

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

Mayor Dunagan called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM (immediately after the Called Council Meeting) and served as the presiding officer.

DEPARTMENT ISSUES

Ordinance: Amend Title 10 Entitled Schedule of Fees - Water/Sewer Fees for January 2016

Finance and Administration Division Manager Tina Wetherford stated there were minimal changes and there was no increase to the water rates. She also mentioned the City fire line incremental increase was included in this amendment and the building coordination fee was removed.

Placed on the July 19, 2015 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Resolution: Department of Water Resources 5-Year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

Engineering and Construction Division Manager Myron Bennett stated the CIP is used to forecast projects to be completed over the next five years. This information was discussed during the March 2015 workshop. The CIP has three components (water, wastewater and stormwater) and the projects total \$89.1 million for the five year period.

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Council Member Bob Hamrick commented on considerable grading on Highway 365.

Upon inquiry from Council Member Myrtle Figueras, Mr. Bennett confirmed the CIP was considerably less than past years.

Resolution: Department of Water Resources Crane Truck Purchase

Engineering and Construction Division Manager Myron Bennett stated the proposed resolution authorized the purchase of a crane truck. The existing truck is a 1995 model that's not working very well. The lowest bid was submitted by Wade Ford (\$182,461) to replace the crane truck.

Department of Water Resources Director Kelly Randall stated the crane would be available to all departments.

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Resolution: Stormwater Management Program Development

Distribution and Collection System Manager Joey Leverette stated the proposed resolution authorized execution of an agreement to develop a stormwater management program. Elements of the program were discussed during the March 2015 workshop. The agreement with CH2M Hill formalizes a program that will consolidate operations, redefine goals/objectives, develop databases and refine mapping information. Expenses will be paid from the capital projects program.

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Upon inquiry from Council Member Wangemann, it was noted that community meetings are included in developing the program and will occur.

Department of Water Resources Director Kelly Randall stated staff will return at the end of the year to discuss the public education program.

Resolution: DCA 2014 CHIP Home Homebuyer Assistance and Home Homeownership Rehabilitation Assistance Policies and Procedures Manual

Housing Program Manager Chris Davis stated the proposed resolution would adopt policies and procedures as required by DCA.

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MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES

Appointment(s): Redevelopment Authority

Mayor Dunagan postponed this discussion until the next work session.

Council Member Bruner

1. Reported right-of-way concerns from a Laurel Lane resident.
2. Attended the Oxtan Senior Citizen Ribbon Cutting event.
3. Reported a resident was experiencing mail delivery problems.
4. Reported she will be out of town for two weeks beginning July 25.

Council Member Figueras

1. Commented on the impact of the July 10, 2015 article in *The Times* entitled "Figueras Could Be Contender Again". She stated she plans to retire.
2. Provided a brief overview regarding discussions at the Second Saturday meeting.

Council Member Hamrick

Congratulated the Communications and Tourism Department for a successful First Friday event (Beach Party).

Council Member Couvillon

1. Provided an ex-officio report from the Golf Course Advisory Committee Meeting.
2. Commented on the Parks and Recreation Accreditation Reception noting the agency has not received the final report regarding the status of their national accreditation.
3. Provided an ex-officio report on the Main Street Advisory Committee Meeting.
4. Asked Council to consider making a monetary donation for a back to school event occurring on August 8 entitled Bridging the Gap.

Council Member Wangemann

1. Provided an ex-officio report from the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Meeting.
2. Announced a community cleanup will occur on July 18. Volunteers were asked to meet behind the Hall County School Board Office located on Green Street.
3. Provided a Keep Hall Beautiful litter report.

Mayor Danny Dunagan

Reported there's a coyote problem at the golf course. Staff was requesting assistance from a wild life trapper.

July 10, 2015 article in *The Times* entitled “Figueras Could Be Contender Again”

Mayor Dunagan shared his thoughts about the article indicating Council Member Figueras works hard for her ward. He shared the demographic breakdown for Gainesville’s eligible voters as of July 8 and demographic information from the 2014 county-wide general election. He also shared his thoughts about the at-large voting system and commented on calls received from Ward 3 residents who are happy with the current voting process. The Mayor stated Gainesville’s electoral system has been challenged in the federal court system and the United States Justice Department found it to be valid and legal. He challenged GALEO to provide information supporting their claims.

Council Member Myrtle Figueras stated she chose to ignore the comments. She felt it was important to remember one person doesn’t express the sentiment of an entire community/race.

Council Member George Wangemann stated citizens were asking him to leave the at-large voting process in place as he knocked on doors extending invitations to Council Meetings. He commented on the system being in place since 1821 indicating it had worked well for the city.

Council Member Couvillon stated change is helpful. He felt statistics stand on their own merit and it was up to GALEO to prove different. He expressed concern about residents feeling slighted and stated perception was problematic. He desired to keep an open mind and address everyone’s concerns.

Council Member Bob Hamrick stated change is inevitable noting the City has changed over the years.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 AM

/dj

C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk