



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA
Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.**

Attended- Mayor Lundy, Mayor Pro Tem Alonzo Allen, Councilman Jimmy Barnes, Councilwoman Juanita Bryant, Councilwoman Carla Gowen, Councilman David Scott Morrill, Chief Woodard, Chief Evans, Dir. Kendrick, Dir. Gary Lee, Recorder-City Clerk Diane Brown

- I. CALL TO ORDER-6:30**
- II. INVOCATION-Pastor Calvin Askew -New Found Faith Ministries**
- III. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion -Mayor Pro Tem Alonzo Allen to approve the agenda with necessary changes.
Motion Seconded-Councilman Barnes
All in Favor Motion Carried.
- V. MINUTES APPROVAL**

Motion -Councilwoman Bryant
Motion Seconded-Councilwoman Gowen
All in Favor Motion Carried.

 1. Mayor's Briefings-February 13th, 20th, 27th, 2023.
 2. Committee Meetings-February 9th, 2023
 - a) **DEPARTMENTS**-Police, Fire, Public Works, Economic Development, Finance, and Administration/Personnel.
 3. Work Session Meeting-February 14th, 2023
 4. City Council Meeting- February 16th, 2023
- VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS-Mayor Jeffery Lundy**

Prayer for the Deas Family, Pastor Deas loss of his mother, funeral is Saturday.
DPH Screening March 25th, at Festival Park 11-2:00 pm.
Community Day April 22nd, at Festival Park 10-2:00 pm.
Peach County High School received a \$50,000 Technology Grant.
Citizen Academy Graduation March 18th, Kay Center at 11:00 am.
Council Bryant-FV Nursing Home Annual Easter Egg Hunt, April 6th, 11:30 am. Gifts, Bring Golden Eggs.
- VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATION-Mrs. Tonja Lee -Reading of the Proclamation**

Guest are Fort Valley Chapter of LINKS' President and additional member.
Feb. American Heart Month Proclamation read by Mayor Lundy; Photos were taken.
- VIII. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH-FEBRUARY 2023**
 1. FIRE DEPARTMENT- Ms. Karizma Statham—Presented by Chief Woodard.
 2. POLICE DEPARTMENT- Inspector T. Green-Presented by Mayor Lundy, Second Certificate-Chief Evans, Officers D, Kendrick, T. Daniels, and T. Jackson.
 3. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT- Ms. Toni Beeks is absent due to Commercial Driver's License Training.
 4. ADMINISTRATION-Diane Brown, City Clerk- Presented by Mayor Lundy.
- IX. MANAGEMENT REPORT-City Administrator- James A. Woods**
 1. Fire Department Computers-VC3 approved 4-Dell Computers for the Fire Department
 2. Discussion of the ARPA Administrator-Introduction of the (3) Candidates, and each candidate gave their introduction to the Mayor and Council and allowed for questions, answers and discussions.
 3. City Administrator Mr. Woods-Introduces the three Candidates that applied for the ARPA Administrator's Position. Dr. Ulrica Jones, Mrs. Sherry and Jeff Kirks, and Ms. Rhonda Gilbert, and each

given the opportunity talk about their work experiences, and Mayor and Council have opportunity to ask questions.

Next- move to vote for ARPA Administrator.

X. GAMING MACHINES ORDINANCE- City Administrator Mr. James Woods

Must sell food, gas, lottery. Most give cash prizes, have additional robberies, Warner Robins and Centerville put in an ordinance and all business came to Fort Valley.

Motion by-Councilwoman Bryant, Motion Seconded by-Councilwoman Gowen

Discussion-City Administrator Mr. Woods-Set the fee every year in case of adjustments in fee. Limit 3 machines per location. The ordinance does not run them out of town, puts strict rules on them to stay in business, requires a Gaming License non-transferable, Business License, Taxes paying \$5,000 annually for each machine.

Discussion- (Sec. 22-320 Short Title)

Motion to Accept Section 22-230 Title.

Motion by Councilwoman Bryant, Motion Seconded by Councilman Barnes, All in favor, Motion carried.

GAMING MACHINES FEE RESOLUTION, MOVE CHARGE TO \$5,000 PER MACHINE ANNUALLY

Motion by Councilwoman Gowen, Motion Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Alonzo Allen, All in favor Motion carried.

Mr. Woods- Discussion to prorate license, business license expires Oct. 31st, prorate the fees, enforce immediately. Councilman Morrill-draft a 60-day letter, provide copy of ordinance to business owners.

Det. Kendrick- Robberies, hit for cash and not reported because of the money, notice was given Nov. and Dec. last year, made them aware of state law.

Start full force in May, seize property, at the store, will have a 1st, 2nd and 3rd occurrence, focus is on the store property owners not the patrons. Will have applications ready before April to present for approval in May.

Prorate to end 10/31/2023

Motion to charge \$5,000 per machine prorated for this year, fiscal year.

Motion by Councilwoman Gowen, Motion Seconded by Councilman Barnes, All in favor Motion carried.

Introduction-ARTICLE XII. CLASS B (GEORGIA EDUCATIONAL LOTTERY COIN OPERATED AMUSEMENT MACHINE) ORDINANCE.

- **Sec. 22-230. Short Title**

Reads.

This Article shall be known as the "City of Fort Valley Class B Bona Fide Coin Operated Amusement Machine Ordinance." This ordinance is separated for Fort Valley Ordinance Sec 22-193 to ensure clarity for any licensee or business desiring to operate class B machines under the Georgia Lottery within the City of Fort Valley.

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Motion to accept by-Councilwoman Bryant, Motion Seconded by-Councilwoman Gowen

City Discussion Administrator Mr. Woods-City set the fee every year in case of adjustments in fee. Limit 3 machines per location. The ordinance does not run them out of town, puts strict rules on them to stay in business, requires a Gaming License non-transferable, Business License, Taxes paying \$5,000 annually for each machine.

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Motion by Councilwoman Gowen, Motion Seconded by Councilman Barnes, All in favor Motion carried.

XI. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution to authorize the Mayor, City Administrator, and City Clerk to sign any and all necessary documents to transfer property from the city to Blue Bird Co. while retaining ownership of the Cellular Tower.

Motion by Councilman Alonzo Allen

Motion Seconded by Councilwoman Juanita Bryant

Discussion

Councilwoman Gowen-Add that this resolution goes into effect only after the entire Council has met with Blue Bird, "I am not going to sign it until I hear what they have to say".

Councilwoman Bryant, that's right.

Councilwoman Gowen it is contingent upon City Council meeting with Blue Bird.

Council Morrill-we been meeting as a Council are we voting to allowing the Mayor, City Administrator and City Clerk.

Mr. Woods is giving us the authority to move forward with what needs to happen to transfer, of course there are going to be a couple of procedural things provided to survey out the tower before we can turn the property over.

Councilman Morrill-need to present to the public what that is.

Mayor Lundy-speaks the public what we are asking Council to consider.

Blue Bird Body Co, one of the biggest economic engines of the great city of Fort Valley, from the North end to South bound to the FVSU.

There was a hold that prevented the council then and Blue Bird from trying to acquire the property from the city.

Under confidentiality they presented some things to us.

For some expansion that is about to take place that is going to benefit this city in the long run.

When Mayor and Mr. Wood revisited, did meet in Macon they were presented some things under confidentiality, that cleared up some thoughts, when it came to the rail spur it comes down to what they are doing, the rail spur, their expansion we are getting into that electrification and finally you are going to be seeing a lot of different things that deals with electrification here in the city of Fort Valley, see school buses, things they are putting out, and for what they are asking of us we are going to receive way greater later than from the property we are about to give them now. In stormwater, a lot of different things, when it was first introduced now I feel confident about the growth Blue Bird is about to do, after that first meeting at cooperate the CEO and his team to be transparent and bolden to speak what they are going, they want to come here, perfect opportunity greater partnership with Blue Bird Body Company we are trying to have more revenue come in I tell people, so we can move out of the mirey clay, through our economic development and things that are really important, I think that Blue Bird Body Company is a vital part for the growth and development of Fort Valley.

The City Administrator, Mr. Woods recommends all meet with Blue Bird Co. behind closed doors to hear exactly what they are planning on doing, and once everybody hears that you will be more comfortable with it.

Councilman Morrill-A way for the Governing Body of the City of Fort Valley, solely says the Mayor, City Administrator not saying I am not opposed to any transactions relating to Blue Bird, in the spirit of government and the full Governing Body, we should be allowed to view and approve all contracts, should be allowed to view any other documentation required.

Amendment of Motion-Council Bryant-Vote after the Mayor and after the Council meets with Blue Bird.

Mayor Lundy explains this is an approval to move forward.

Councilman Morrill asked do we have the right to review and approve all contracts and view and approve all other documents.

Mayor you all will see all the documents you all have the right to deny it, once we get to the point of approval you all will be aware of all documents, we must send the documents to the Attorney, the Clerk must notarize documents.

Motion-Council Bryant- that we accept, after Council has met with Blue Bird.

Motion Seconded by-Council Gowen

Mayor Lundy-we have a motion that we approve this and properly moved to second after we have had the opportunity to meet with Blue Bird so they can give a presentation to the full Council.

Council Morrill-Motion to have item tabled, means disposal correct.

Properly moved to Second that we revisit this after we meet with Blue Bird.

All in favor say I, Opposers the same, I's have it the Motion carried.

2. Resolution to approve the creation of (3) separate ARPA ACCOUNTS AT SYNOVUS BANK for Housing Repair, Roofing Repair and House Ramps.

Motion to approve by Councilwoman Gowen, Motion Seconded by Councilman Morrill, All in favor Motion Carried.

3. Resolution to approve the Fort Valley Fair to come set-up at Festival Park May 9-15, 2023.

Motion to amend resolution Councilwoman Bryant, Motion Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Allen, Motion carried. Amended Resolution to approve the Fair to set up at Festival Park May 9-15, 2023, after the approval of the contract.

4. Resolution to appoint Mr. Gregory Ross to the Housing Authority Board.

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Alonzo Allen, Motion Seconded by Councilwoman Bryant, Motion carried.

5. Resolution to appoint Ms. Doris Cosby Turner to the Housing Authority Board.

Motion by Councilwoman Bryant, Motion Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Alonzo Allen, Motion carried.

6. Resolution to re-appoint Councilwoman Juanita Bryant to the (DPH) Department of Public Health.

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Alonzo Allen, Motion Seconded by Councilwoman Gowen, Motion carried vote 5/in favor.

7. Resolution to appoint ARPA Administrator.

A. Motion to appoint Dr. Ulrica Jones-Motion Councilwoman Bryant, No Second Motion.

B. Motion to appoint Ms. Gilbert-No Motion

C. Motion to appoint Ms. Sherry and Jeff Kirk-Motion by Councilman Morrill, Motion Seconded by Councilman Barnes, Motion carried. 5/1 vote.

8. Resolution to create an Events Coordinator position under Administration.

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Alonzo Allen, Motion Seconded by Councilwoman Gowen

Discussion-Councilwoman Bryant-Present written job description, see salary and benefits.

Councilman Barnes-City pay the highest income tax.

Mayor-lateral movement of employee, choice fulltime or parttime.

Motion to hire a part-time Event Coordinator

Motion by Councilwoman Bryant, Motion Seconded by Councilman Morrill.

Discussion-Councilman Barnes, Duties of the Event Planner.

Councilwoman Bryant-Withdraw the Motion, Motion to Withdraw Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Alonzo Allen, until a job description is in place. All in favor Motion carried.

XII. REPORTS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS

1. FIRE DEPARTMENT-Chief Woodard-
2. POLICE DEPARTMENT-Chief Evans
3. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT-Dir. Kendrick
4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Dir. Gary Lee

Filming at Troutman House-Grams Missing Tooth, Flavors and Railroad Café' got lot of business, local Hotel & Motel use by film crews, more taxes for the city. The street did not close for the filming.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by-Councilman Morrill, Motion Seconded by Councilwoman Gowen, all in favor motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED-9:00 PM