

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

Mayor Dunagan called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION:**

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

**PRESENTATION:**

**Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)**

Police Chief Brian Kelly introduced Chief Louis Dekmar, Chief of Public Safety at LaGrange, Georgia and Chairman of CALEA. Chief Dekmar summarized the efforts of CALEA then presented Chief Kelly with the Gainesville Police Department's seventh CALEA Award. The Council extended words of appreciation.

Chief Dekmar also presented Certificates of Appreciation to Sergeant Dale Cash and Chief Kelly.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Jerry Gonzalez**, Executive Director of Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO), commented on a process that began when Council Member Bruner was serving as Mayor. Since that time, they have met with Mayor Dunagan and asked for further information in order to move forward in an amicable way. He stated they have provided legal information and data analysis that indicates their concerns of serious violations of the Section 2 Voting Rights Act are valid. Mr. Gonzalez commented on a letter received from the City's Attorney asking for additional information. He stated they don't want to redraw the lines. They want to eliminate the at-large voting process. He felt the Council should take these matters very seriously and move toward district voting. Mr. Gonzalez stated litigation would expose Gainesville's ugly history of discrimination which should be a concern for the Council.

**Greg Bautista** stated he understood the perspective of those who support the current system. He also felt the current system has disadvantages. It dilutes the effectiveness of individual votes and affects the ability of minority groups to elect candidates of their choice. He commented on several reasons the current system discourages eligible minorities from voting and new candidates from running for office. He felt this perpetuates a cycle of minority disillusionment. Mr. Bautista stated he has received comments of skepticism from within the community. He felt each ward had its own assets and values as well as challenges and needs. For this reason each ward merits and deserves its own representatives. Mr. Bautista felt the district voting process has worked for other government entities. He also felt single member electoral districts would go a long way towards building trust and civic engagement among all voters.

**Jody Cooley, 298 Cochran Drive**, encouraged Council to change the current voting process from at-large to district voting. He commented on Gainesville's Latino population being significantly underrepresented in every facet of civic life indicating this was due to many reasons. He felt Gainesville was different because we looked at the future of the city as a whole. A change to a district voting system will not do the existing Council any personal good but it will go a long way toward increasing participation and Latino partnership. Gainesville's future depends upon how Latino leaders are developed and how Latino friends are active in the community. This is important to everyone in Gainesville.

**Emory Turner, Fair Street Neighborhood**, felt the Council has served everyone. He felt there were some concerns that had been overlooked. He asked Council to spend their time serving.

**Donna Mattox, 1203 Baywood Drive**, commented she had concerns about the run-off drains that have created large holes in her backyard. She thanked Council for any help that could be provided.

**Charles Alvarez, 4425 Plum Cross Court**, asked Council to give strong consideration to eliminating the at-large voting system. He commented on what happened in Fayette County and didn't think it would be fair for Gainesville to have that type of expense.

Mayor Dunagan stated the Council does take the matter (allegations about the at-large voting process) very seriously and cares about the City and about the Latino population. This issue is being reviewed.

Council Member Bruner thanked everyone for attending the meeting and noted Council would like to have more representation and participation from the Latino community. We are talking about this behind the scenes and working towards a solution. We don't want to do anything to discourage anyone from voting. The points are being taken into consideration.

Council Member Figueras extended an invitation to everyone to attend the Second Saturday meeting to continue this discussion.

Council Member Wangemann expressed appreciation for participation in the meeting. He asked the Hispanic community to attend service projects and meetings. He hoped the future would hold greater interest regardless of the voting system.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **Resolutions:**

- A. AR-2013-11 Public Utilities Department Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan
- B. BR-2013-27 Adoption of the West Gainesville-Hall County Opportunity Zone
- C. BR-2013-28 Declaration of Surplus Property
- D. PR-2013-16 Request to Apply for FY14 VITA Grant
- E. PR-2013-17 Riverside Drive Water Treatment Plant / Pump Station 26 Concrete Evaluation

#### **Motion to adopt the resolutions as presented.**

Motion made by Council Member Figueras

Motion seconded by Council Member Bruner

**Votes favoring the motion: Dunagan, Wangemann, Figueras, Bruner**

**Absent: Hamrick**

**GENERAL LEGISLATION:**

**Proposed Ordinance**

**Amend Title 10 Entitled Schedule of Fees as it pertains to Water and Sewer**

**Motion to hold first reading on Ordinance 2013-08**, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 10, ENTITLED "SCHEDULE OF FEES" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA; TO AMEND SECTION 10-1-17(a) TO REVISE MONTHLY SANITARY SEWER SERVICE FEES FOR ALL CLASSES OF USERS; TO AMEND SECTION 10-1-41 TO REVISE WATER SERVICE FEES FOR ALL CLASSES OF USERS; TO AMEND SECTION 10-1-45 TO REVISE RATE SCHEDULE FOR WATER SERVICE FOR FIRE PROTECTION PURPOSES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Motion made by Council Member Figueras

Motion seconded by Council Member Bruner

**Votes favoring the motion: Dunagan, Wangemann, Figueras, Bruner**

**Absent: Hamrick**

**Proposed Ordinance**

**FY2014 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the Gainesville Board of Education**

**Motion to hold first reading on Ordinance 2013-09**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA, TO FIX THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR THE GAINESVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2014; AND OTHER PURPOSES.

**DISCUSSION:**

It was noted the millage rate was set at \$7.59 (\$7.59 for maintenance and operations and \$0.00 for debt service) which is applied to each \$1,000 of taxable property.

Motion made by Council Member Bruner

Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras

**Votes favoring the motion: Dunagan, Wangemann, Figueras, Bruner**

**Absent: Hamrick**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

City Attorney Palmour reviewed the public hearing process and confirmed the matters had been properly advertised.

**Adoption of the Annual Update to the CIE & Short Term Work Program**

Community Development Director Rusty Ligon stated the proposed resolution was for the annual audit related to the collection of impact fees. This was submitted to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission and there were no comments. This keeps the City's Qualified Local Status in effect.

City Attorney Palmour opened the floor for comments. There being none, the hearing was closed and the matter was returned to Council for a decision.

**Motion to adopt Resolution BR-2013-29 entitled *Adoption of the Annual Update to the CIE & Short Term Work Program* as presented.**

Motion made by Council Member Wangemann

Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras

**Votes favoring the motion: Dunagan, Wangemann, Figueras, Bruner**

**Absent: Hamrick**

***Request from the City of Gainesville to amend the Unified Land Development Code for the City of Gainesville, Georgia. The proposed amendments are to amend Table 9-5-2 of Article 9-5 entitled "Dimensional Requirements for Residential Zoning Districts" and Table 9-6-2 of Article 9-6 entitled "Dimensional Requirements for Nonresidential Zoning Districts" to incorporate minimum road frontage requirements; to amend Section 9-18-7-3 of Article 9-18 entitled "Banners" to provide for better clarity; to amend Section 9-22-2-22 of Article 9-22 entitled "Incorporation Clause" to provide for better clarity.***

Planning Manager Matt Tate stated the changes were discussed in detail during the last work session. Staff recommended amendments to four sections of the Gainesville Unified Land Development Code that would provide further clarification or some relief to businesses. He provided a brief overview of the proposed changes.

City Attorney Palmour opened the floor for comments. There being none, the hearing was closed and the matter was returned to Council for a decision.

**Motion to hold first reading on Ordinance 2013-10, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 9 ENTITLED "UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA; BY AMENDING TABLE 9-5-2 ENTITLED "DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS" AND TABLE 9-6-2 ENTITLED "DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NONRESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS" TO INCORPORATE MINIMUM ROAD FRONTAGE REQUIREMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION 9-18-7-3 ENTITLED "BANNERS" TO PROVIDE FOR BETTER CLARITY; TO AMEND SECTION 9-22-2-22 ENTITLED "INCORPORATION CLAUSE" TO PROVIDE FOR BETTER CLARITY; 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 Bruner

Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras

**Votes favoring the motion: Dunagan, Wangemann, Figueras, Bruner**

**Absent: Hamrick**

**CITY MANAGER'S ISSUES:**

Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard reminded Council of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for Kubota.

**OTHER ISSUES:**

**Council Member Figueras**

Announced the Citizen's Information Roundtable will meet on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> noting this meeting occurs on the second Saturday of each month.

**Council Member Wangemann**

Reported he had knocked on 8,806 doors to extend personal invitations to Council Meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT: 6:17 PM**

**DJ:ag**

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C. Danny Dunagan, Mayor

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Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk