

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

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

Minister Art Gallegos, Impact Ministries, expressed his thoughts and prayers for everyone effected by the Coronavirus epidemic.

Minister Gallegos delivered the invocation after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

PRESENTATION:

Proclamation: 2020 Census Day

Mayor Dunagan read a proclamation encouraging residents to complete the 2020 census and declaring April 1, 2020 as *2020 Census Day*.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Wangemann

Commended City Manager Bryan Lackey for the invocation he provided at the Retreat.

Mayor Dunagan

Read the following prepared statement:

“Now is the time for us to come together as a community and do what is right for the public health of all our citizens. These are extraordinary times that we will get through by helping each other. We place great value on the health and well-being of our overall community. We understand the concern and the uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and are committed to being responsive to the needs of our community, our employees and all those who live in, work in and visit Gainesville. With the help of our partners in Governor Brian Kemp’s office, we will continue to monitor this situation to be certain that we have the best information available while working closely with our police, fire and department heads. Any information shared and strategy taken is not meant to cause panic but to ensure we are prepared, and our community is informed.

We are sensitive knowing this situation will impact our city’s businesses and residents. We also still encourage all healthy residents to go out and do the things most necessary to keep your life as normal as possible during this critical time, such as buying groceries and taking care of other daily needs. I want to reemphasize that there is no need for panic. The hoarding of cleaning supplies, soap, food and water or other basic goods is also inappropriate and detrimental to the community’s ability to respond as needed to this crisis. I encourage our citizens to take this seriously without overreacting, use a commonsense approach, and most of all stay informed. We will continue to push critical information out to you through our social media Facebook page, city website, and other public means when necessary. Please remember this is a very fluid situation and, as always, the safety and wellbeing of our citizens is our top priority.”

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes: February 7, 2020 Infrastructure Retreat

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: Thompson, Wangemann, Couvillon, Brooks, Clay

Resolutions

A. BR-2020-10 Amendments to Main Street Gainesville Advisory Board By-Laws

B. BR-2020-11 Easement Acceptance to Benefit Lake Lanier Olympic Park

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

Motion to adopt the resolution as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Wangemann

Motion seconded by Council Member Brooks

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

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

Business Resolution 2020-12

Transmittal of the FY2019 Annual Update to the CIE

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

Community and Economic Development Director Rusty Ligon stated the proposed resolution authorizes the transmittal of the referenced draft update to the Capital Improvements Element (CIE). He commented on the approval process noting it will be forwarded back to the state for final approval in June. Mr. Ligon stated this was the state's annual audit of the City's Impact Fees program.

Attorney Hayes opened the floor for public comments. There being none, the hearing was closed and the matter was returned to the governing body for consideration.

Motion to adopt the resolution BR-2020-12 as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Thompson

Motion seconded by Council Member Clay

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

CITY MANAGER ISSUES:

COVID-19 Update

City Manager Bryan Lackey commented on the events amid the COVID-19 crisis noting the City continues to monitor the situation at the local, state and regional level. The City offices remain open for business. However, he encouraged the public to use other methods (i.e. online payments, email, telephone, etc.) to conduct City related business to protect the health and well-being of everyone. He also stated the following:

- convenience fees were being waived for the next 30 days
- the drive-thru was available for water payments
- urged everyone to continue to follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and federal guidelines pertaining to social distancing
- all major special events have been canceled through April
- all special event permits have been rescinded and no new permits will be accepted at this time
- there are no plans to close local restaurants at this time

In light of the current situation, he urged everyone to get out and support the local businesses.

CITY CLERK ISSUES:

Presidential Preference Primary Election Update

City Clerk Denise Jordan shared an update regarding the Presidential Preference Primary Election noting it has been changed from March 24 to the May 19 General Primary. All ballots cast thus far will be counted. Absentee ballot applications can be requested through March 20. Questions should be directed to the Hall County Elections Office.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:48 PM

/ag

C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk