

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Danny Dunagan, Ruth Bruner, George Wangemann,
Sam Couvillon, Zack Thompson and Barbara Brooks
STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Lackey, Angela Sheppard, Abb Hayes, Denise Jordan and
Alisa Grayson

Mayor Dunagan called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and served as the presiding officer.

Reverend Stephen P. Samuel, St. John Baptist Church, delivered the invocation after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

PRESENTATION(S):

State of the City Address

Mayor Dunagan provided the State of the City address and read the following prepared speech:

Welcome to tonight's meeting. On behalf of the City Council I would like to report on the State of the City.

The City refinanced Water and Sewer bonds in 2014 and 2015. The City's strong credit rating of Aa2 contributed to low interest rates and produced almost \$7 million in interest savings for the citizens over the remaining life of these bonds.

The latest economic development report from the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce showed capital investment in new and expanded industry projects in the City of Gainesville alone topped \$150 million and created more than 780 jobs last year. Ninety-eight (98) new businesses have located in Gainesville in the past five years. New residential and commercial building permits continue to break all previous records and, as another sign of growth, water meter sales are up 25%, an all-time high since 2008.

The Public Works Department is overseeing a comprehensive study of Green Street. The engineers will determine what is under layers and layers of pavement. A key element in determining options for improving traffic on Green Street is to evaluate the infrastructure. This study is slated to be completed in May of this year. Engineering work is also underway on three turn-lane projects on Jesse Jewell Parkway and at the intersection of Jesse Jewell/John Morrow and Queen City Parkway.

Our Community Development Department completed the Downtown Master Plan with a record number of citizens participating in the formulation. Efforts are already underway to implement recommendations from this plan including streetscaping along Bradford and Washington Streets and landscaped medians and crosswalk upgrades on Jesse Jewell Parkway and E. E. Butler Parkway adjacent to downtown.

Affordable housing remains a priority of the city. A \$1 million HOME grant is being used to build four new affordable single family homes. Proceeds from the sale of the homes will be used to build additional homes. We are partnering with the Gainesville Housing Authority and Walton Communities on plans for new housing to replace Atlanta Street Apartments. This will begin a much needed facelift for a major corridor into our city. Careful consideration is being given to the relocation of the families who will be impacted by this project. Demolition will begin later this year. I think you will be very pleased with the finished product.

The Gainesville Police Officers spent this year focusing on community relations. Community panel questionnaires and public cookouts were utilized as ways to connect with the public.

The Gainesville Fire Department responded to almost 8,000 calls for service last year. They are also working on re-locating Station 2 as a SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) project.

The Public Utilities Department changed its name to the Department of Water Resources and spent considerable time working on a plan to address the issue of storm water management in our City. Linda MacGregor began this week as the Director of Department of Water Resources. Discussion on funding our storm water program will resume once Mrs. MacGregor has evaluated this important issue.

Under the direction of the Community Service Center, Meals on Wheels hit a milestone when they eliminated their waiting list. And thanks to your YES vote on SPLOST, the Senior Life Center will be renovated to meet the needs of our active senior population.

Gainesville Parks and Recreation opened the 29 acre Linwood Nature Reserve and created a 14 mile water trail system throughout five parks. This year the design and engineering will begin for the new Youth Sports Complex, also a SPLOST project.

The Chattahoochee Golf Course hosted 32 tournaments and more than 23,000 rounds of golf.

Our Main Street Program keeps growing and, in 2015, welcomed 88 events to the Gainesville Square and over 100,000 visitors.

Business and leisure travel continues to be strong in Gainesville as evidenced by the growing Hotel/Motel Tax collections. Our newest attraction, the Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville, opened just a few miles from the Lake Lanier Olympic Venue. The venue, one of the City's greatest economic generators, is expected to welcome over 20,000 athletes this year. Venue improvements will be completed just in time for the Canoe Pan American Championships in mid-May and the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the '96 Olympic Games in late summer. In 2018, the venue will host the World Dragon Boat Championships.

Forbes Magazine rated Gainesville as one of the Best Small Places for Business and Careers for the fourth year in a row. In 2015, the Federal Reserve Bank named Gainesville one of the most dynamic economies in Georgia and the nation, and the Milken Institute Report rated us among the Best Small Metro Areas in the United States and the number one ranking area in Georgia. We know what it means to be business friendly.

We are off to a great start this year with the addition of two new Council Members, Mrs. Barbara Brooks and Mr. Zack Thompson. We also have a new City Manager, Bryan Lackey. Bryan comes to us from Gwinnett County where he spent the last 20 years, and City Attorney Abb Hayes, from the firm of Hulseley, Oliver, and Mahar.

2015 was a very good year for the City and 2016 is starting out to be a busy year for staff and Council. There are many needs to address as our City continues to grow and move forward. Traffic, road maintenance, sidewalks, and storm water are just a few

issues that will be addressed this year. But I want to assure every Citizen of Gainesville that your City Council and City Staff will make sure that your City will operate as efficiently as possible while maintaining the Quality of Life that our Citizens deserve and expect.

I want to thank the citizens of Gainesville for all your support, this City Council for your leadership and dedication, and the entire staff of the City of Gainesville for their dedication and commitment in making Gainesville a great place to Work, Live, and Play and a place that we can be proud to call home.

Gainesville Fire Department's 140th Anniversary

Fire Chief Jerome Yarbrough announced the Fire Department's 140th Anniversary indicating it was a momentous occasion. A celebration will take place on Thursday, February 18 at 7:30 AM at the Fire Station 1. Everyone was invited to attend.

Post-Employment Service Recognition

Mayor Dunagan recognized post-employment retirees Brian McGonigle (Water Resources), Kelly Randall (Water Resources), David Heaton (Public Works), Deborah Couch (Public Works), Farah Mobley (Water Resources), and Hoyt Stephens (Water Resources) for their years of service. They had a total accumulated service of 160 years, 11 months and 24 days. He read a testimonial and presented tokens of appreciation. Kelly Randall and David Heaton were in attendance. Council expressed words of appreciation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Anne Chenault, 1256 Riverside Drive, expressed concerns surrounding the plans for an Enota bypass (also known as Phase I of the Northeast Connector on transportation planning maps). She felt more information was needed to better understand what may occur.

Mayor Dunagan stated there was a preliminary plan and a grant application had been submitted to fund a feasibility study. He also commented on the grant process and on the phases of the transportation plan.

Council Member Couvillon commented on the transportation study noting there were several proposed improvements and many of them would not come to fruition. He stated none of the City Council Members indicated there would be an Enota bypass behind the Enota School. The city's leaders are looking for a solution. He suggested allowing the study to take place if grant funds were received.

Ms. Chenault felt the traffic problems impact areas outside the city limits and Gainesville should not have to solve these problems at the expense of its neighborhoods. This was the purpose of the Gainesville-Hall County Metropolitan Planning Organization. Ms. Chenault suggested using Limestone Parkway to relieve some traffic. She liked the city's motto, "live, work and play" and hoped it would not include "drive-through" Gainesville.

Aimee and Nicholas Hoecker, owners of Downtown Drafts located at 115 Bradford Street, requested that Council reconsider regulating wine sampling. She stated today's citizen wants less government regulations. Imposing unnecessary restrictions on businesses would be taking a step in the wrong direction.

Matthew Vrahiotes, 7570 Bill Wilson Road, Alto; owner of Sweet Acre Farms Winery, stated his family owned 300 Spring Street. He considered Gainesville to be his city because it's where he works, shops and spends his leisure time. He felt the alcohol proposal was a bad idea. He also commented on the impact the regulation would have on his business.

Kevin O'Connor, 776 Holly Drive, stated he was present for a follow up discussion regarding problems and damages to his property noting his goal was to have the city enforce the code as adopted. He used a power point to supplement his discussion. He referenced section 9-13-12-5 of the Unified Land Development Code and felt it was applicable to his issue. He specifically commented on the replacement of an impervious cover (also known as a roof).

Mayor Dunagan stated the property was not in violation at this point indicating the city's legal counsel and staff had investigated the matter. Mr. O'Connor insisted a variance was required and was concerned about post-construction.

Council Member Thompson commented on his recent inspection of the area and felt substantial improvements had occurred since his first visit.

Mr. O'Connor wanted to know who would be responsible for the clean-up noting it didn't seem fair to him.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolutions

- A. AR-2016-04 FY2015 Closure of Airport Capital Projects
- B. AR-2016-05 FY2015 Closure of Department of Water Resources Capital Projects
- C. AR-2016-06 FY2015 Closure of General Government Capital Projects
- D. AR-2016-07 FY2015 Closure of Parks & Recreation Capital Projects
- E. BR-2016-05 Adoption of New Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual
- F. BR-2016-06 Georgia Classic Main Street Program Memorandum of Understanding for the 2016 Year
- G. CR-2016-01 Public Art Initiatives by the Vision 2030 Public Art Committee
- H. PR-2016-06 Department of Water Resources Variable Frequency Drive Purchase
- I. PR-2016-07 Traffic Calming / Road Safety Devices Project

City Manager Bryan Lackey provided a brief overview of each resolution item.

Motion to adopt the resolutions as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Bruner

Motion seconded by Council Member Brooks

Votes favoring the motion: Bruner, Wangemann, Couvillon, Thompson, Brooks

Minutes: November 24, 2015 Work Session

Minutes: December 1, 2015 Mayor/Council Meeting

Minutes: December 10, 2015 Work Session

Minutes: December 15, 2015 Mayor/Council Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes accepting the edits as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Wangemann
Motion seconded by Council Member Bruner
Votes favoring the motion: Dunagan, Bruner, Wangemann, Couvillon
Abstain: Thompson, Brooks

The Mayor provided the fourth affirmative vote required by the Charter.

Minutes: January 5, 2016 Mayor/Council Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes accepting the edits as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Bruner
Motion seconded by Council Member Thompson
Votes favoring the motion: Bruner, Wangemann, Couvillon, Thompson, Brooks

APPOINTMENTS:

Municipal Court Solicitor

Motion to appoint Anne Marie Bishop to fill the unexpired term of Municipal Court Solicitor.

Motion made by Council Member Bruner
Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann
Votes favoring the motion: Bruner, Wangemann, Couvillon, Thompson, Brooks

OATH OF OFFICE:

Anne Marie Bishop – Municipal Court Solicitor

Mayor Dunagan administered the Oath of Office to Anne Marie Bishop to affirm her position of Municipal Court Solicitor. The Oath read as follows:

I, **Anne Marie Bishop**, do solemnly swear that I will conduct the Office of the Solicitor of the Municipal Court of Gainesville, Georgia, in accordance with the law, that I will prosecute all cases made in said court to the very best of my ability, and that I will so conduct myself in carrying out the duties of the office in such a manner as will reflect credit upon the municipality in its administration of justice.

Ms. Bishop expressed her appreciation for the appointment.

GENERAL LEGISLATION:

Proposed Ordinance

Amend Chapter 6-4 Entitled Alcoholic Beverages

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6-4 ENTITLED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA; TO PROVIDE FOR WINE TASTINGS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR

SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Motion to return the proposed ordinance to staff for further review and discussion at a future work session after additional studies have been completed.

Motion made by Council Member Thompson

Motion seconded by Council Member Couvillon

Votes favoring the motion: Bruner, Couvillon, Thompson, Brooks

Votes opposing the motion: Wangemann

RESOLUTIONS:

AR-2016-08

Reduction of Management Fees Charged to Hall County for the Installation of the Mulberry Creek Force Main

Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard stated the proposed resolution authorized a reduction in the Construction Management Fee charged to Hall County (\$15,000) for a project to install a 20" force main from the Mulberry Creek Lift Station to the Flat Creek Water Reclamation Facility. The main was in conflict with the pedestrian tunnel going under Atlanta Highway as part of the Central Hall Trail System. The city realized the value of the trail and wanted to participate. The resolution authorized the reduction of the management fee which would be returned to Hall County.

Motion to adopt the Resolution AR-2016-08 as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Bruner

Motion seconded by Council Member Brooks

Votes favoring the motion: Bruner, Wangemann, Couvillon, Thompson, Brooks

ANNEXATION/ZONING:

Second Reading: Ordinance No. 2016-01

Amend Planned Unit Development Zoning on 92.06± Acres at 3035 Old Oakwood Road SW AND 3523 Mountain View Road SW

Motion to hold second reading on Ordinance 2016-01, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA, BY AMENDING THE EXISTING PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, WITH CONDITIONS (P-U-D-c) ZONING ON A 92.06± ACRES TRACT LOCATED ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES OF THE INTERSECTION OF OLD OAKWOOD ROAD AND MILLSIDE PARKWAY (A/K/A 3035 OLD OAKWOOD ROAD SW AND 3523 MOUNTAIN VIEW ROAD SW); REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. (Amendment to the Zoning Map)

Motion made by Council Member Wangemann

Motion seconded by Council Member Thompson

Votes favoring the motion: Bruner, Wangemann, Couvillon, Thompson, Brooks

ADJOURNMENT: 6:19 PM

/ag

C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk