

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

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

PURPOSE OF MEETING: Public hearing regarding property tax increase
Downtown master plan presentation

PUBLIC HEARING:

Property Tax Increase

Mayor Dunagan reviewed the public hearing process.

Interim City Manager Melody Marlowe stated the City received the certified tax digest and reassessment report from Hall County. As required by state law, staff calculated the rollback millage rates. The recommendation was to: rollback 1.63 mills for General Government, 0.75 mills for Parks and Recreation and 0.60 mills for Debt Service. In total, the recommendation was to rollback the 2015 millage rate from 3.02 mills to 2.98 mills.

The Mayor opened the floor for comments. There being none, the hearing was closed. No action was required.

PRESENTATION:

Downtown Strategic Vision & Master Plan

Director of Community Development Rusty Ligon commented on the recommendation from the 2030 Comprehensive Plan to prepare a downtown master plan. Staff was able to secure grant funds for the plan and Carl Vinson Institute of Government was selected to prepare the plan. He introduced Danny Bivens and Leigh Askew Elkins from CVIOG and identified Jessica Tullar as the Project Manager. The project had been underway for approximately 8 months. A powerpoint presentation supplemented the discussion. Notable comments were:

- The first steps involved a visual preference survey, plan review, demographic scans, interviews and focus groups.
- The median age in 2014 was 28.8.
- Gainesville's top issues are connectivity, programming, design and economic development.
- There were 22 action items to implement the plan. It was suggested that they be added to the short term work program.

Council extended words of appreciation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Dunagan requested an Executive Session to discuss real estate matters.

Motion to close the meeting to enter an Executive Session to discuss real estate matters at 9:55 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Figueras

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

Absent: Bruner

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Dunagan, Hamrick, Figueras, Wangemann, Couvillon
COUNCIL ABSENT: Bruner
STAFF PRESENT: Marlowe, Sheppard, Palmour, Ligon, Tullar, Jordan
OTHERS PRESENT: Danny Bivens, Leigh Askew Elkins

Motion to close the Executive Session at 10:22 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Wangemann

Motion seconded by Council Member Figueras

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

Officials Absent: Bruner, Couvillon

Council Member Couvillon was not in the meeting room when the Executive Session was closed.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:22 PM

/dj

C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk