

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Danny Dunagan, Zack Thompson, George Wangemann, Sam Couvillon, Barbara Brooks, Juli Clay
STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Lackey, Angela Sheppard, Jeremy Perry, Christina Santee, Kevin Hutchinson, Matt Hamby, Jerome Yarbrough, Janeann Allison, Kate Mattison, Denise Jordan

Mayor Dunagan called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and served as the presiding officer.

OPENING CONVERSATION:

The Governing Body discussed whether to postpone the retreat to a later date in light of recent developments with the coronavirus (COVID-19).

There was consensus to continue with the retreat as scheduled.

CITY VISION/MISSION:

City Manager Bryan Lackey began with a recap from the 2019 Council Retreat. He reminded everyone of the goal development process before sharing accomplishments pertaining to economic development, internal operations, leisure services, infrastructure improvements and quality of life. Mr. Lackey stated today's discussion is to determine the strategic priorities for the next budget year. The following comments were noted:

- Council Member Wangemann inquired about Gainesville becoming a destination.
- Council Member Couvillon expressed frustration about not being able to get ahead of traffic. He realized statewide protocols/procedures cause delays.
- Council Member Wangemann reported citizen concerns about potholes on state routes.
- Council Member Brooks inquired about beautification at Exit 22 . She expressed a desire to see improvements in this area for consistency purposes and because this is a major corridor into Gainesville.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Chief Financial Officer Jeremy Perry presented a variety of financial information. It was noted capital improvement projects are budgeted from the fund balance. Mr. Perry also discussed the impact on the budget if the Parks & Recreation millage rate increased to 0.986. The remainder of the presentation focused on the department's accomplishments, challenges/opportunities and initiatives.

RECESS: 9:43 AM
RECONVENE: 10:02 AM

NOTE: Council Member Wangemann left the meeting at 9:43 AM and did not return.

FIRE:

Chief Jerome Yarbrough presented accomplishments, challenges/opportunities and initiatives of the Fire Department. The following comments were noted:

- Mayor Dunagan/Council Member Couvillon inquired about pre-emption capabilities for emergency vehicles at traffic intersections.
- Council Member Clay asked if there had been an increase in fire prevention education in response to the increased call volume. It was noted additional staff has been secured for education efforts.

GOLF:

Director of Golf Rodger Hogan presented accomplishments, challenges/opportunities and initiatives of the Chattahoochee Golf Course. The following comments were noted:

- Mayor Dunagan inquired about the cost for additional netting for the driving range.
- Mayor Dunagan was supportive of increasing the price for tokens.
- Mayor Dunagan was supportive of signage at the intersection of Thompson Bridge Road and Tommy Aaron Drive.
- Mayor Dunagan inquired about green fees.
- Council Member Couvillon expressed a desire to improve advertisements.
- Council Member Clay was complimentary of the emphasis on young golfers.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER:

Director Phillippa Lewis Moss presented accomplishments, challenges/opportunities and initiatives of the Community Service Center. The following comments were noted:

- Council Member Clay asked if the trolley would be available for rental by private groups.
- Council Member Thompson asked about Meals on Wheels deliveries in light of the coronavirus, which lead to discussion about implementing technology such as iPads with routing software.
- Council Member Clay inquired about the shelf-life of staples delivered by Meals on Wheels.

TOURISM/PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Convention and Visitor's Director Robyn Lynch presented accomplishments, challenges/opportunities and initiatives related to tourism and public relations.

RECESS: 11:49 AM
RECONVENE: 12:45 PM

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE:

City Manager Bryan Lackey shared information from a conference call about recent coronavirus (COVID-19) decisions.

POLICE:

Chief Jay Parrish presented accomplishments, challenges/opportunities and initiatives of the Police Department. The following comments were noted:

- Council Member Clay stated the clinician was a great benefit for the department.
- Council Member Couvillon inquired if sub-stations are still part of the department's future.
- Council Member Thompson inquired about daily options for the disposal of unused medications. It was noted a drop box is located in the lobby of the Police Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

Director Janeann Allison presented accomplishments, challenges/opportunities and initiatives of the Administrative Services Department. The following comments were noted:

- Council Member Thompson and Council Member Brooks inquired about smartdollar, a free financial program available to employees.
- Council Member Clay was complimentary of the Leadership Academy.
- Council Member Couvillon was complimentary of advancement opportunities for employees.

RECESS: 1:36 PM
RECONVENE: 1:43 PM

MARCH 17, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING:

There was a brief discussion about the upcoming Council Meeting in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Director Kate Mattison presented accomplishments, challenges/opportunities and initiatives of the Parks and Recreation Agency. The following comments were noted:

- Council Member Brooks commented on parks with boat ramps considering the recent excessive rainfall, which led to discussion about the impact on other parks.
- Mayor Dunagan inquired about the future of Holly Park.

MARCH 24 PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION:

Upon inquiry, it was confirmed that absentee ballot applications could be filed through March 20, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT: 2:13 PM

/dj

C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk