

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

The called meeting for an Executive Session at 5:00 PM did not occur.

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

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

OATH OF OFFICE:

Jay Parrish as Police Chief

City Manager Bryan Lackey recognized and extended appreciation to Police Chief Carol Martin for her leadership and service to the City of Gainesville.

Mr. Lackey administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Police Chief Jay Parrish as follows:

I, Roger J. Parrish, Jr., am a citizen of the United States of America, an employee of the City of Gainesville, Georgia Police Department and the recipient of public funds for services rendered. As such, I do solemnly swear that I will perform the duties of the Office of Chief of Police in and for the City of Gainesville to the best of my ability; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; that I will faithfully discharge the duties I am about to enter. I swear that I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due this state or any political subdivision or authority thereof. I swear that I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, any other state, or any foreign state which I am by the laws of the State of Georgia prohibited from holding. I swear that I am otherwise qualified to hold said office according to the constitution and laws of Georgia. I swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of this State and the Charter and Code of Ordinances of the City of Gainesville. I swear I will serve the citizens with compassion, courage and integrity according to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Police Chief Jay Parrish extended words of appreciation for the outpouring of support and gave the following speech:

I would like to begin tonight by giving thanks to those responsible for my standing before you. These are given in no specific order of importance. I must thank God for many undeserving blessings that are continually bestowed upon me. I ask myself many times why I'm so blessed. I don't have an answer, but I am eternally grateful.

Thank you Mr. Mayor and Council for your support and trust of our City Management and your trust of me to hold such an honorable position. To Mr. Lackey, it has truly been an honor to go through the process of selection. I have thoroughly enjoyed our time together as we have discussed our strategic understanding of providing critical police services that will make our city the best place to live, work, and play. Sir, I do not take for granted the trust you have placed in me to lead what I believe to be one of the most important and integral departments of an effective government. I look forward to conquering a shared vision that benefits our citizens, visitors, and stakeholders.

My mom, dad, step-parents, and sisters are here with me tonight. I cannot begin to thank you for the upbringing, love, and support you have shown me throughout my life. You know when to lift me up and when to let me fall. You have taught me responsibility. Very simply, you have taught me to be the man I am. You have given me understanding of owning my decisions, and knowing that my circumstances are solely because of my choices. If it were not for you all, I would not be standing before you.

To my sole-mate, best friend, confidant, and wife Katie, thank you. Being married to a cop is difficult. You have learned to carry on conversations with me at restaurants while my back was to a wall and I was watching everyone but you. You have spent nights alone while I was at work or away in training. You have been awake at night many times at the tearing of the velcro on my ballistic vest as I returned late from a call-out. We have been through more ups than downs. Your support never wavered. You have taught me unconditional love. You have pushed me to achieve this dream tonight. When I did not think I was worthy, you pushed me through. We are an example that two are greater than one. We are an example of true synergy. Our boys, Grayson and Wyatt (who are here too) are the best gift I have ever received. Thank you boys for understanding me and being the great kids you are. It is an honor to be your dad.

Lastly, thank you for all the love and support that has come from my closest friends Clint and Emily Shoaf. You have been with me through ups and downs, but your support never wavered.

To my co-workers, public safety colleagues, and community members, I have been deeply humbled by your show of support since the announcement of my appointment in December. Unfortunately, there is no descriptive word to express my gratitude to thank you for your outpouring of support. You are a reminder of what a true blessing it is to live, work, and play in Gainesville, Georgia.

To the men and women of the Gainesville Police Department, thank you for your support. I owe each of you more than I can ever repay you. Under Chief Martin's leadership we have become the best and the gold standard of Law Enforcement. I have specific insight into the unbelievable courage, the sacrifices, and devotion you display on a daily basis. I am not worthy to lead you, but I am blessed and humbled to be chosen as your Chief. Together we will go further. We will make the best better. We will become a solid line between right and wrong and between justice and injustice. I understand that your work is a calling. You do this because of your deep devotion to this agency, city, and community. Trust me when I say I support you. My door is open. I believe that decisions should be pushed to those with the best information. In our work, that is usually our line-level officer that is risking his or her life day in and day out. I want to know from you what we can do to be better. Together we will raise the standard of law enforcement services. Officers, please never forget why you do what you do. Don't forget that calling. Press forward even when in doubt. You are loved and supported. If you put forth your best, no one can ask for more.

Chief Martin, I don't know where to start. It has been an honor to serve as your right-hand man for the past four years. I am forever indebted to you. I will miss you dearly, but I hope you enjoy the next chapter in your life as much as I have enjoyed this one. Thank you for leaving this agency better than you found it. Unfortunately, for me, you have set the standard very high. My every decision will be compared to what you would have done. I accept that challenge; however, I know you will leave a void in our leadership that myself or no one can ever fill. Thank you!

To our citizens and stakeholders in Gainesville. We must work together to achieve common goals. We are a strong community. We must capitalize on creating synergy in our differences instead of letting them divide us, as so many parts of this country have done. Together, let's become an example of what a community can do by working for the common good.

If we listen to the outsiders, we could give numerous examples of the evils that plague our society. No one is better equipped to detail the evils of our society than the members of our agency. They see it daily. However, the light in the darkness is far brighter. Our community support is strong. I constantly receive phone calls, letters, and e-mails detailing what honorable and noble work our officers did for individual citizens. These notes of affirmation are immeasurably uplifting and are a constant reminder of why we do what we do. Citizens, we want to hear from you on how we are doing.

Lastly, I will discuss what I believe to be the challenges of policing in this present time. I accept the burden of leadership to move us through these challenges. Today, the country is more divided politically than ever before. People tend to argue more about who is right than what is right. We have forgotten that we are a country made up of differences. I pledge to uphold the law regardless of political opinion. Our agency will support and defend the Constitution of the United States, the State of Georgia, the Laws of Georgia, and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Gainesville without bias. Our enforcement will only change when these infallible documents change.

There is a growing epidemic of opioid abuse in our country and community. Most of you are directly affected by a personal connection to someone changed by opioid dependency. Just this month we have learned that for the first time in U.S. history, motor vehicle accidents are no longer the #1 cause of preventable deaths. Opioid overdose now leads the nation as the #1 cause of preventable deaths. We must, together, solve the epidemic to heal those affected. We will use the latest in technologies, practices, ideas to attack this problem. Placing addicts in jail does not end the issues or rehabilitate the individuals. We will adopt a team approach with our community partners to seek solutions.

Today, mental health treatment is at an all-time high. Most officer-involved shootings are due to untreated or undiagnosed mental health issues. Just like the opioid epidemic, we can use the best in police practices to address mental health through objective lenses of treatment rather than isolation.

This cannot be done strictly within the law enforcement community. All stakeholders must participate in seeking solutions to these two as well as other quality of life issues. We will attack these issues by working together. I want our community to know and understand our department every bit as much as I want our department to know and understand our community. I have many times said it is easy to blame and be mad at the police but it is hard to be angry with a person for representing their profession when you communicate on a first name basis.

My hope and prayer is that we continue to build a community where stakeholders feel safe in their homes, place of business and travels and our officers feel safe in the performance of their duties. Together we are great!

Thank you. I am deeply humbled to serve you. My door is open to hear from you. Together – all of those I have addressed – let's work to make Gainesville the envy of all communities! Thank You!

PRESENTATIONS / RECOGNITIONS:

Historic Preservation Commission

Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee

Mayor Dunagan briefly shared information about the two referenced boards. He extended appreciation to Historic Preservation Commission Board members Richard Bachman, Jack Bailey, Bill Bush, Cathy Day and Jim Walters and to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee members Berlinda Lipscomb, Mary Jardine, Beverly Nordholz, Connie Propes, and Sammy Smith for their community service to the city. Tokens of appreciation were presented.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Brooks

Announced information about three upcoming community workshops to address housing needs. The first workshop will be held Saturday, January 26, 10 AM at the Senior Life Center, 434 Prior Street. The other two workshops will be held on Monday, January 28 at 6 PM and Thursday, January 31 at 6 PM. Their locations will be provided at a later date.

Council Member Thompson

Expressed his excitement and support for Police Chief Parrish and his new position.

Mayor Dunagan

Reiterated Mr. Thompson's comments regarding Police Chief Parrish and the Gainesville Public Safety department.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Appointments: Friends of the Parks

Positions held by Jeff Morrison, Harriette Taylor and Gina Miller

Motion to reappoint Jeff Morrison to serve another term, to appoint Bill Taylor to replace Harriette Taylor and to appoint Alisa Thompson to replace Gina Miller on the Friends of the Parks.

Motion made by Council Member Bruner

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

Appointments: Housing Authority

Position held by Myrtle Figueras

Motion to reappoint Myrtle Figueras to serve another term on the Housing Authority.

Motion made by Council Member Brooks

Motion seconded by Council Member Bruner

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

Minutes: January 3, 2019 Work Session

Minutes: January 8, 2019 Mayor/Council Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes accepting edits as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Wangemann

Motion seconded by Council Member Thompson

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

Resolutions:

- A. BR-2019-03 Agreement Regarding Term of Municipal Court Judge
- B. BR-2019-04 Property Lease from the State of Georgia
- C. BR-2019-05 Qualifying Fees for the 2019 Municipal Election
- D. AR-2019-01 Fourth Quarter Budget Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2018
- E. AR-2019-02 First Quarter Budget Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2019
- F. AR-2019-03 Second Quarter Budget Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2019
- G. AR-2019-04 FY2018 Closure of Airport Capital Projects
- H. AR-2019-05 FY2018 Closure of Department of Water Resources Capital Projects
- I. AR-2019-06 FY2018 Closure of General Government Capital Projects
- J. AR-2019-07 FY2018 Closure of Grants Capital Projects
- K. AR-2019-08 FY2018 Closure of Parks and Recreation Capital Projects
- L. AR-2019-09 FY2018 Closure of SPLOST Capital Projects

City Manager Bryan Lackey provided a brief overview of the resolutions.

Motion to adopt the resolutions as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Bruner

Motion seconded by Council Member Thompson

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

CITY MANAGER ISSUES:

City Manager Bryan Lackey announced the following:

- 1. The Annual Chicken Festival event will relocate to Longwood Park on April 27.
- 2. The Beach Bash event will relocate to the Lake Lanier Olympic Park on July 13.
- 3. Two additional First Friday events will be held this year.
- 4. The construction contract for Fire Station #2 has been awarded and the project is ready to move forward.
- 5. A reception for Police Chief Jay Parrish will be held in the Public Safety Complex lobby immediately following the Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:04 PM

/ag

C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk