

COUNCIL PRESENT: Bruner, Dunagan, Wangemann, Hamrick, Figueras
STAFF PRESENT: Padgett, Sheppard, Palmour, Jordan

Mayor Bruner called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATIONS:

Georgia Mountains Center Budget

Georgia Mountains Center Director Carol Moore distributed a revised budget and began the discussion by reviewing the mission of the Center. She commented on the feasibility study that occurred several years ago and how it helped the City. She also commented on the Center's customer service rating which was very high. Mrs. Moore shared cost saving measures to minimize expenditures then commented on the goals and the Capital Improvement Plan for the upcoming year.

There was some discussion about the service rates. There was also discussion about an open Request For Proposals for the Downtown Development Project followed by a question as to where would the users go if the use for the Georgia Mountains Center changes.

Public Works Budget

Public Works Director Dockery presented information that addressed public works generally as well as the Vehicle Services, Solid Waste and the Airport Divisions. He addressed the goals, cost saving measures and capital needs for each.

There was some discussion about the winter storm having created problems for city streets. The problems were becoming more apparent with warmer weather.

There was discussion about an unfunded federal mandate to replace all street signs. It was noted that the Traffic Engineer knew this was coming and had been creating signs over the last seven years that met the requirements.

Council Member Hamrick asked if there had ever been consideration of outsourcing the grass cutting task at the Cemetery. Mr. Dockery stated this had not been considered; however, they use part time labor during the cutting season.

Council Member Hamrick asked about occupancy at the hangars. Upon inquiry from Council Member Dunagan, it was noted that the rates were higher than those of competitors.

There were some questions about recycling in regards to the level of participation and the bins.

Council Member Dunagan stated he was approached about switching to propane gas. Mr. Dockery stated staff had attended some seminars on this subject. There was no recommendation to move in this direction; however, the department's budget included a 30% increase in fuel cost.

Upon inquiry from Council Member Wangemann, City Manager Kip Padgett stated the pinpoint service had not been as beneficial to Solid Waste as originally expected. The software was being used by Code Enforcement.

Council Member Figueras asked about apartment complexes and Solid Waste fees when no one is living at a residence.

Hall Area Transit (HAT) Update

Community Service Center Director Phillippa Lewis Moss stated a power point presentation was prepared to address questions from constituents. She stated transportation plans are increasingly important due to the increase in population. Points of interest were noted as follows:

- The wait time at traffic signals/intersections was expected to increase.
- The actual cost per HAT rider is \$5.18 and the Dial-A-Ride cost per rider is \$20.
- Mobility Plus is provided as a requirement of the federal government to meet ADA requirements
- The most popular destinations were noted as the Senior Center (35%) and Medical Center (30%).
- A variety of marketing tools are utilized including but not limited to travel, training, press releases and bus shelter ads.
- Future improvements included extended service within Gainesville, to the Jackson County line and to Flowery Branch.

There was some discussion about fees during which Mrs. Moss stated she did not recommend increasing the fee schedule at this time.

There was also discussion about population figures in that when they reach 200,000, federal funding will change for HAT requiring the city to become responsible for all capital and operating cost.

Council Member Dunagan asked if there had been discussion with other local governments to use HAT/Dial-A-Ride services and to share the cost of providing these services.

Community Service Center Budget

Community Service Center Director Phillippa Lewis Moss reviewed the mission of the department, the Fiscal Year 2011 goals and accomplishments as well as the Fiscal Year 2012 goals and objectives. She commented on the Senior Center being the only accredited center in Georgia. One criticism was that the services don't match the community need.

Upon inquiry from Council Member Wangemann, Mrs. Moss commented on potential competition for Meals-on-Wheels customers on Medicaid. There were no issues with the quality of the food.

NOTE: City Attorney Palmour joined the meeting.

Sign Ordinance

Community Development Director Rusty Ligon stated there had been questions about the electronic message board requirements prompting staff to discuss the details of the sign code.

Planning Manager Matt Tate used a power point presentation to share the City's requirements, the appropriate zoning areas and photographs of various signs. There are 37 Electronic

Message Boards (EMB's) in the city of which 24 are legal conforming, 11 are legal non-conforming, and 2 are illegal. There are also different types of EMB's. Staff had contacted other communities regarding EMB's and learned some did not allow them and others had specific restrictions.

Mr. Ligon commented on a meeting with Fairway Outdoor and anticipated coming back to Council with additional information.

Upon inquiry from Council Member Figueras, it was noted that staff did not anticipate needing to address digital billboards.

Council Member Wangemann felt there should be some standard of reasonableness and fairness regarding the color.

RECESS: 11:35 AM
RECONVENE: 11:41 AM

Park and Mulberry Study

Traffic Engineer Dee Taylor stated he was approached by constituents about safety concerns in the Park and Mulberry area. Some parking concerns were identified. Staff had tried to educate the community. There had also been a report of speed concerns in the same area. The options were to prohibit parking, to allow parking on both sides or to implement a three way stop.

The information was taken under advisement

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ISSUES:

Alcoholic Beverage License Application: El Ranchito Mexican Restaurant

Senior Finance Technician Tracie Morris stated this was a new application for consumption on the premises of beer. The application was in order.

Placed on the April 19, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda

Resolution: Declaration of Surplus Property

Senior Accountant Angie Floyd stated the proposed resolution declared a variety of items as surplus and granted permission to sell or dispose of the items.

Placed on the April 19, 2011 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Resolution: Write Off of Delinquent Personal Property Taxes

Tax Coordinator DeeDee Stephens stated all collection steps had been taken on the uncollected tax accounts for 2003. Most of the businesses have left the area. The auditor recommended the write off.

Placed on the April 19, 2011 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

PUBLIC UTILITIES ISSUES:

Ordinance: Amendment to Title 10 Schedule of Fees
Resolution: Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Both items were postponed at a date yet to be determined

CITY MANAGER'S ISSUES:

Resolution: Fire Department Canine (K-9) Program

City Manager Kip Padgett stated the proposed resolution grants permission for the City Manager to execute a contractual agreement with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) to establish a disaster/search and rescue Canine Program. The dog would reside with a Firefighter. It was noted that City joins eleven other communities in the state that provide this service.

City Manager's Office Budget

City Manager Kip Padgett reviewed the goals noting they are basically the same as those presented at the Council's Retreat. He commented on the purchase of agenda manager software to streamline the agenda process allowing time to focus on other responsibilities.

NOTE: Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard left the meeting and did not return.

COUNCIL ISSUES:

Council Member Hamrick

Presented a request from the Salvation Army to serve city employees from their canteen. City Manager Kip Padgett stated the City Clerk was working to coordinate this effort.

Mayor Bruner

Commented on the Red Carpet Tour noting 23 businesses had expressed interest in the community.

Council Member Wangemann

1. Provided a Community Cleanup report.
2. Promoted the Spring Chicken Festival scheduled for April 30th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

City Manager Kip Padgett requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters

Motion to close the Work Session at 12:08 PM to enter an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan
Motion seconded by Council Member Hamrick

Council Members voting in favor of the motion were Bruner, Dunagan, Wangemann, Hamrick and Figueras

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STAFF PRESENT: Padgett, Palmour, Jordan

Motion to close the Executive Session at 12:44 PM and to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Council Member Wangemann
Motion seconded by Council Member Dunagan

Council Members voting in favor of the motion were Bruner, Dunagan, Wangemann, Hamrick and Figueras

ADJOURNMENT: 12:44 PM

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