

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.

DEPARTMENT ISSUES

Resolution: Declaration of Surplus Property

Financial Services Manager Beverly Williams presented a resolution to declare surplus property which included a list of items that had exceeded their useful life and were eligible for disposal via online auction services provided by GovDeals.

Placed on the April 21, 2015 Mayor/Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Resolution: Write Off of Delinquent Personal Property Tax

Financial Services Manager Beverly Williams presented a resolution to write off delinquent personal property taxes for 2008 indicating the list contained personal property that was billed but could not be collected.

Placed on the April 21, 2015 Mayor/Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Resolution: Write off of Delinquent Utilities Receivables

Financial Services Manager Beverly Williams presented on behalf of Public Utilities Department accounts to be written off indicating the account holders were either deceased or had declared bankruptcy.

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Resolution: General Banking

Financial Services Manager Beverly Williams stated the proposed resolution was an update to an existing resolution regarding banking services.

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Resolution: Governor's Office of Highway Safety Small Grant FY16

Police Chief Carol Martin stated the proposed resolution allowed the department to accept a \$20,000 no cash match grant. The funds would be divided among the Northeast Georgia Traffic Enforcement Network.

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K-9 Retirement

City Manager Padgett stated the Police Department would retire a nine year old K-9 officer as recommended by the veterinarian. As standard protocol, the K-9 would be r to its handler.

Police Chief Carol Martin stated plans were underway for officers to evaluate options and purchase a new K-9 later this month.

CITY MANAGER ISSUES

Mulberry Creek

City Manager Padgett stated staff was working with Hall County to prepare an agreement regarding Mulberry Creek similar to what was approved for Highway 365 and Gateway Industrial Park. The agreement will be presented to the governing body at a later date.

Hall County Sewer Billing

Mayor Dunagan stated Hall County submitted another request for the city to handle sewer billing. He asked that the Council consider this request.

City Manager Padgett stated this would be the same as what's done for the Town of Braselton.

Smoking Issues

Council Member Couvillon stated two business owners commented on smoking outside downtown establishments and requested help with enforcement.

Communications and Tourism Director Catiel Felts provided a baseline summary regarding the smoking ordinance.

After a brief discussion, City Manager Padgett suggested that staff have discussion with the property owners.

Council Member Hamrick asked if changes to state law had been integrated into the city's ordinance.

FY2016 Recommended Budget

City Manager Kip Padgett presented the recommended budget. Highlights from the discussion were noted as follows:

- Revenue assumptions projected a 2% increase in property taxes.
- There was an overall 4.6% increase in departmental expenditures.
- An additional \$800,000 was included in the Council contingency to address pay study recommendations.
- Health insurance costs continue to increase and employee premiums will increase in January 2016.
- The general fund budget was \$30.7 million representing a .7% increase.
- No tax increase was recommended.
- The fund balance will be \$2.3 million and would not be used to fund operations.
- Revenue sources remain diverse.
- Public safety has the most expenditures and personal services was the largest expenditure category.
- Capital improvements will be supported through the fund balance (\$2 million) and SPLOST VII (\$3.6 million).
- There was discussion about the SPLOST VII cash flow projections and involved projects.
- Beyond FY2016, decisions will need to be made regarding debt service and health insurance.
- Past as well as future budgets will reflect the implications of decisions regarding the SAFER grant, the jail debt, cost of living/merit increases and insurance premiums/co-pays/deductibles.

MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES

Council Member Figueras

1. Requested a copy of the paving list showing the level of priority for each street.
2. Asked when the pay study would be completed.
3. Asked the Police Department to check an apartment on Atlanta Street.
4. Reported an inquiry regarding sidewalks on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.
5. Reported noise from Fieldale Farms during the night.
6. Commended the Parks and Recreation Agency for presentations at the recent Second Saturday Meeting.
7. Requested a Southside cleanup on May 16.

Council Member Hamrick

1. Commended employees for their efforts during the ice storm and requested recognition.
2. Expressed a desire for staff to meet with large users about no fee increase for water.

Council Member Couvillon

1. Provided ex-officio reports from meetings of the Parks and Recreation Agency and the Main Street Advisory Board.
2. Extended a compliment to Public Utilities Department regarding the repair of a ditch on Athens Highway.

Mayor Dunagan

1. Expressed a desire to appoint Cooper Embry to replace LeTrell Simpson on the Development Authority.
2. Requested input regarding other pending board/committee appointments and expressed a desire to address them during the next Work Session.
3. Expressed a desire to recognize certified employees.

CITY CLERK ISSUES

Joint Municipal Association Meeting

City Clerk Denise Jordan reported Gainesville will host the April 27, 2015 JMA Meeting at the Civic Center. There was a brief discussion about the agenda items for the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

City Attorney Palmour requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Motion to close the Work Session at 9:55 AM to enter an Executive Session to discuss litigation, personnel and real estate matters.

Motion made by Council Member Couvillon

Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras

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

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

Mayor Dunagan served as the presiding officer during the Executive Session.

NOTE: Human Resources Director Janeann Allison and Risk Manager Juli Tomlin attended a portion of the Executive Session.

Motion to close the Executive Session at 10:36 AM and to continue the Work Session.

Motion made by Council Member Wangemann
Motion seconded by Council Member Hamrick
Votes favoring the motion: Hamrick, Figueras, Wangemann, Couvillon
Officials Absent: Bruner

OTHER ISSUES:

Resolution: Authorization to Enter Into a Lease Agreement with Kubota Manufacturing Corporation of America

City Manager Padgett stated the proposed resolution was ready for action noting there was an amendment to the lease agreement.

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Gainesville Connection

City Manager Padgett commented on a staff change at Gainesville Connection related to MacDonald Transit.

Gainesville City School System Field House

City Manager Padgett reported several staff members met regarding the field house construction project noting the meeting went well.

Administration Building

City Manager Padgett commented on functional issues of the building. The Assistant City Manager worked with staff to explore options and would present her findings. It was noted that the Public Utilities Department was interested in the second floor to house the construction and permitting division. This was a good option as it would allow individuals seeking permits to do so in the same general area without driving to another location.

Assistant City Manager Sheppard commented on funds in the FY2014 capital improvement plan and commented on the activities that had occurred thus far. She also commented on the remaining balance. After some review, the best option was to move the City Manager's Office into the space currently utilized by Public Works and move Public Works to the space vacated by Hall County Public Works. She discussed the options for renovating the space and reported an additional \$200,000 plus a 20% contingency was needed to renovate and buy furnishings which included paint, carpet and ceiling tiles. This renovation would not address the entire third floor.

Mrs. Sheppard stated she worked with the Chief Financial Officer to identify funding in the Council's contingency and reported \$261,000 could be used without affecting the FY2016 budget. She requested permission to present a resolution to transfer funding in the capital improvement plan to allow renovations to the third floor as discussed.

There was consensus to place a resolution on the April 21, 2015 Mayor/Council Meeting Consent Agenda

The Mayor expressed a desire to improve the flooring on the first floor.

Public Safety Memorial

City Manager Padgett commented on the design work for the public safety memorial to be placed in Roosevelt Square noting there was an opportunity to relocate the entrance to the Administration Building and address other improvements in this area.

Juvenile Court and Probate Court Judges

City Manager Padgett commented on a meeting with Hall County representatives advising of plans to relocate the juvenile and probate court judges to the Annex Building. There was a desire to design the space to protect the judges as they exit their vehicles. The County needed property currently owned by the City to implement such a design.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:10 AM

/dj

C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk