

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Fort Valley was held on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

Mayor Barbara B. Williams presided.

Council members in attendance: Duke Lane, Alonzo Allen, Jimmy Barnes, LeMario Brown, and Juanita Bryant. City Attorney, William Jerles, was not present. City Administrator, Karin D. Vinson, served as recorder.

**Invocation** given by Dr. Willie A. Johnson, Richland Missionary Baptist Church

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Councilwoman Juanita Bryant and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilmen Alonzo Allen to approve minutes of the February 16, 2017, meeting. Unanimously approved.

**Announcements by the Mayor:**

- Billy Jerles is not present because of a yearly conference he has to attend.
- The Austin Theater will show movies highlighting a known Peach County resident, Karen Kendrick, at 4 p.m. every Sunday starting in March.

**Employee of the Month:**

Allen Spillers- Public Works Department  
Janis Anthony- Administration Department  
Ieisha Towns and Bobby Johnson- Public Safety Department

**Persons wishing to address the Mayor and Council:**

- John Jackson, Bach Society of Atlanta
  - Bach Society was created in May 2014.
  - Mission is to celebrate classical music.

- Asked for support of the event that will take place in April in Fort Valley.
- Told his life story regarding why classical music is important to him.
- Mayor Williams stated that the Bach in the Park event will kick start our events in the park. It will take place April 30, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. Please bring your lawn chairs. It is a free event with no admission.

Mayor Williams announced that tailgating event with Hometown Events at Festival Park will take place this Friday to highlight Peach County High School and Fort Valley State University athletes. They will start at noon and end at 12 p.m.

- Councilwoman Juanita Bryant reminded Mayor Williams to announce that the Health Department has extended hours on Thursday (8 a.m.- 7 p.m.)
- Councilwoman Juanita Bryant also announced that Peach County has a high number of asthma patients in the district. As a result, there is a special program for people with Asthma. Please contact Carla Coley. As a part of the program, they will come out to your home to talk to you.

**New Business:**

1. Motion to submit application to apply for CDBG Block Grant on behalf of Utility Commission.
  - a. Motion by Duke Lane. 2<sup>nd</sup> by LeMario Brown. Those in Favor- Juanita Bryant, Alonzo Allen, and Duke Lane, Jr. Mayor Williams and Councilman Jimmy Barnes abstained from voting.
  - b. Duke Lane, Jr. stated it is for \$750,000.00. Mayor Williams stated that he is correct and the project came in at \$850,000.00 in which the Utility Commission will pay the difference.
2. Motion to Amend Cemetery Ordinance 26-7.
  - a. Motion by LeMario Brown. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Juanita Bryant. All in Favor.
    - i. Mayor Williams stated that copings will be accepted and enclosures means fences and hedges.



- ii. Councilman Duke Lane, Jr. asked if the ordinance included existing structures. It does not.
3. Motion to appoint Benjamin Carpenter from interim Public Works Director to full time Public Works Director.
  - a. Motion by Jimmy Barnes. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duke Lane, Jr. All in favor.
4. Motion to accept Business license for Ark Global Center.
  - a. Motion by LeMario Brown. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Juanita Bryant. All in favor.
5. Motion to appoint Marsha Gosier as Election Supervisor for 2017 Election.
  - a. Motion by Juanita Bryant. 2<sup>nd</sup> by LeMario Brown. All in favor.
  - b. We will contract with them if the resolution is approved.
6. Motion to approve resolution to amend Maternity Leave policy.
  - a. Mayor Williams stated that Warner Robins just passed a paid maternity policy. This will probably be a domino effect across all the municipalities with the focus being on bonding with newborns, children, and family. Documentation has to be provided.
  - b. Motion by LeMario Brown. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Juanita Bryant.
    - i. Duke Lane, Jr. stated that we briefly discussed this at the intergovernmental meeting. Brown interrupted him and stated that we talked about it at the meeting Tuesday. Duke Lane asked if I sent it out to the council before tonight. He also stated that Warner Robins had some issues about it and that it took them two meetings to do it. Additionally he wanted to know the financial concerns regarding the policy.
      1. LeMario Brown stated that there aren't any because the salaries have already been budgeted for. Just like if Spurgeon-
      2. Juanita Bryant stated that we discussed it Tuesday night in depth. She was under the impression that we were going to go on with it. She doesn't know if anything happened in between time but we have already talked about it for a while.
      3. Mayor Williams stated that a conversation had taken place with Jim Elliot about Warner Robins policy.
      4. Duke Lane Jr. asked if Billy Jerles had seen it. Mayor Williams stated that we sent it to him. Duke

- c. Those in Favor- LeMario Brown, Juanita Bryant, and Mayor Barbara Williams. Those opposed- Duke Lane, Jr. and Jimmy Barnes. Alonzo Allen abstained from voting.
7. Motion to accept resolution to recertify Fort Valley as a City of Ethics.
- a. Motion by Juanita Bryant. 2<sup>nd</sup> by LeMario Brown. All in Favor.

**Committee Reports:**

**Economic Development Committee:** Council member Alonzo Allen gave update on upcoming events. He also introduced Ralph Davis as a person who is currently investing in the community by buying property located in downtown Fort Valley.

**Public Works Committee:** Council member Barnes gave a report on the activities of the departments.

**Administration Committee:** Council member Lane commended Ms. Vinson and her staff. Fire Department has one recruit that is going to training. Mention Public Safety Day that will be taking place in Indian Oaks.

**Finance Committee:** Council member LeMario Brown gave a report.

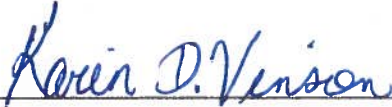
**Public Safety Committee:** Council member Bryant reported on the number and classification of calls responded to by the departments, City marshal activities, training and community activities. She also stated that the handicap swing in Festival Park has been completed.

- o Chief Spurgeon- commented on Citizen's Active Shooter class. Fire Department offers 1<sup>st</sup> aid classes. Also, speed bumps will be places in front of all day care facilities.

Mayor Williams recognized individuals in the audience (Britt with the Middle Georgia Regional Committee, Karin Vinson's mom, and Griffin Line crew)

Mayor Williams addressed the person who stated that we couldn't go into executive session. She stated that we can go into executive session for two reasons, personnel issue and acquisition of property and we were on the subject of personnel at that time.

Motion by Council member Juanita Bryant, second by Council member  
Alonzo Allen to adjourn. (7:33 p.m.)

  
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Karin D. Vinson, City Administrator