

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

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

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **Digital Billboards**

Tim Hall, Fairway Outdoor Advertising, presented an idea regarding digital billboards that would ultimately reduce the number of billboards across the City. He stated Fairway is the only company providing digital billboard service in this area. He showed a photograph of the design. Each billboard had the ability to show a maximum of six advertisements.

Council Member Couvillon felt digital billboards would offer a cleaner look for the community and indicated some existing billboards need repairs.

Community Development Director Rusty Ligon stated an ordinance would be required if Council desired to proceed. The ordinance could be drafted to allow Council approval of each advertisement and its location.

Council Member Bruner questioned whether digital billboards would be a distraction to drivers.

Mayor Dunagan expressed a desire for Mr. Hall to work with the Community Development staff to draft an ordinance for Council's review/consideration. Staff was asked to provide potential digital billboard locations when the draft ordinance is presented.

Council Member Figueras confirmed individuals desiring to use this option would contract with Fairway.

#### **Impervious Surface Calculation for Stormwater**

GIS/Utility Coordinating Mapper Jeremy Rylee used a power point presentation to share information about the relationship between impervious surfaces and urban tree canopy. Highlights from the discussion were noted as follows:

- There is a need for high resolution mapping of impervious surfaces, flooding and urban tree canopy cover which could be achieved through specialized software.
- The impacts of impervious surfaces were noted.
- Urban tree canopy reduces water treatment cost.
- The City has an opportunity to participate in a pilot program to map desired information using interns at little to no cost to the City.

#### **Rotary Community Public Service Tribute**

Former Police Chief Frank Hooper presented information on behalf of the Rotary Clubs of Gainesville, Hall County and South Hall. Highlights from the power point presentation were noted as follows:

- There's a desire to place a monument in Roosevelt Square dedicated to the men and women of Gainesville/Hall County public safety agencies.

- The project committee consisted of 25 community volunteers representing various local Rotary Clubs, governments, public safety sectors and businesses.
- Pictures of monuments in other communities were shown as a general idea of what to expect.
- Funding would be provided by each Rotary Club, grants, land and maintenance donations and brick/bench sales. The total budget was expected to fall between \$35,000 and \$45,000.
- The next steps include design, public awareness efforts and development of a RACK card.
- May 2015 was set as the timeline for completion.

Council Member Figueras confirmed this would apply to living and deceased individuals.

### **BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **Gainesville/Hall '96**

Mimi Collins distributed a spreadsheet showing the budget and a media release. The information included a priority list that documented completed items.

Morgan House, Lake Lanier Olympic Venue Manager, indicated he had spent most of his life at the boathouse and shared some of his background. He felt this job was in line with his true passion.

Council Member Wangemann commented on the Olympic site being a jewel for the City.

#### **Community Development**

Community Development Director Rusty Ligon reviewed the accomplishments of the five divisions within community development, i.e., Planning, Code Enforcement, Inspections, Special Projects and Housing. He reviewed the goals for FY'15 noting some were continuations from previous years.

#### **Chattahoochee Golf Course**

Golf Course Director Rodger Hogan stated there had been 41 days in the current fiscal year with unfavorable weather conditions and 31 of those days occurred since December. This had impacted the budget. He commented on the goals of the department. Mr. Hogan also provided an overview of tournaments scheduled over the next few months.

Mayor Dunagan expressed a desire to purchase new batteries and tires for the golf carts before replacing them.

#### **Police**

Police Chief Brian Kelly reviewed the goals for the department. There was significant discussion about the transition to electronic distribution of the standard operating procedures and associated savings. There was also discussion about the recently approved records management system noting December was the target for going live on this project.

#### **Project Resolution: Governor's Office of Highway Safety 2015 Incentive Grant**

Police Chief Brian Kelly stated the department was selected to receive a \$10,000 non-matching grant. The funds would be used to purchase educational material and traffic safety equipment.

Placed on the April 1, 2014 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

**Project Resolution: Governor's Office of Highway Safety Acceptance of Monetary Award Certificate for 2012**

Police Chief Brian Kelly stated the department received \$2,000 in monetary certificates that can be used to make purchases new traffic safety equipment and/or repair current equipment.

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**RECESS: 10:29 AM**  
**RECONVENE: 10:35 AM**

**Fire**

Fire Chief Jerome Yarbrough shared statistics in regards to response time and total accidents noting both had decreased overall. He was still waiting to hear the results of the recent ISO rating process. He indicated all goals were completed except one.

Upon inquiry from Council Member Wangemann, Mr. Yarbrough stated the number one cause of fires is cooking. He also commented on outdated electrical wiring.

Mr. Yarbrough stated they are in the process of going paperless noting one area of the department was left to address. He stated morale was better. After completing his first year as Chief, he felt he had run a race the whole time and was making progress. He commented on maintenance issues with the fire truck at Station 2 and noted its replacement had been included in the capital plan.

Upon inquiry from Council Member Wangemann, Mr. Yarbrough stated the issue with reaching Class 1 Insurance Rating was covering the growth of the community. An additional fire station was the key.

**Human Resources**

Human Resources/Risk Management Director Janeann Allison commented on the department's mission statement developed by staff. She stated worker's compensation cost decreased by \$65,000. She commented on training opportunities that had been presented over the last year and stated the Health Care Reform legislation was being monitored regularly to address all requirements.

Upon inquiry from Council Member Wangemann, Mrs. Allison commented on the changes that will address Health Care Reform.

There was a brief discussion about workplace harassment training, open enrollment, the insurance service request for proposals and future goals.

**Administrative Services**

Chief Financial Services Officer Melody Marlowe presented the goals and accomplishments for Finance, Information Technology and Municipal Court. It was noted that the bond rating improved during the last year.

Council Member Hamrick inquired about the franchise fees for Atlanta Gas Line Company.

**RETIREMENT PLAN A ISSUES:**

**Business Resolution: Amendment of Retirement Plan A Document Regarding Re-employment of Plan A Retirees**

Chairman David Frazer recommended adoption of a resolution to amend the Plan Document to allow reemployment of retirees in part time non-plan A positions without ceasing their benefit payments. This has been discussed with the actuary and attorney and they agree the conditions will not negatively affect the plan.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ISSUES:**

**Alcoholic Beverage License Application  
129 Package Store, 2126 Athens Highway**

Senior Finance Technician Tracie Morris presented the application indicating all was in order.

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**Review of Alcoholic Beverage License Fees**

City Marshal Debbie Jones commented on a survey of alcoholic beverage license fees indicating 42 responses were received. There was no discussion about changing the fee schedule.

**Ordinance: Amend Chapter 6-16 Entitled Licenses, Permits and Business Requirements**

City Marshal Debbie Jones stated the proposed ordinance eliminates the distance requirement between pawn shops.

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**COMMUNICATIONS & TOURISM ISSUES:**

**Community Resolution: Authorization to Waive Sale of Alcohol for Public Consumption**

City Manager Kip Padgett stated this resolution authorized First Friday events for this year. Everything was the same as last year.

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Main Street Manager Regina Mansfield reported four new businesses had inquired about relocating to the downtown area.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES ISSUES:**

**Project Resolution: PUD Administration building Renovation Project Award of Contract  
Project Resolution: authorization to Proceed with Construction for CareHere Facility Relocation**

City Manager Padgett stated these two resolutions were not ready to be presented.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:**

**Project Resolution: Approval of Local DCA Homeless Assistance Program Application**

Housing Program Manager Chris Davis commented receiving another application for funding that requires approval from Council. This information was received after the previous applications were approved.

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City Manager Kip Padgett stated the deadline for submission was before the Council Meeting and requested permission for the Mayor to execute the necessary documents under the premise that the resolution would be approved.

There was no objection to the City Manager's request.

**Appropriation Resolution: Correction of Misclassification of Fire Rescue Unit 22 Being Funded with Impact Fees**

Special Projects Manager Jessica Tullar stated the referenced vehicle was a new unit to be added to the fleet. This must be corrected to provide an accurate Impact Fee Report.

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**Business Resolution: Transmittal of the Annual Update to the CIE**

Special Projects Manager Jessica Tullar stated this was the annual update to the Department of Community Affairs. No comments had been received to date. A public hearing will be required before adopting the resolution.

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**Project Resolution: Authorization to Sponsor Cooper Pants Factory Historical Marker**

Project Manager Jessica Tullar stated this resolution authorized sponsorship of the Georgia Historical Marker for Cooper Pants Factory.

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Council Member Couvillon requested a ribbon cutting ceremony when the sign is erected.

**Public Hearing items for the April 1, 2014 Council Meeting**

Planning Manager Matt Tate reviewed a request from the Waffle House to amend a zoning condition on 3.21± acres at 2551 Limestone Parkway. The current zoning allows the establishment. The business wants to change the roofing structure and the proposed design is not allowed in the current zoning classification.

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**CITY MANAGER'S ISSUES:**

**Resolution: Authorization to Execute Easement Agreement with Hall County for Central Hall Multi-Use Trail**

Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard showed the area in question then presented a resolution. The referenced exhibits were not available for the presentation.

City Manager Kip Padgett stated the city attorney had reviewed the documents.

City Attorney Palmour stated staff completed a considerable amount of research in hopes of preventing problems at the airport.

**COUNCIL ISSUES / EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:**

**Council Member Bruner**

Reported the legislative session was over and provided a brief highlight of the General Assembly's action.

**Mayor Dunagan**

Mayor Dunagan requested an early voting precinct on the north side. There was discussion indicating these services are provided free of charge at the Hall County Elections Office. Additional funding would need to be included in the budget to address this. The City Clerk agreed to research this in conjunction with identifying a replacement voting precinct for Brenau.

**Council Member Figueras**

1. Commented on being a judge for the Georgia Municipal Association Essay Contest.
2. Announced the Gainesville Walks event would be held on March 31, 6 PM, at Fair Street.
3. Announced the Great American Cleanup was a county-wide event.
4. Invited everyone to attend the Second Saturday meeting at the Fair Street Neighborhood Center.

**Council Member Hamrick**

Asked for an update on the request for proposals regarding the development of two lots. City Manager Padgett stated Ken Bleakley was working on it with hopes of providing plans in June or July.

**Council Member Wangemann**

Provided additional information about the Great American Cleanup noting this was in connection with Keep America Beautiful.

**Board/Committee Appointments**

Mayor Dunagan commented on an appointment to the Redevelopment Authority and requested suggestions for the Gainesville Non-Profit Development Foundation.

**CITY CLERK ISSUES:**

**Oath of Office for Board/Committee Appointments**

City Clerk Denise Jordan reported the Charter requires an Oath of Office to be executed and filed with the City Clerk before assuming office. A process has been implemented to address this as soon as practical after the official action by Council.

**Name badges**

City Clerk Denise Jordan reported name badges were being ordered for the elected officials to use at various functions. A preference for magnetic badges (instead of pinned badges) was noted.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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