

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Zack Thompson, Juli Hayes, Abigail Guzman, Barbara Brooks, Jon Elliott, Bob Norton  
STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Lackey, Angela Sheppard, Abb Hayes, Alisa Grayson

Council Member Hayes called the meeting to order and served as the presiding officer.

**DEPARTMENT ISSUES:**

**Tourism Update for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**

Tourism Director Robyn Lynch presented the quarterly update for January, February and March. She shared the following information:

- Q1 annual comparisons for hotel/motel tax
- Community engagement/outreach
- A Sports Tourism economic impact of \$6,705,653
- A Convention and Visitors economic impact of \$1,458,000
- Downtown Gainesville Mutts on Main Event
- Events at the Boat House
- Upcoming events for April, May and June

Council Member Hayes thanked Ms. Lynch for the “next level tourism” provided.

NOTE: Mayor Thompson joined the meeting at 9:19 AM.

**CITY MANAGER ISSUES:**

**Fiscal Year 2027 Recommended Budget**

City Manager Bryan Lackey provided a brief overview surrounding the annual budget presentation and the challenges at the state level last year. He commented on the changes within the city as an organization and summarized the strategic priorities which were noted as economic development, spirit of community, stewardship, culture of safety and regional destination.

Highlights from the presentation were noted as follows:

- The proposed general fund budget is \$42.2M and represents an 8.65% increase over the FY2026 adopted budget.
- The budgeted fund balance is \$3.58M for Capital Projects which is slightly less than prior years.
- A 5% pay adjustment is proposed for employees.
- An additional general fund position (Risk Management Specialist) is proposed.
- A full rollback is proposed for FY2027.
- Proposed updates to water resources include a water rate and account service fee increase, addressing industry needs as it relates to industrial pretreatment limits/surcharges, and updates to selected fees.
- Recommended providing a homestead credit to property owners.

The budget calendar was shared indicating one public hearing scheduled on June 16 at 6 PM and the budget and millage rate adoption on July 7 at 5:30 PM.

Council expressed appreciation for staff and all the hard work/efforts made.

There was an inquiry about the usage trend of the WEGO service. After which time, comments surrounding the value and benefit of the WEGO service was shared.

Mayor Thompson expressed appreciation to City Management and Department Heads for all their hard work.

**MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES:**

**Council Member Brooks**

Expressed excitement about the airport and how proud she is of the city.

**Council Member Guzman**

Reported presenting three (3) Gainesville High School students with scholarships and expressed appreciation for Public Relations Director Christina Santee-Moss for her coordination efforts with the event.

**Mayor Thompson**

Reported providing the welcome at the GMA Small Cities Conference this morning noting it is being held at the Civic Center. He commented on the event and announced a reception is scheduled this evening. Everyone is invited to attend.

**CITY ATTORNEY ISSUES:**

**Introduction of Summer Employee**

City Attorney Abb Hayes introduced Josh Youmans who will be working at Hulse, Oliver & Mahar this summer.

**CITY CLERK ISSUES:**

**GMA District 2 Officers**

City Clerk Alisa Grayson reported the nominations for officers was received from GMA for consideration.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

City Attorney Abb Hayes requested an Executive Session to discuss legal and real estate matters.

**Motion to close the meeting to enter an Executive Session to discuss legal and real estate matters at 9:49 AM.**

Motion made by Council Member Hayes

Motion seconded by Council Member Guzman

**Votes favoring the motion: Hayes, Guzman, Brooks, Elliott, Norton**

NOTE: Council Member Brooks left at 9:50 AM.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Zack Thompson, Juli Hayes, Abigail Guzman, Jon Elliott, Bob Norton

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Barbara Brooks

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Lackey, Abb Hayes, Angela Sheppard, Alisa Grayson, Robyn Lynch  
OTHERS PRESENT: Josh Youmans (Hulsey, Oliver & Mahar summer employee)

**Motion to close the Executive Session at 11:48 AM.**

Motion made by Council Member Hayes  
Motion seconded by Council Member Guzman  
**Votes favoring the motion: Hayes, Guzman, Elliott, Norton**  
**Absent: Brooks**

**ADJOURNMENT:** 11:48 AM

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Zack Thompson, Mayor

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Alisa Grayson, City Clerk