

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

Mayor Bruner called the meeting to order.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ISSUES:

Alcoholic Beverage License Application

Senior Finance Technician Tracie Morris presented the following:

- An application from Beau Alexander's Wine and Gifts, 105 Bradford Street, changing the location on a license for package sales of wine.
- A new application from Pueblos Mexican Cuisine, 1310 Dawsonville Highway, for consumption on the premises of beer, wine and liquor.

Placed on the May 17, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda

Request for Extension of Going Out of Business License

City Marshal Debbie Jones presented a request to extend a Going Out of Business License for Furniture Place, LLC. They asked for an additional 15 weeks to sell the remaining inventory.

Consensus to approve the request as presented.

Ordinance: Amendment to Poolroom Ordinance and Schedule of Fees

City Marshal Debbie Jones reviewed a proposed ordinance amendment relating to pool rooms indicating the existing ordinance was vague. There was also a need to address potential problems and provide an appeal process.

Placed on the May 17, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda

PUBLIC WORKS ISSUES:

Report: Pearl Nix Parkway Ingress/Egress

City Manager Kip Padgett stated this issue would be addressed at a later date.

PUBLIC UTILITIES ISSUES:

Resolution: Amendment to Upper Chattahoochee Basin Group Agreement

Environmental Services Administrator Horace Gee stated the Upper Chattahoochee Basin Group Agreement is renewed on a five year basis. The agreement allows the department to use students at North Georgia College and State University to generate independent studies that are more viable than studies conducted internally by staff. Using the students generated a huge cost saving (\$100,000).

Council Member Wangemann expressed opinions about the benefits of the study. He asked how the study results would be used and asked several questions about non-point source pollution.

Council Member Hamrick asked if non-voting entities benefit from the study.

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Resolution: Biological Stream Monitoring and Evaluation

Environmental Services Administrator Horace Gee stated monitoring was required as part of the Watershed Protection Plan and as part of the 319 Grant Process. CH2M Hill has been the consultant for both stream restoration projects that have been completed. Staff felt it would be beneficial to award the project to CH2M Hill because of their involvement in the referenced stream restoration projects. Doing so would tie the three projects together.

Public Utilities Director Kelly Randall stated the funding was in the Public Utilities Department's operating budget.

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Ordinance: Amendment to Industrial Surcharge Fees

Environmental Services Administrator Horace Gee stated surcharge fees are assessed on industrial users that don't treat their discharge.

Public Utilities Director Kelly Randall stated the plants are designed to treat domestic quality discharge. The surcharge program is designed to maintain compliance and an incentive for those who don't treat their water by applying a financial penalty. The goal of the program is compliance not revenue.

Council Member Wangemann asked how staff determines if stronger levels of wastewater are being generated.

Mr. Gee reviewed a power point presentation which addressed the calculation of industrial surcharge and referenced the existing charges. The calculation indicated a 300% increase should be applied. Staff didn't want to hurt industry with such a large increase and recommended an adjustment that doesn't assess the full amount. The next steps involved:

1. Implementing the recommended increase
2. Reviewing the cost of the removal of the five pollutants every five years
3. Continuing with the system-wide calculation including Flat Creek and Linwood Water Reclamation facilities
4. Keeping allocations consistent with the latest cost of services analysis and the latest differential study

Public Utilities Director Kelly Randall suggested that this be linked to the five year cost of services review.

It was noted that this was not a profit-making fee. The intent was to minimize the cost and offer what some would call a user fee.

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CITY MANAGER'S ISSUES:

Resolution: Authorization to Waive the Sale of Alcohol for Public Consumption

City Manager Kip Padgett stated the success of the Cinco de Mayo event has prompted Main Street to recommend a First Friday event to be held during the months of June, July, August and September from 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM in the downtown area.

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FY2012 Recommended Budget

City Manager Kip Padgett used a power point presentation to supplement discussion about the recommended budget. Highlights were noted as follows:

- Goals for FY2012
 - No tax increase or millage roll-up
 - Maintain service levels
 - SAFER grant funding for future years
 - Minimize fund balance transfer for operating
 - Meet departmental capital needs
 - Increase management reserve (property tax uncertainty)
- Issues for FY2012
 - A down economy
 - Reduced revenues, specifically property taxes
 - Increases to electrical and fuel expenses
- General Fund
 - Departments held the line at FY 2011 levels with two exceptions which were in Administrative Services and Communication/Tourism
 - Property tax is not the primary revenue generator
- Other Funds
 - The golf course is dependent upon a General Fund transfer to address the 2007 improvements
 - Parks & Recreation is dependent upon reserves due to a decline in tax collections
- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
 - Allows the acquisition of equipment that the Department Director and the Budget Team felt were essential and in need of replacement
 - Includes over \$1 million for critical paving projects
- Health Insurance
 - Claims are improving and the clinic is still being utilized
 - Will be able to reduce the deductible by \$500 and provide preventative services at 100% coverage beginning July 1st
 - Well Credits are continuing and offer discounts on the employee's portion of the premium
- There will be a comprehensive review of employee benefits

- Retirement Plan A
 - Changes were made two years ago
 - An independent audit shows the pension plan is viable and sustainable
- Be conscious of
 - General Assembly Actions
 - Property Tax Assessments
 - Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) which are being incorporate into departmental budgets
 - The City will assume 100% of the cost for the SAFER Grant in a few years
- Summary
 - Service levels remain constant with a caveat that the Community Service Center is dependent upon actions of the Hall County Commissioners
 - There are no planned furloughs
 - There will be health insurance changes to benefit employees
 - Capital purchases are being addressed for aging equipment

Council Member Wangemann commended staff for holding budget expenses down and realized there could be some criticism for having a surplus.

Council Member Figueras stated employees have made significant sacrifices to maintain the services.

Council Member Hamrick expressed concerns about the surplus. He had a problem with placing money in a reserve fund and never using it. He felt there should be some benefit to the tax payer. Mr. Hamrick asked how many police cars would be purchased and expressed his opinion that the budgeted amount was pretty high for the replacement vehicles. He also asked about the reappropriation of excess funds from closed capital projects. Mr. Hamrick requested an opportunity to discuss these issues with the Administrative Services Director.

COUNCIL ISSUES:

Council Member Wangemann

Commented on a Community Cleanup in Flowery Branch.

Council Member Figueras

Reported the One Community Meeting (a/k/a Second Saturday Meeting) will focus on administrative functions of government. The presenters would be the City Manager and the County Administrator.

Mayor Bruner

Shared information regarding events she would be attending over the next week.

CITY CLERK ISSUES:

Resolution: Sunday Alcohol Sales Referendum Question

City Clerk Denise Jordan presented a proposed resolution that would allow a referendum question to be placed on the November election ballot in regards to selling alcohol on Sunday.

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Salvation Army Proclamation

City Clerk Denise Jordan reminded Council of the proclamation to be presented to the Salvation Army immediately following today's meeting.

RECESS: 10:44 AM

RECONVENE: 10:48 AM

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

City Manager Kip Padgett requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel and potential litigation.

Motion to close the Work Session at 10:48 AM to enter an Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

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STAFF PRESENT: Padgett, Palmour, Sheppard, Marlowe, Kelly, Jordan

Melody Marlowe left the Executive Session at 11:03 AM.

Michael Graham entered the Executive Session at 11:03 AM and left at 11:32 AM.

Council Member Figueras left the meeting at 11:48 AM.

Motion to close the Executive Session at 11:49 AM and to continue the Work Session.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

**Resolution: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services
COPS Hiring Program (CHP)**

City Manager Kip Padgett presented a resolution allowing the Police Department to apply for a grant that would provide three years of funding for previously unfunded positions.

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Chicopee Woods Area Park Commission

Mayor Bruner asked that the Chicopee Woods Area Park Commission appointment be placed on the upcoming Council Meeting Agenda.

Housing Authority

It was noted there are some issues to be revisited with the Housing Authority.

Georgia Mountains Center Request For Proposals

Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard provided a brief update regarding the proposals related to the Georgia Mountains Center.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:52 AM

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