

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

Mayor Bruner called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison after which Council Member Figueras delivered the invocation.

PROCLAMATION:

National Family Month

Council Member Wangemann commented on the importance of families. Mayor Bruner read a proclamation declaring the month of November to be *National Family Month*.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Post-Employment Recognition

Debbie Truelove, Fire Department, was recognized for her service to the City. Donna Chapman, Parks and Recreation was unable to attend the meeting but was also recognized. The two had over 48 years of accumulated service. Mayor Bruner read a testimonial and presented tokens of appreciation. Council extended words of appreciation along with Fire Chief Jon Canada and Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Michael Graham.

CITIZEN'S ISSUES:

Rosemary Dodd, 516 Forest Avenue, stated she has an emotional tie to Gainesville/Hall County. She gave a brief history of when the Georgia Mountain Center (GMC) was built noting it was on the property where her father's gas station once stood. She expressed her thoughts and concerns in regards to the GMC and Brenau. She offered suggestions which included asking Brenau to consider taking the old Pilgrim Estes building instead of the GMC and asked the city to consider blocking a section of Brenau Avenue to provide a parking area with some green space. The walking trail could be connected. She felt this could be a win-win situation to maintain the GMC.

Jennie Robocker, 1425 Brandon Place, a founding member of the Georgia Mountain Players, stated every show of the Players has been in the Georgia Mountains Center theatre. The signature show, Smoke on the Mountain, runs three weeks in August to accommodate those who desire to see it. Bus loads of people come and spend money in the Gainesville community. She asked for Council's support.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes:

- A. September 20, 2011 Council Meeting
- B. October 4, 2011 Council Meeting
- C. October 18, 2011 Council Meeting

Motion to adopt the minutes accepting the edits as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Figueras
Motion seconded by Council Member Hamrick

Vote – 5 favor

Resolutions:

- A. AR-2011-18 Authorization to Change Budgeted Allotment for Street Lights and Traffic Signals
- B. BR-2011-31 Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Service Agreement
- C. PR-2011-42 Georgia Department of Community Affairs Community Home Investment Program (CHIP)
- D. PR-2011-43 Authorization to Apply for Georgia Recreational Trails Grant

Motion to adopt the resolutions as presented.

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

Vote – 5 favor

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS:

Food Lion #750, 2888 Browns Bridge Road

City Manager Kip Padgett stated the application was for a change in managing agent for the package sale of beer and wine. The application was in order.

Motion to approve the application as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Hamrick
Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras

Vote – 5 favor

Wal-Mart #510, 400 Shallowford Road

City Manager Kip Padgett stated the application was for a change in managing agent for the package sale of beer and wine. The application was in order.

Motion to approve the application as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan
Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras

Vote – 5 favor

GENERAL LEGISLATION:

**Proposed Ordinance
Sunday Alcohol Sales**

City Marshal Debbie Jones stated the ordinance allowed package sales on Sunday between 12:30 PM and 11:30 PM and allowed the City Marshal to approve applications for the change in managing agents.

Motion to hold first reading on Ordinance 2011-17, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6-4 ENTITLED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA; TO AMEND 6-4-30(b)(8) TO PROVIDE THAT THE CITY MARSHAL SHALL APPROVE THE CHANGE OF THE MANAGING AGENT OF A LICENSED ESTABLISHMENT; TO AMEND SECTION 6-4-36(5)a.1. TO CHANGE THE HOURS OF SALE OR MALT BEVERAGES AND WINE; TO AMEND SECTION 6-4-36(b)1., 3., AND 4. TO CHANGE THE HOURS OF SALES OF DISTILLED SPIRITS; TO DELETE SECTION 6-4-37 IN ITS ENTIRETY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Motion made by Council Member Figueras
Motion seconded by Council Member Dunagan

DISCUSSION:

Council Member Wangemann stated he was representing those who voted against Sunday Alcohol Sales.

Vote – 4 favor, 1 oppose (Wangemann)

Upon inquiry, Mrs. Jones stated if the ordinance is approved at second reading it will become effective on December 6th and Sunday sales will begin on December 11th.

REPORT:

Community Development, Planning Division

New items to be referred to the Planning and Appeals Board.

Director of Community Development Rusty Ligon stated there were no items to refer to the December 6th Council Meeting. There were two items to refer to the December 13th Planning and Appeals Board meeting consisting of a zoning amendment request and special use request.

Motion to accept the report as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan
Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras

Vote – 5 favor

PRESENTATION:

Employee Benefits Information

Human Resources/Risk Manager Cindy Mallet stated staff had completed a survey and conducted a significant review of the employee benefits with the goal of ensuring an attractive package of benefits for existing and prospective employees and to make sure we are situated for long-term financial sustainability. She briefly discussed the following changes that were being recommended:

1. Leave Time - Change to a single leave structure called Paid Time Off (PTO). This would provide employees with more flexibility than the current leave policy. Existing employees

will continue to accrue the same amount of leave as currently receiving. Leave accruals for employees hired after January 1, 2012 would be at a lesser accrual rate.

2. Short-Term Disability (STD) - No changes to the existing STD plan for existing employees. Changes are recommended at a reduced rate of 50% for employees hired after January 1, 2012.
3. Tuition Reimbursement – The program would remain intact with minor changes to include changing the approval process and changing the eligibility year to a fiscal year basis to align with the budget cycle.
4. Military Leave – Recommended changing the policy to eliminate a specific number of days paid and to reference compliance with federal and state laws in effect at the time of the leave occurrence.

Mrs. Mallett stated appropriate amendments and/or revisions have been made to the Policy and Procedures Manual noting the changes were presented to Council.

Mrs. Mallett proposed the implementation of the following procedural items:

1. Sick Leave Conversion to Retirement Credit - Because sick leave will no longer exist, employees will be given the option of converting existing sick leave to retirement credit.
2. Retirement Insurance – Current procedures allow any individual with a vested benefit to remain on the City's health insurance plan after separation from employment. Recommended adding a change that requires the individual to have a minimum of 20 years of service to retain the right to City supplemental health insurance. It is also recommended to phase out the group Medicare Advantage plan. These changes would not affect existing retirees or any employees with more than 10 years of service at the time of the change.
3. Retiree Insurance Premium Supplement – The City currently pays 50% of a retiree's health insurance premium. Beginning with those employees hired after 7/1/08, the City would supplement retiree insurance premiums on a sliding scale according to years of service, to a maximum supplement of 50%.

Motion to adopt Resolution BR-2011-19 approving changes to the Employee Benefit Program and authorizing amendments to the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan
Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann
Vote – 5 favor

Council Member Figueras stated it was important for employees to know how much the Council appreciates their dedication.

COUNCIL'S ISSUES:

Council Member Wangemann

1. Reported an upcoming community cleanup.
2. Distributed 25 invitations.
3. Thanked the citizens of Hall County for their generous donations to the Meals on Wheels program over the years.

Council Member Dunagan

1. Attended the Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.
2. Commented on the Trick or Treat event at Rock Creek Park. He thanked the sponsors for their assistance noting there were 5,000+ attendees.

Council Member Figueras

1. Commended the Board of Education for their meeting last night to show the plans for the new Fair Street School. She felt the community would be proud of it when it is completed.
2. Provided a brief overview of discussions at the One Community (Second Saturday) Meeting.
3. Announced the Multicultural Concert on November 27th.
4. Announced the Angelic Voices concert at the St. John Baptist Church on December 18th.
5. Shared information about the Georgia Municipal Association Mayor's Motorcade event.
6. Commended Charlotte Sosebee on her appointment as Chief Registrar for the Hall County Elections Office.

Council Member Hamrick

1. Commented on the Georgia Cities publication article on prepaid wireless service. Local legislation has changed and municipalities may be eligible to collect some fees. Asked staff to investigate whether the City is eligible for this.
2. Requested to review the goals and objectives mid-year to see if we are on target.

Mayor Bruner

Expressed a desire to thank Wyc Orr for his leadership to get people off the Meals on Wheels waiting list. She asked that he be asked to attend a future Council Meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S ISSUES:

Holiday Closing

City Manager Kip Padgett reminded Council of office closings on November 24th and 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Georgia Initiative for Community Housing

City Manager Kip Padgett reported notice that the City received an award to participate in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. Housing Manager Chris Davis is overseeing the process and will follow up with a report at a later date.

Upcoming Retreat

City Manager Kip Padgett commented on Council Member Hamrick's request to discuss mid-year goals and indicated they are preparing to have this discussion at the upcoming retreat in January. Plans for the retreat are underway.

Resolution: AR-2011-32

Employee Appreciation Checks

City Manager Kip Padgett stated the audit was completed and a \$1.3 million excess in the fund balance was discovered. The resolution would authorize staff to issue a one-time employee appreciation check utilizing the funds from the fund balance with the remaining amount to be placed in the reserves.

Mayor Bruner felt this was a good idea to show employees how much they are appreciated.

Motion to approve Resolution AR-2011-32 authorizing the issuance of employee appreciation checks.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan
Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras
Vote – 5 favor

Mayor's Motorcade

City Manager Kip Padgett commented on a change to the annual Mayor's Motorcade event indicating it would be held at the Work Sessions this year.

Community Service Center Director Phillippa Lewis Moss briefly discussed the Mayor's Motorcade event noting Avita representatives will come to the Community Service Center to pick up the gifts and distribute them. The gifts will remain in the community. She stated it is the same Georgia Municipal Association event without the big celebration as done in the past.

CITY CLERK ISSUES:

City Clerk Denise Jordan stated the certified election results were forthcoming.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

City Manager Kip Padgett requested an executive session to discuss real estate and personnel.

Motion to close the Council Meeting to enter an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and personnel at 9:55 AM.

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 and Figueras

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

Motion to close the Executive Session and to adjourn the Council Meeting at 10:19 AM.

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

ADJOURNMENT: 10:19 AM

DJ:ag

Ruth H. Bruner, Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk