



City of Fairburn

"History Lives Here"

September 7, 2010

Citizens of the City of Fairburn:

As, I write this letter it is with much disappointment to inform you the residents of a proposed property tax increase on this year's taxes. Unknown to Council during the years of 2008 & 2009 the city balanced the budget using funds from a reserve account. The continued use of the reserve fund account to balance the budget would almost surely guarantee the city would create an uncomfortable and vulnerable position in less than two years. This Administration is committed to maintain an adequate reserve fund in order to be prepared for any major unforeseen expense.

The proposed millage rate is 7.50 which is a 2.50 increase from last year's millage rate of 5.00. The City of Fairburn maintained a millage rate of 6.0 mills and below for the last ten (10) years. The increase will allow the city to prepare a balanced budget, maintain your current level of service and make the principal and interest bond payments.

As you know, I have always been a person who believes in transparency in government. Before taking office as Mayor and immediately after being sworn in, I questioned the financial stability of the City of Fairburn. In March 2010 the Mayor and Council agreed to stop all spending within the city except where it was essential. It was determined the city was spending more than collecting, and the principal and interest bond payments were not in the budget, instead being paid from the reserve fund account.

As we move forward to remedy this financial situation, I ask for your patience and understanding. I know at this bad economic time a property tax increase is devastating for all of us; however, for the city to continue to provide the quality of service you deserve and the Mayor and Council to be good financial stewards of this city, the increase is inevitable.

Again, thanks in advance for your continued support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Mario B. Avery
Mayor