

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Dunagan, Hamrick, Bruner, Wangemann, Couvillon  
OFFICIALS ABSENT: Figueras  
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:**

**Resolution: Retirement Plan A Amendment to Comply with the Obergefell v. Hodges Ruling**

Retirement Plan A Board Chairman David Frazier stated the Plan has a joint survivor option that allows the spouse to receive a benefit after the retiree dies. The Obergefell ruling makes it necessary to offer the same benefits to same-sex marriages. The ruling does not address retroactive implementation. The Board recommends amending the Plan to allow retroactive election with the requirement that the retiree reimburse the Plan.

Attorney Ed Emerson commented on the ruling noting the Governor and the Attorney General would be enforcing it. The Plan must comply with the ruling effective June 26, 2015 going forward. The Board considered applying the ruling as it pertains to the joint survivor option retroactive to the date of retirement. Mr. Emerson briefly reviewed each amendment indicating the actuary will determine the excess benefit payment and determine the adjusted amendment using the same actuarial tables used at the point of retirement.

Placed on the October 20, 2015 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

**Resolution: Authorize Interim City Manager to Execute Documents for the 2016 Benefits Plan**

Rob and Brett Fowler used a power point presentation to discuss changes to the employee benefit plan. The following information was noted:

- Year-to-date claims experience was better
- Prescription drug costs had decreased by \$150,000
- Plan design changes are expected to save between \$252,430 and \$492,416
- Paid claims are expected to be a little over \$6 million
- There will be more precertification requirements
- Proposed changes will allow the cost to remain in line and keep employee-only premiums at the current rate
- A Comprehensive Wellness Program will be coordinated by the clinic with wellness incentives
- Open enrollment was scheduled for November 9-13 at the Civic Center
- The health plan for retirees will change from Cigna/Humana Medicare Advantage Alliance to Cigna-HealthSpring Medicare Advantage

The proposed resolution authorized the Interim City Manager to execute the necessary documents for the benefit plan.

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**Ordinance: Amend Title 6 Entitled “Licenses, Permits and Business Regulations” as it Pertains to Taxicabs**

City Marshal Debbie Jones stated the proposed ordinance deletes Chapter 8 of Title 6 entitled “Taxi Cabs” in its entirety. This action is in response to House Bill 225 which placed the administration and regulations of cab drivers and cab companies under the control of the state. Upon inquiry, Mrs. Jones stated she received some comments from the taxicab owners expressing frustrations.

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**Resolution: FY2016 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG)**

Assistant Public Works Director Chris Rotalsky introduced Matt Tarver as a transfer from Department of Water Resources to replace Stan Aiken.

Civil Engineer Matt Tarver stated the city is eligible to receive over \$247,000 in grant funds. The following streets were identified to be addressed with this funding: Blue Ridge Drive, Chestatee Road, Club Drive, Grove Street, Mountain View Drive, Stillwood Drive, Summit Street and Tanglewood Drive. The departmental budget included the required 30% match. The proposed resolution authorized submission of the application and acceptance of the grant funds.

There was discussion about concerns from Edgewater Subdivision which indicated a full depth reclamation was being considered for the next street maintenance cycle.

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**Resolution: Flat Creek Water Reclamation Facility – Odor Survey and Study**

Engineering and Construction Services Division Manager Myron Bennett stated this study occurs periodically to identify and manage odor sources. He briefly discussed the testing process. Staff reviewed a proposal from Hazen and Sawyer Environmental Engineers and Scientist. The proposed resolution authorized the execution of an agreement for professional services with a cost not to exceed \$63,500.

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**Resolution: Lake Knickerbocker Dam Improvements**

Engineering and Construction Services Division Manager Myron Bennett stated the proposed resolution authorized design services to improve the dam. Schnabel Dam Engineering, Inc. completed a review and provided three options. Staff recommends the removal of trees and root systems, improving the spillway, installing a trash trap and protecting the dam slopes. The total cost to be paid from the Department of Water Resources capital projects fund was not to exceed \$81,500. This was maintenance work that would not require draining the lake.

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**Resolution: Athens Highway Utilities Relocation – Georgia Department Of Transportation (GDOT) Actual Cost Utility Agreement**

Design and Permitting Section Chief Matt Henderson presented a resolution to authorize execution of the Actual Cost Utility Agreement with GDOT which allows the city to receive reimbursement of \$221,177.96. GDOT's policy allows reimbursement of relocating utilities in conjunction with roadway widening improvements.

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**Stormwater Presentation**

Director of Department of Water Resources Kelly Randall used a powerpoint presentation to discuss the stormwater management program. The following topics were addressed:

- What is stormwater?
- Why is it a problem?
- Key implementation issues
- Existing stormwater program information and development
- Funding alternatives

The desire was to design a phased approach that would be evaluated over time and to implement a manageable program. The timeline was to adopt a program by the end of 2015 with implementation in January 2017 which gives a one-year period to educate the community so everyone can plan appropriately.

Council Member George Wangemann questioned whether stormwater originated from outside the city limits.

**MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES**

**Appointment: Chattahoochee Golf Course Advisory Committee**

Mayor Dunagan recommended reappointment of Dick Valentine.

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**Community Development Report**

Mayor Dunagan commented on the increase in building/inspection services compared to last year.

**Georgia Municipal Association (GMA)**

Mayor Dunagan provided a brief report about his first GMA meeting.

**Keep Hall Beautiful**

Council Member George Wangemann commented on an upcoming cleanup effort.

## **CITY CLERK ISSUES**

### **Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) City of Ethics Recertification**

City Clerk Denise Jordan reported the city has received notice that it's time to recertify its City of Ethics designation. There are two opportunities to proceed, i.e., December 1 for Mayor's Day recognition or April 1 for Annual Convention recognition.

She requested direction as to when to proceed noting there would be two new council members after the first of the year. The action to be taken involved reviewing the existing ordinance to make changes as needed; then, readopting by resolution the five ethics principles.

Council Member Ruth Bruner recommended appointing a workgroup to address this.

There was consensus to wait until after the first of the year.

### **2015 Municipal Election Update**

City Clerk Denise Jordan shared information about the different voting options, locations and hours of service. It was noted that Saturday voting would be available at three locations. On Election Day, voters would report to their county precinct to cast a ballot. A variety of information was available on the website.

### **Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) Request Regarding Pedestrian Traffic**

Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard stated Georgia Mountains Regional Commission area employees are walking across Queen City Parkway to go to Racetrac and creating a beaten path on the grass. A fence was requested to discourage this activity but this doesn't appear to be the best option. Additionally, the cost would be approximately \$8,500 if it's allowed in this zoning district. There was a concern about the failure to use the crosswalk to cross four lanes of traffic.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Interim City Manager Melody Marlowe requested an Executive Session to discuss litigation, personnel and real estate matters.

**Motion to close the meeting to enter an executive session to discuss litigation, personnel and real estate matters at 10:30 AM.**

Motion made by Council Member Couvillon

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

**Absent: Figueras**

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The following attended portions of the Executive Session: Janeann Allison, Abb Hayes, Jerome Yarbrough, Chris Rotalsky and Matt Tarver.

**Motion to close the executive session at 11:45 AM.**

Motion made by Council Member Couvillon

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

**Absent: Figueras**

**ADJOURNMENT: 11:45 AM**

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C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

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Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk