

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

Mayor Dunagan called the meeting to order.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ISSUES:

Chief Financial Services Officer Melody Marlowe commented on the process for establishing the millage rate referencing the Charter serves as the foundation. She commented on changes in the economy and how they impacted the budget process. She stated the preliminary digest is used during the budget process because the final digest is not available until August or September. The final digest is often different from the preliminary digest which justifies the need for a conservative approach. Mrs. Marlowe stated the department has never collected 100% of the tax digest. She also provided an update on collections for the current digest and commented on the budget projections.

Ordinance: FY2013 Ad Valorem Tax Rate

Chief Financial Services Officer Melody Marlowe stated the proposed ordinance established a tax rate of 3.06 mills (\$3.06 on each \$1,000 of property). The rate would be levied as follows:

- General Government - \$1.77
- Parks and Recreation - \$0.79
- Debt Service - \$0.50

Placed on June 5, 2012 Council Meeting Agenda

Council Member Hamrick expressed a desire to give the tax payer a break. His review of the budget indicated additional funds were available. He explained how he came to this conclusion. He also proposed that the roll-up not be implemented believing the city's financial status would be okay. It was noted that the difference in Council Member Hamrick's and staff's figures was \$800,000 which was primarily based upon projections.

Council Member Bruner expressed discomfort in making a decision on the information presented by Council Member Hamrick without having studied the information.

Council Member Wangemann recommended that Mr. Hamrick's information be shared with staff so they can compare it and make a recommendation.

Mrs. Marlowe stated it was the Council's discretion to decide how the budget is set. If there are any additional funds, she recommended they be used for capital purchases and other one-time occurrences instead of supporting the general fund. She also stated a more aggressive approach in using the fund balance will impact the FY2014 budget.

Mayor Dunagan expressed concerns about the school system increasing furlough days and laying off teachers when they're going to have an additional 1,000 students.

Ordinance: FY2013 Ad Valorem Tax Rate Board of Education

Chief Financial Services Officer Melody Marlowe stated the Board of Education submitted information for the proposed ordinance establishing a tax rate of 7.39 mills (\$7.39 on each \$1,000 of property). The rate would be levied for maintenance and operations.

Placed on June 5, 2012 Council Meeting Agenda

Appropriation Resolution: Fiscal Year 2013 Budget

Chief Financial Services Officer Melody Marlowe commented on the budget resolution indicating it was the same as what was presented by the City Manager with two exceptions. The revenue projections were very conservative. The expenditure projections were made following the same procedures used in the past.

There was a question about using the GMA lease purchase approach for police vehicles instead of paying cash for them. Mrs. Marlowe explained how the lease purchase program worked and the benefits to the City for using this option.

Placed on June 19, 2012 Council Meeting Agenda

Appropriation Resolution: Regarding Third Quarter Budget Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2012

Budget & Purchasing Manager Matt Hamby reviewed the budget adjustments.

Placed on June 5, 2012 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Business Resolution: Property/Casualty Insurance Contract

Human Resources & Risk Manager Cindy Mallet stated the City periodically goes to the marketplace to make sure we can offer a competitive product. Staff began the process several months ago. The broker prepared the comparison sheet revealing the current provider offered the best bid with a small increase. The proposed resolution authorized staff to proceed with awarding the contract to BB&T Insurance Services and Trident/Argonaut Insurance for a twelve month period beginning July 1st.

Placed on June 5, 2012 Council Meeting Agenda

Ordinance: Amend Personnel Hearing Process

Attorney Sam Harben commented on his review of the personnel appeal process. The old Charter provided for a Personnel Board where the new Charter does not include a provision for it. The Board has not met for at least three years. He was of the opinion that some of the responsibilities of the Personnel Board were in conflict with other provisions of the Charter, specifically mentioning some duties assigned to the City Manager and Council. Mr. Harben felt it was necessary for employees to have an appeal process and recommended that these responsibilities be assigned to the Administrative Hearing Officer who, under the present ordinance, has the authority to hear appeals. This would provide an independent tribunal to (1) hear evidence, (2) determine if there was any violation of state/federal/local law and (3) make recommendations to the City Manager. He had drafted an ordinance to implement the change. The proposed ordinance had been reviewed by Attorney Palmour.

Placed on June 5, 2012 Council Meeting Agenda

Business Resolution: Amendment to Personnel Policies and Procedures

Human Resources & Risk Manager Cindy Mallet stated the proposed resolution amends the Personnel Policy Manual to address the grievance process. The rights of the employees did not change.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER ISSUES:

Project Resolution: Request to Apply for FY13 VITA Grant

Community Service Center Director Phillippa Lewis Moss stated the center was applying for a VITA Grant. If successful, this would be the second year to receive this funding. The program worked very well last year. It is inexpensive and provides a great service for the community.

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PUBLIC UTILITIES ISSUES:

Project Resolution: Riverside Water Treatment Plant Maintenance Project

Water Operations Superintendent Stephen Douglas stated the proposed resolution would address the repair work necessary to resolve a leak. It awarded the contract to Crom Engineering & Construction Services (CECS) with a total cost of \$30,619.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:

Business Resolution: Adoption of the Community Agenda as Part of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan

Community Development Director Rusty Ligon stated the final part of the plan had been reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs. There were no comments.

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Mr. Ligon reported receiving a request to present the plan at a state-wide conference. There had also been discussion about nominating the plan for an award.

Project Resolution: Authorization to Accept a \$9,000 Historic Preservation Fund Grant

Special Projects Manager Jessica Tullar stated this grant was a federally funded reimbursement program offering 60% reimbursement. The City was awarded \$9,000 for the Design Guidelines Revision Project associated with the Model Design & Construction Guidelines for Residential-Style Local Historic Districts. The resolution accepted the grant funds and allowed the Mayor to execute the documents.

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Special Recognition: Silver Shovel Award Recipient Jessica Tullar

Council congratulated Special Projects Manager Jessica Tullar for receiving the Silver Shovel Award which was directly related to her efforts toward increasing greenspace within the City of Gainesville.

Public Hearing items for the June 5, 2012 Council Meeting

Community Development Director Rusty Ligon presented the items to be heard at the upcoming council meeting.

Annex 2.3± acres at 1198 Marler Street

City of Gainesville Public Utilities Department

There were no public comments. The Planning and Appeals Board voted to approve the request. Council Member Figueras commented on a problem on Marler Street.

Annex 0.68± at 1868 Thompson Bridge Road

WAG Properties, Inc.

The departmental comments were reviewed. There were no public comments. The Planning and Appeals Board voted to approve the request with one condition.

Annex 68.223± acres at 601 White Sulphur Road

Pacolet Milliken Enterprises, Inc.

Reviewed comments from the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, the Department of Transportation and the Public Utilities Department. There were no public comments. The Planning and Appeals Board voted to approve the request with six conditions.

Abandon 0.39± acres of unopened portion of Walker Street Right of Way

Eddie Martin, Sr.

There were no public comments. The Planning and Appeals Board voted to approve the request with one condition.

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CITY MANAGER'S ISSUES:

Golf Course

City Manager Padgett reported damage to the driver's net by a fallen tree. The cost to replace/repair was estimated to be \$70,000. These funds will need to come from the Council's contingency with approval.

House of Custom (Old Shuler Building)

City Manager Padgett reported requests for the demolition of this building indicating it was an eyesore. Several people have looked at it. Some asbestos removal would be required. The plan would be to demolish the building and grass the lot. Demolition can be completed by July 1st if Council was in agreement.

COUNCIL ISSUES:

Council Member Figueras

1. Shared a report from the GMA Board showing Gainesville's involvement in services and programs.
2. Shared information from the GMA Executive Board Meeting held in Metter, GA.
3. Reported she was glad to hear the Parks & Recreation Agency was coordinating efforts for the Red Bud Project.

Council Member Bruner

1. Provided a brief report on the GMA Legislative Policy Council meeting.
2. Commented on Gainesville's Hometown Connection and requested that GMA be involved in the planning process.

Mayor Dunagan

Recently presented a proclamation at Mansfield Oil and was very impressed with the business.

Council Member Wangemann

Reported a request to prohibit tractor trailer trucks on Green Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

City Manager Kip Padgett requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation and land acquisition

Motion to close the meeting to enter an Executive Session to discuss litigation, personnel and real estate matters at 10:49 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Hamrick

Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras

Votes in favor of the motion: Dunagan, Wangemann, Hamrick, Figueras, Bruner

RECESS: 10:49 AM

RECONVENE: 10:52 AM

Motion to close the Executive Session to continue the meeting at 11:16 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Wangemann

Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras

Votes in favor of the motion: Dunagan, Wangemann, Hamrick, Figueras, Bruner

OTHER BUSINESS:

Potential Development on Thompson Bridge Road

City Manager Kip Padgett distributed information from D. A. Derusha Investments Inc. regarding a potential development on Thompson Bridge Road. This could become a zoning item. The Council was cautioned against saying any more than whether they would consider this plan.

Banking Services

Chief Financial Services Officer Melody Marlowe stated it's time to bid for banking services. Traditionally large institutions were the only ones to participate. Some community banks are now interested. SunTrust indicated willingness to continue the same contract for an additional three years. From a community standpoint, there have been comments about the way SunTrust operates. Council was asked to provide direction.

Mayor Dunagan felt it was time to proceed with the bid especially if community banks are interested. Council Member Wangemann and Council Member Hamrick also wanted to proceed with bids.

City Manager Kip Padgett reminded Council to deny any request to meet any of the bankers. He also stated it takes approximately six months to complete the transition to a new bank.

Council Member Figueras suggested a prequalification process to identify which banks could provide the service.

Convention Center

Mayor Dunagan stated he met with Senator Butch Miller during which there was discussion about Gainesville needing a Convention Center. The Mayor wondered if the City wanted to have a Convention Center coupled with whatever development comes to vacant lot across the street (City View property).

Council Member Hamrick wondered if the State Tourism Association could be involved.

Guest House

In response to a letter regarding the Guest House, Council felt the Housing Authority had done what they were supposed to do.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:41 AM

/dj