council discussed the need to take action regarding a grant application for Water & Sewer Improvements. Councilmember Barnes and Mayor Williams would need to abstain from this vote as they own property in the area of the proposed project. Councilmember Gowen motioned to approve the project. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. After discussion, Councilmembers Allen and Gowen voted in favor and Councilmembers Bryant and Brown voted against. Councilmember Bryant then voted to table the motion until further discussions could be had with the Utilities Commission regarding the funding of the project. Councilmember seconded the Motion. Councilmembers Gowen, Bryant, Brown and Allen voted in favor of the Motion to Table. Councilmembers Barnes and Mayor Williams abstained.

Councilmember Allen gave a report regarding economic development activities in the City.

Councilmember Barnes gave the Public Works Department report.

Councilmember Lemario Brown gave the Public Safety Department Report.

Councilmember Bryant motioned to adjourn the meeting, Councilmember Allen seconded the Motion. The Council then voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.