

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Danny Dunagan, Ruth Bruner, George Wangemann, Sam Couvillon, Zack Thompson, Barbara Brooks

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Lackey, Angela Sheppard, Abb Hayes, Denise Jordan,

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

Council Member Couvillon delivered the invocation after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

PRESENTATIONS:

2016 Fire Department Awards

Fire Chief Jerome Yarbrough commented on Governor Deal declaring February 7, 2017 to be Firefighters Recognition Day then introduced Division Chief Keith Smith to present the following awards:

- Life Saving Award to Engine 24 C Shift Crew (James Campbell, Alan Payne and Tim Simmons)
- Life Saving Award to B Shift Station 1 Crew (Dale Yarck, Kris Dale, Robby Buffington, Jake Brice, Justin Cohen and Ryan Deaton)
- Fire Officer of the Year Award to Doug Pruitt
- Firefighter of the Year Award to Zach Segars
- Rookie of the Year Award to Cody Rountree

The Fire Department extended appreciation to Gainesville High School students for designing the awards.

The Mayor and Council extended words of appreciation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mandy Harris, Douglas Drive, Hall County, commented on traffic problems on Dawsonville Highway near Ahaluna Drive. Mayor Dunagan stated the concerns were being addressed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Appointment: Friends of the Parks - Position held by Ken Crenshaw

Motion to appoint Chris Morgan to replace Ken Crenshaw on the Friends of the Parks Board.

Motion made by Council Member Bruner

Motion seconded by Council Member Thompson

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

Appointment: Friends of the Parks - Position held by Casey Cochran (reappointment)

Motion to reappoint Casey Cochran to serve another term on the Friends of the Parks Board.

Motion made by Council Member Thompson

Motion seconded by Council Member Bruner

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

Minutes: January 5, 2017 Work Session

Minutes: January 10, 2017 Mayor/Council Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes accepting edits as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Thompson

Motion seconded by Council Member Brooks

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

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

Request from the City of Gainesville to amend Article 9-18 of the Unified Land Development Code for the City of Gainesville, Georgia. The proposed amendment will repeal and replace Article 9-18 entitled "Sign Regulations" with a new Article 9-18 entitled "Signs and Advertising Devices."

City Attorney Abb Hayes called for the public hearing, confirmed the public notice was properly advertised and outlined the public hearing process.

Consulting City Planner Jerry Weitz, 1225 Rucker Road, Alpharetta, stated this was the second of a three phase process to update the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC). He commented on the proposed amendment being a major rewrite of the sign code and stated he was available to answer questions.

Mr. Hayes opened the floor for public comments.

City Manager Bryan Lackey stated the changes were to remove parts of the sign code in conflict with a Supreme Court ruling.

Mr. Weitz further clarified the changes and briefly explained the concept of "content neutral".

There being no other comments, the hearing was closed and the matter was returned to the governing body for consideration.

Motion to hold first reading on Ordinance 2017-02, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 9 ENTITLED "UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA; TO AMEND ARTICLE 9-18 ENTITLED "SIGN REGULATIONS" BY ELIMINATING IT IN ITS ENTIRETY AND SUBSTITUTING IN ITS PLACE THE LANGUAGE SET FORTH BELOW; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Motion made by Council Member Bruner

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

Request from Rainmaker & Associates to rename Touchdown Drive, located between Pearl Nix Parkway and Century Place, to Deshaun Watson Drive. Ward Number: Five. Request: Road name change.

City Attorney Abb Hayes called for the public hearing and confirmed the public notice was properly advertised.

Planning Manager Matt Tate reviewed the application noting this request was to honor former Gainesville High graduate Deshaun Watson.

Mr. Hayes opened the floor for public comments.

Applicant Sammy Smith, Rainmaker & Associates, 302 Spring Street, stated the purpose was to recognize a hometown hero for his achievements as well as the attention and credit he has brought to the City of Gainesville. He thanked the Council for their consideration.

Tom Smith, Gainesville High School Principal, stated he was new to the area and understood the impact Mr. Watson has on the community. He thanked Council for their consideration. He also reminded everyone of Gainesville High School's anniversary celebration to be held on February 26 from 1 to 5 PM noting 150 years of memorabilia will be on display.

There being no other comments, the hearing was closed and the matter was returned to the governing body for consideration.

Motion to hold first reading on Ordinance 2017-03, AN ORDINANCE TO RENAME TOUCHDOWN DRIVE, LOCATED BETWEEN PEARL NIX PARKWAY AND CENTURY PLACE, TO DESHAUN WATSON WAY; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Motion made by Council Member Wangemann

Motion seconded by Council Member Thompson

DISCUSSION:

Council Member Brooks expressed color preferences for the signs.

Amended motion to hold first reading on Ordinance 2017-03, AN ORDINANCE TO RENAME TOUCHDOWN DRIVE, LOCATED BETWEEN PEARL NIX PARKWAY AND CENTURY PLACE, TO DESHAUN WATSON WAY; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES with a condition requiring both signs entering Gainesville High School to be red with white lettering.

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

CITY MANAGER ISSUES:

Dawsonville Highway Traffic Issues

City Manager Bryan Lackey reported staff received notice from the local Georgia Department of Transportation office acknowledging their commitment to working with the Traffic Operation Center in Atlanta to find a solution to the Dawsonville Highway traffic problem.

State of the University of Georgia Address

City Manager Bryan Lackey reported Dr. Jerry Moorehead, University of Georgia President, used the City of Gainesville as an example of how to develop and implement a Strategic Downtown Master Plan during his State of the University Address. Gainesville will be featured in a future article regarding the project.

Department of Water Resources Billing Software Update

City Manager Bryan Lackey reported the Department of Water Resources will be updating their billing software the first week in March. Automated and on-line payments will not be available during this time. Adjustments will be made accordingly.

OTHER ISSUES:

Council Member Wangemann commented on citizens in the audience that were invited to attend and provided an update on his efforts to visit every resident.

Mayor Dunagan commented on the Atlanta Falcons having an exciting football season.

ADJOURNMENT:

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C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk