

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

Mayor Dunagan called the meeting to order and served as the presiding officer.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:

Economic Development

Vice President of Economic Development Tim Evans (Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce) distributed the 2014 Economic Development Report, 2015 Budget Request and announcements regarding upcoming events. He commented on Industrial Park West (IPW) and public access to Gainesville Business Park which adjoins IPW.

Upon inquiry from Council Member Hamrick, Mr. Evans stated he didn't have any new information regarding Koch Foods.

Vice President of Existing Industry Shelly Davis (Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce) distributed the Industrial Directory. She stated the annual wage and benefit report would be distributed in July. The Industry Roundtable and Human Resources Council were doing well.

President/CEO Kit Dunlap, Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce, thanked the City for its vision in economic development. She commented on the partnership to fund economic development and named the participants. She was asking all partners to provide a 5% funding increase. Ms. Dunlap also reported a fourth economic development staff member had been hired.

Council Member Figueras asked how each partner determined its contribution to economic development.

Council Member Couvillon commented on the Kroger Ribbon Cutting indicating it was a great show of the City's capabilities.

Elachee Nature Science Center

Andrea Timpone and Dr. Jane White presented information on behalf of Elachee. Materials were distributed outlining some accomplishments. There was also information about the Elachee Nature Preschool and EHouse. There was discussion about the museum and partnerships to promote Museum Day. Ms. Timpone stated Elachee was requesting \$10,000 which was an increase compared to the current funding but still less than what they received in the past.

Public Works

Public Works Director David Dockery and Assistant Public Works Director Chris Rotalsky presented the departmental budget. There was discussion about two major challenges over the last year. One challenge was manmade and pertained to vacancies in four key positions. Three of the positions had been filled. The other challenge was weather related specifically pertaining to stormwater issues and winter weather events.

Mr. Dockery discussed accomplishments and goals for the following divisions which currently fall under the Public Works Department: Public Lands & Buildings, Streets, Traffic, Street Maintenance, Cemetery, Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport, Solid Waste and Vehicle Services.

Upon inquiry from Council Member Wangemann, it was noted that the pinpoint software was being used by Code Enforcement.

Community Service Center (CSC)

Community Service Center Director Phillippa Moss stated sequestration, the government shut-down, a state imposed waiting list for senior services, and the prolonged service agreement negotiations between the City and Hall County posed several challenges for the CSC at the end of FY'13 and the beginning of FY'14. Fortunately, many community residents, organizations and foundations pulled together to increase contributions so as to continue services. Mrs. Moss also explained that one of her FY'14 goals was to create a strategy for improving customer service with specific emphasis on transit and services for baby boomer retirees.

Upon inquiry from Council Member Wangemann, there was confirmation of a partnership between the Senior Life Center and Parks and Recreation; however, a long-term plan was yet to be developed.

Mayor/Council received an invitation to ride Gainesville Connection, the new buses, any weekday in April from 8 AM to 4 PM.

Project Resolution: Request to Submit FY15 Section 5307 Application

Community Service Center Director Phillippa Moss stated there were no significant changes from last year's application for Federal Transit Administration funding. A successful application will secure funding to cover fifty percent of Gainesville Connection's operating cost for Fiscal Year 2015.

Placed on the March 18, 2014 Mayor/Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Communications and Tourism / TV 18

Communications and Tourism Director Catiel Felts commented on the establishment of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau Board. The department had been working on the way-finding Request for Proposals. An application would be submitted for the Georgia Exceptional Main Street Program. Mrs. Felts commented on the number of hits on the website and indicated efforts were underway to have TV18 aired through ATT U-Verse.

Council Member Figueras extended an invitation to join Main Street and to attend the Main Street Board retreat.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ISSUES:

Appropriation Resolution: Regarding Second Quarter Budget Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2014

Budget and Purchasing Manager Matt Hamby provided a brief explanation of the budget adjustments addressed by this resolution.

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Ordinance: Amend Chapter 6-4 Entitled "Alcoholic Beverages"

City Marshal Debbie Jones stated Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce approached staff about allowing a "growlers" within the city limits. She visited a similar establishment located in Flowery Branch to understand the operation. Information was submitted to the City Attorney who drafted the proposed ordinance.

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PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES:

Project Resolution: Governor's Office of Highway Safety Small Grant FY15

Captain Carol Martin presented a resolution authorizing the Police Department to submit an application for grant funding from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS). The department applies for this non-matching cash grant every year.

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RECESS: 9:52 AM
RECONVENE: 9:57 AM

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:

Project Resolution: Approval of Local DCA Homeless Assistance Program Applications

Housing Program Manager Chris Davis commented on the local approval requirement for nonprofit agencies to receive Emergency Solutions Grant funds through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Ninth District Opportunity Community Action Agency and Avita Community Partners were seeking local approval. He provided a summary of the program information. Approval indicates their plan is consistent with the plans of the city. Approval does not obligate the city in any manner.

Council Member Figueras confirmed the city was not providing the funding.

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Project Resolution: Ratification of Submittal of an Application For A HOME Grant

Housing Program Manager Chris Davis stated this resolution ratifies action taken toward submitting a \$1 million grant application to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for developing single family housing under the Home Homeownership & Small Rental Assistance Development Grant Program. There was a short turnaround time after receiving notice of the grant and staff worked during the weekend to prepare the application before the deadline. Mr. Davis showed a concept plan that would assist with building seven single family homes through Habit for Humanity in the area of Mill Street, McDonald Street and MLK Jr. Boulevard. The team that worked to prepare the grant was introduced and thanked for their efforts. It was noted that the grant did not require a cash match nor an application fee. Staff expected to receive a response in June.

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CITY ATTORNEY ISSUES:

Business Resolution: Approval of the Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Gainesville Non-Profit Development Foundation, Inc.

City Attorney Palmour stated the proposed resolution implements a change to the composition of the Gainesville Non-Profit Development Foundation reducing it from nine to seven members. It also defines how membership will be determined. He asked Council to approve the resolution so the GNPFD could sign the Articles of Incorporation then he would submit information to the Secretary of State.

Mayor Dunagan requested attendance information from the board.

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CITY MANAGER'S ISSUES:

Rotary Club Public Safety Tribute

City Manager Padgett stated the Rotary Club had been working on a public safety tribute and would make a presentation at the next Work Session.

SPLOST VI Update

City Manager Padgett stated Hall County planned to host a meeting to provide an update on Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). The meeting would be held on March 24 at the Hall County Government Complex at 5:30 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

City Attorney Palmour requested an Executive Session to discuss litigation.

City Manager Padgett requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

Motion to close the Work Session at 10:16 AM to enter an Executive Session to discuss litigation, personnel and real estate matters.

Motion made by Council Member Wangemann

Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras

Votes favoring the motion: Hamrick, Figueras, Wangemann, Couvillon

Officials Absent: Bruner

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STAFF PRESENT: Padgett, Sheppard, Palmour, Marlowe, Allison, Ligon, Davis, Jordan

Motion to close the Executive Session at 11:03 AM to continue the Work Session.

Motion made by Council Member Figueras

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

Votes favoring the motion: Hamrick, Figueras, Wangemann, Couvillon

Officials Absent: Bruner

OTHER ISSUES:

Transportation Master Plan

Council Member Figueras expressed concern about potential improvements to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard indicating there was no way to widen the roadway (from EE Butler to Downey) without taking homes. She requested that the widening portion be removed from the plan and requested an opportunity to discuss this further.

Mayor Dunagan indicated he would not support removing this from the plan.

Park Street

Council Member Hamrick stated Herbert Bell was an antique car collector that lived on Park Street. All of the cars were sold after his death but the garage had not been removed. It had become an eyesore. Residents in the nearby condos were requesting action.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:20 AM

/dj