

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

Mayor Dunagan called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and served as the presiding officer.

DEPARTMENT ISSUES

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Communications and Tourism Director Catiel Felts introduced Aaron Luque, President/CEO of EnviroSpark Energy Solutions, indicating there had been discussion about installing electric vehicle charging stations in the downtown area. Mr. Luque stated the options had been evaluated to find the best location for a dual charging station. The equipment could be moved to other locations as needed. He discussed advertising and indicated electric cars represent 2% of the vehicles on the road today. There was also discussion about enforcing the time limitations and the fee structure.

Mayor Danny Dunagan requested additional information. He also made reference to development plans for the current location.

Resolution: Retirement Plan A Legal Services Award of Contract

Budget and Purchasing Manager Matt Hamby stated the proposed resolution authorized a contract for legal services for the referenced retirement plan. The board interviewed two candidates and recommended awarding the contract to Morris, Manning and Martin LLP.

Placed on the August 18, 2015 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Resolution: Brenau University Golf Course Agreement

Director of Golf Rodger Hogan stated the proposed resolution authorized the execution of an agreement with Brenau University for the purpose of hosting a ladies golf team.

Placed on the August 18, 2015 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Resolution: Designation of Certifying Officer for Environmental Reviews

Housing Program Manager Chris Davis stated the proposed resolution reassigns the responsibility of certifying environmental reviews. He commented on the reasons environmental reviews are conducted. Currently, the Mayor serves as the certifying officer. Mr. Davis stated it would be more effective to reassign this responsibility to the Director of Community Development.

Placed on the August 18, 2015 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Administration of Hall County's CHIP Grants

Upon inquiry from Council Member Figueras, Housing Program Manager Chris Davis stated there were some internal changes to address. The Mayor offered to contact Commissioner Scott Gibbs.

Land Banks

Upon inquiry from Council Member Bruner, the Mayor stated Hall County was moving forward with land banks and a resolution was forthcoming in September.

CITY MANAGER ISSUES

House Bill 225

Interim City Manager Melody Marlowe stated the referenced bill addressed vehicles for hire. Staff had been working with Attorney Palmour and Attorney Breakfield to interpret the law and its effect on the City. Some taxi businesses were upset.

Attorney John Breakfield indicated the law overrides most of the local requirements. The State will handle the decision making process and the Department of Safety will regulate the law.

Ms. Figueras requested assistance with preparing a response to concerned parties.

MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES

Appointment(s): Airport Advisory Committee

Mayor Dunagan recommended the reappointment of Alan Wayne.

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Appointment(s): Friends of the Parks

Mayor Dunagan recommended appointing Harriett Taylor to fill unexpired term of Erika Walker.

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Appointment(s): Historic Preservation Commission

Mayor Dunagan recommended the reappointment of Jack Bailey.

Placed on the August 18, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda

Appointment(s): Housing Authority

Mayor Dunagan recommended the reappointment of Faron Thompson.

Placed on the August 18, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda

Appointment(s): Loan Review Committee

Mayor Dunagan recommended appointing Angela Sheppard to replace Kip Padgett.

Placed on the August 18, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda

Appointment(s): Metropolitan Planning Organization - Community Advisory Committee (MPOCAC)

Mayor Dunagan recommended reappointing Connie Propes and appointing Jerry Castleberry to replace Emory Turner.

Placed on the August 18, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda

Appointment(s): Parks and Recreation Board

Mayor Dunagan recommended appointing John Simpson to fill the unexpired term of Jennifer Puryear.

Council Member Bob Hamrick expressed concern about having two members on the Board that live in the same area.

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Board/Committee Appointments

Council Member George Wangemann expressed a desire to change the way appointments are handled to give all Council Members an opportunity to submit names. The Mayor stated he had asked for suggestions and received very little response.

Council Member Myrtle Figueras stated there was a conflict in the Charter related to appointments.

Council Member Ruth Bruner

Provided an ex-officio report on the Hall '96 meeting.

Council Member Myrtle Figueras

1. Provided an ex-officio report on the Planning and Appeals Board Meeting.
2. Provided an ex-officio report on the Housing Authority Meeting.
3. Reported a citizen's concern about the theft of a bike.
4. Reported Council was invited to a racial profiling meeting sponsored by the Newtown Florist Club.
5. Reported Justin Presley was concerned about Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements.
6. Announced an Empty Bowl Lunch was scheduled for September 22 at First Baptist Church.

Council Member Bob Hamrick

1. Provided an ex-officio report from the Airport Advisory Committee Meeting.
2. Complimented staff on the FY2016 budget report.

Council Member Sam Couvillon

1. Provided an ex-officio report from the Chattahoochee Golf Course Advisory Committee Meeting.
2. Commented on the Highlands to the Islands Trail Meeting.

Council Member George Wangemann

1. Provided an ex-officio report from the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Meeting.
2. Commented on a conversation with Carmen Delgado about improvements to Atlanta Highway (a Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce initiative) and felt this discussion should be resurrected.

CITY CLERK ISSUES

Ordinance: Polling Precincts and Nominating Petitions

City Clerk Denise Jordan stated the proposed ordinance makes two housekeeping amendments. The first removes the names of the polling precincts from the Code Book. Facility name changes prompted a need to update the code. Research revealed communities of similar size do not list their precincts in their Code Books. The proposed ordinance follows this same concept and indicates precincts will be established in accordance with the State Election Code. The ordinance was not intended to change polling precincts.

The second amendment deletes language requiring election candidates to file nominating petitions as notice of candidacy. The Charter rewrite eliminated nominating petitions as a local requirement. The proposed ordinance states candidates must meet the requirements of the State Election Code.

Appointment: Election Superintendent

City Clerk Denise Jordan stated the State Election Code requires the governing body to appoint an election superintendent. In the absence of such appointment, all responsibilities fall upon the City Clerk. The City has an agreement with Hall County for election services which assigns superintendent duties to both City and County staff. Appointments are necessary to honor the terms of the agreement and comply with State law. Mrs. Jordan recommended appointing Denise Jordan, Alisa Grayson and Charlotte Sosebee to serve as election superintendents.

Placed on the August 18, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda

Appointment: Absentee Ballot Clerk

City Clerk Denise Jordan stated the Absentee Ballot Clerk determines if an applicant is eligible to vote and issues a ballot or provides written notice when unable to do so. All actions occur in accordance with the State Election Code. Mrs. Jordan recommended appointing Charlotte Sosebee as the Absentee Ballot Clerk.

Placed on the August 18, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda

County-wide ESPLOST

City Clerk Denise Jordan stated discussion was underway about a county-wide ESPLOST referendum. As of yesterday, the Hall County Elections Office could not confirm if it was moving forward. If this becomes a reality, direction was needed as to whether the city's election will be held in conjunction with the county-wide election. The benefit to joining with the county was to eliminate voter confusion regarding election precinct. Voters would report to their county locations to cast their ballots if the city's election is held in conjunction with the county election.

Qualifying Packets

City Clerk Denise Jordan stated a press release was distributed announcing the availability of qualifying packets. Interested parties were asked to schedule an appointment to review the materials/resources.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Attorney Palmour requested an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

Mayor Dunagan requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Motion to enter an Executive Session at 10:42 AM to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

Motion made by Council Member Couvillon

Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras

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

NOTE: Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard Human Resources Director Janeann Allison attended a portion of the session.

Motion to close the Executive Session at 11:30 AM to continue the Work Session.

Motion made by Council Member Couvillon

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Business Resolution: Approval of Settlement Agreement and Release

Human Resources Director Janeann Allison presented the proposed resolution to settle litigation with Henry and Tracy Troutman.

Placed resolution on the consent agenda

ADJOURNMENT: 11:04 AM

/dj

C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk