

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

Mayor Pro Tem Dunagan called the meeting to order.

**CITIZEN ISSUES:**

**Eleanor Moore - Storm Drain Problem**

Ms. Eleanor Moore described a storm drain problem at her home which began the early part of 2010. The runoff caused flooding in the basement. The City was contacted and some work was done in hopes of resolving the problem. She has repeatedly contacted the City after the problem continued. She has been told the house was built in 1957. There was no record of an easement for the storm drain. Ms. Moore contacted Dwight Whitmire to look at the property. He discovered breaks in the storm drain pipes. She couldn't wait for the City to do the work and hired Mr. Whitmire. The work was very expensive. Ms. Moore was trying to get someone interested in the situation and felt there was a need for cooperation from the City.

Dwight Whitmire commented on the pressure Ms. Moore had experienced. He commented on his assessment of the problem and estimated the cost of the repair work would be \$4,700. At the time, Ms. Moore didn't have a job. Mr. Whitmire offered to run a camera in the drain thinking the problem was the down spout or the terracotta. He found a storm drain under the carport. He commented on notifications to city staff and the delayed response. He indicated a 16" culvert pipe was part of the problem. Mr. Whitmire purchased the recommended pipe and felt the carport would need to be redone also. He provided an estimate for repairs and felt Ms. Moore needed assistance from the City. It was noted that the City already had some photographs.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ISSUES:**

**Alcoholic Beverage License Application**

Senior Finance Technician Tracie Morris commented on a new application from E Z Mart (2128 Athens Highway) for package sales of beer. The application was in order.

Placed on the June 7, 2011 Council Agenda

**Ordinance: Court Processing Fee**

Financial Services Manager Beverly Williams presented an ordinance to amend the court processing fee to \$5.00 representing a \$3.00 increase. The fee would be charged to violators. Proceeds would be used to implement a new feature on the court software to allow electronic transfer of citation data from officers to the court system. This change will reduce the data entry time for the court clerks.

Placed on June 7, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda

**Ordinance: FY2012 Ad Valorem Tax Rate**

Financial Analyst Matt Hamby stated the proposed ordinance sets the millage rate at 2.92 which is the current rate.

Council Member Hamrick commented on reduced staff, furloughs and other things necessary to be prudent in the management of funds. He commented on exempt property equating to \$1 billion in taxes indicating there are a lot of people benefiting from this exemption when the City provides service to those properties.

Mr. Hamrick also commented on "the surplus" and appreciated the "rainy day fund" (the management reserve) but felt this was the wrong time to increase it. He thought \$1 million could be used to offer relief to the tax payers. Later in the meeting, he stated Gainesville is in excellent shape when you consider the big picture.

Council Member Wangemann agreed with Council Member Hamrick's comments. He had no problem continuing the one month "rainy day fund" during hard economic times noting he may regret this opinion in the future.

Council Member Figueras commented on the uncertainty surrounding predictions. She felt staff had done a good job preparing for the future to sustain us through the hard times.

Council Member Dunagan stated the budget proposed increasing the management reserve to a six week reserve. He felt this should move forward based upon staff's recommendation. He felt the City should have a stronger position before rolling taxes back.

Placed on the June 7, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda

**Ordinance: FY2012 Ad Valorem Tax Rate Board of Education**

Financial Analyst Matt Hamby stated the rate would remain the same at 7.69 mills.

Placed on the June 7, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda

**Appropriation Resolution: Fiscal Year 2012 Budget**

Financial Analyst Matt Hamby stated the budget resolution contains a correction since the last presentation. The correction added debt service for the Georgia Mountains Center and included Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds for the public safety facility which was erroneously omitted from the previous presentation.

Council Member Hamrick asked about the capital projects that were closed indicating he couldn't see the money in the documents that were provided. Council Member Figueras stated it was her understanding that reappropriated funds go back to the fund from whence they originated.

Placed on the June 21, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda

**PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES:**

**Project Resolution: Governor's Office of Highway Safety Small Grant FY2012**

Police Chief Brian Kelly stated the proposed resolution requested the opportunity to apply for and receive grant funding (\$15,000) from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS). The funds would be split equally between Northeast Traffic Enforcement Network (NETEN) and the Police Department's Police Traffic Services Unit (PTSU).

Placed on the June 7, 2011 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

**PUBLIC UTILITIES ISSUES:**

**Project Resolution: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency – Special Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project Grant**

Civil Engineer Nick Swafford stated the proposed resolution allowed the department to accept a water/wastewater infrastructure grant. The application was submitted in January 2010. The resolution authorized acceptance of grant funds to partially fund the Quiet Place in the Woods Pump Station Improvements Project.

Placed on the June 7, 2011 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

**Project Resolution: Quiet Place in the Woods Pump Station Improvements Award of Contract**

Civil Engineer Nick Swafford stated the department wanted to update the pump stations for a Quiet Place in the Woods. They currently don't have emergency generators and plan to incorporate them into the project. The bid process had occurred and the proposed resolution authorized the department to award the project to Allsouth Constructors, Inc. Funding would come from a grant (\$260,470) and the Public Utilities Capital Project Fund. The total cost would not exceed \$523,743.

Placed on the June 7, 2011 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

**PUBLIC WORKS ISSUES:**

**Project Resolution: FAA Remote Communications Outlet (RCO) Renovation and Lease Supplemental Agreement**

Assistant Public Works Director Chris Rotalsky stated there had been discussion about the Remote Communications Outlet (RCO) equipment in the old tower of the terminal building indicating they needed to change the equipment. The new equipment must be placed in a climate controlled space. The proposed resolution allows the acceptance of a supplemental agreement to amend the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) lease and authorized the expenditure of funds to renovate the terminal building. FAA will reimburse up to \$19,500. The resolution also increased the lease payment to cover the cost of utilities and other expenses.

Placed on the June 7, 2011 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:**

**Business Resolution: Adoption of the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program**

Director of Community Development Rusty Ligon stated the agenda package contains a resolution to approve the Community Assessment Project that will be submitted to the Regional Development Center. This project is the foundation for the Comprehensive Plan and represents everything that is needed for the vision to the future. There will be a public hearing during the Council meeting to allow citizens to share their comments on this project.

John Skach, Urban Collage, stated the process builds a vision for the city. The documents that were distributed provide a summary of the information and addressed character areas. The community visioning process begins next week with an online survey. The handout is a briefing

for the public comment period. There was a brief discussion about the stake holder interviews noting the department received some good feedback.

June 7, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda as a Public Hearing Item

**Business Resolution: Adoption of the Annual Update to the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) & Short Term Work Program**

Special Projects Manager Jessica Tullar presented information regarding the Impact Fee Program indicating the Department of Community Affairs had approved the update with no comments. The proposed resolution would adopt the annual CIE and would allow it to be submitted to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC). A public hearing would be required before adopting the resolution. Upon inquiry, there was confirmation that the GMRC will not charge a fee with the submission.

Placed on the June 7, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda as a Public Hearing item

**Public Hearing items for the June 7, 2011 Council Meeting**

Community Development Director Rusty Ligon reviewed the two public hearing items for the upcoming Council Meeting.

*Fair Street Neighborhood Planning Unit Steering Committee*

This request will rezone 252 parcels. All property owners granted permission to rezone from Residential II (R-II) and Planned Unit Development (P-U-D) to Neighborhood Conservation (N-C). The Planning and Appeals Board voted to approve the request.

*Kauffman Tire*

*801 and 805 Dawsonville Highway*

This was a request for a special use to allow an automotive tire and service store within a Regional Business (R-B) zoning district. The Planning and Appeals Board voted to approve the request with three conditions.

**CITY MANAGER'S ISSUES:**

**Grant for Midtown**

City Manager Kip Padgett stated he saw an article in the newspaper indicating Gainesville received a grant from the Department of Transportation for the Midtown area. Council Member Hamrick requested a thank you letter.

**COUNCIL ISSUES:**

**Council Member Figueras**

1. Attended the opening for the Angel House of Georgia indicating this house was for individuals suffering from substance abuse.
2. Reported staff should expect to receive calls regarding the Charter Communication fee increase.

**CITY CLERK ISSUES:**

**Redistricting**

City Clerk Denise Jordan stated she received preliminary information from the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office and will continue communicating with them.

**Election**

City Clerk Denise Jordan reported attendance at Election training. She planned to present the election calendar and other related information at the next work session.

**Disclosure Reports**

Upon inquiry from Council Member Dunagan, City Clerk Denise Jordan stated she would provide contact information for the new Executive Director at the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission as an option for assistance in obtaining the Personal Identification Number (PIN) to electronically file disclosure reports. She stated the Commission will accept hard copies via certified mail. The sender should retain a copy for his/her personal files.

Mrs. Jordan reported the state law changed and no longer requires the electronic filing of disclosure reports; however, electronic filing was highly recommended. Individuals using the electronic filing option will receive email notifications about upcoming reports as well as notice if a report has not been filed. The latter minimizes the late fees that may be assessed.

There was a question as to when the next report would be due prompting some discussion about election year versus non-election year reports. Mrs. Jordan stated the website provides a schedule showing the reporting dates.

**RECESS: 10:33 AM**  
**RECONVENE: 10:41 AM**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

**Motion to close the Work Session at 10:42 AM to enter an Executive Session to discuss personnel and potential litigation matters.**

Motion made by Council Member Figueras

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

**Vote – Council Members voting in favor of the motion were Dunagan, Wangemann, Hamrick and Figueras**

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

**Motion to close the Executive Session at 11:00 AM and to adjourn the meeting.**

Motion made by Council Member Figueras  
Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

**Vote – Council Members voting in favor of the motion were Dunagan,  
Wangemann, Hamrick and Figueras**

**ADJOURNMENT:** 11:00 AM

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