

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ISSUES:**

**Ordinance: FY2012 Ad Valorem Tax Rate Board of Education (BOE)**

Chief Financial Officer Melody Marlowe stated the BOE met to reduce their millage rate to 7.39 mills which eliminates 0.3 mills for debt services and represents a 3.9% decrease. Two readings of the ordinance will be required. Addressing this matter at the upcoming Council Meeting will implement the new rate before finalizing the tax bills.

Placed on the October 4, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda

Mrs. Marlowe stated the Tax Assessor's Office has processed 70% of their appeals. Based on the information received thus far, she was comfortable that the budget projections were on target.

**PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES:**

**Project Resolution: Acceptance of Monetary Award Certificates from the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety**

Police Chief Brian Kelly stated the Police Department received \$12,000 in monetary certificates that can be used toward the purchase of equipment for the Department's Traffic Safety Programs. The proposed resolution authorized the acceptance of the funds.

Placed on the October 4, 2011 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Chief Kelly stated he would be attending the upcoming Council Meeting to discuss awards that were recently received.

**Project Resolution: 2011 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Acceptance**

Chief Brian Kelly stated the department received \$15,504 to purchase equipment and technology for basic law enforcement functions. The amount was a little less than what has been received in the past. The grant does not require a cash match.

Placed on the October 4, 2011 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:**

**Public Hearing item for the upcoming Council Meeting**

Community Development Director Rusty Ligon stated there was one application for the abandonment of an 0.58± acre portion of School Street right-of-way located between its intersection with Fair Street and High Street. The purpose of the request was to construct the new Fair Street School. He shared departmental comments. There were no public comments. The Planning and Appeals Board voted to approve the request with one condition. Demolition was scheduled to begin in the fall.

Placed on the October 4, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda

**CITY MANAGER'S ISSUES:**

**Midtown**

City Manager Kip Padgett stated work was occurring in the maintenance yard and encouraged Council to take a look at the progress.

**Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC)**

City Manager Kip Padgett stated Gainesville will host the next GMRC meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center.

**Pedestrian Bridge**

City Manager Kip Padgett reported there was a request for additional landscaping around the pedestrian bridge to soften the parking area. The work would be limited to the area near the concrete slope. Administrative Services had confirmed there were funds in the pedestrian bridge budget to address this change.

Mr. Padgett commented on parking after the construction is completed and indicated approximately ten spaces will be recovered.

**Engine 209**

City Manager Kip Padgett stated the estimated cost to paint, prime and sandblast Engine 209 was \$6,000. Two funding options had been identified, i.e., Council contingency or include this project in the FY2013 budget process.

Council Member Dunagan expressed a desire to include this in the FY2013 budget and asked that a shed be built over it -- something attractive that complimented the Engine.

City Attorney Palmour thought the organization that placed the Engine at its current location promised to maintain it.

Council Member Hamrick commented on the Engine being a focal point into downtown. He expected the estimate to be higher. He preferred proceeding with painting if the cost was less than \$10,000.

Mayor Bruner suggested trying to find a group to help with this project and plan for future maintenance.

Mr. Hamrick suggested that the media publish an article that would generate interest helping with the project.

City Manager Kip Padgett stated the Public Works and Communication/Tourism Departments could provide assistance.

**COUNCIL ISSUES:**

**Council Member Dunagan**

Reported a call from a landlord that was upset about unpaid utility bills.

**Council Member Hamrick**

Reported 15 municipalities have sued Gwinnett County regarding tax equity matters. The judge ruled in their favor which forces Gwinnett County to make some changes. He felt this was a significant decision for municipalities.

**Mayor Bruner**

Shared information about upcoming meetings/functions.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

**Motion to close the Work Session at 9:29 AM to enter an Executive Session to discuss litigation and 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 and Hamrick.**

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

Risk Analyst Julie Tomlin participated from 9:29 AM to 9:48 AM.

**Motion to close the Executive Session at 9:57 AM to continue the Work Session.**

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan  
Motion seconded by Council Member Hamrick  
**Council Members voting in favor of the motion were Bruner, Dunagan and Hamrick.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Appointments – Friends of the Parks**

Placed a Friends of the Parks appointment on the October 4, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda.

**Olympic Venue**

City Manager Kip Padgett stated he and Melvin Cooper met with Hall County representatives regarding a new Intergovernmental Agreement.

**Brenau**

City Manager Kip Padgett provided an update on the status of discussions regarding the lease agreement.

**Immigration Law**

There was discussion about the impact of this law. It was suggested that there be discussion about unifying the municipalities on this issue.

**Hometown Connection**

City Manager Kip Padgett stated he was waiting to see who will be elected to replace James Mills before setting a date for this meeting.

**Parking**

City Manager Kip Padgett commented on parking problems in the City Hall parking lot.

Council Member Hamrick suggested restricting the size of vehicles coming into the parking lot.

Council Member Dunagan suggested signage to direct visitors to the Hall County or Georgia Mountains Center parking decks.

**Housing Authority**

There was discussion about the last Housing Authority meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT: 11:01 AM**

/dj