

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 9:00 AM and served as the presiding officer.

BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Economic Development Council (EDC) FY2018 Budget Presentation

Chairman Brian Rochester expressed appreciation for the City's partnership. Various economic development information was distributed with the 2017 Directory of Elected Officials. There was discussion about new investments, existing industry, small business programs and economic development. Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce representatives participating in the discussion were Kit Dunlap, Tim Evans, Shelly Davis, Amanda Lewis, David Umberson and Peyton Wilhoit. It was noted that the city has been a leader in economic development. There was discussion about other participating agencies and their funding levels. The EDC requested \$136,500 from the City (no increase from FY2017).

DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Resolution: Donation of Structural Firefighting Gear to Lanier Technical College

Training and Professional Development Chief Jason Patterson stated the Fire Department desired to donate unusable turnout gear to Lanier Tech. The proposed resolution approved the donation of 60+ pieces protective clothing and firefighting gear. It was noted that the donation will reduce the cost of the program.

Placed on the March 7, 2017 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Resolution: Inland Western Gainesville Village Water Main Easement Abandonment Agreement

Civil Engineer Nick Swafford shared details about the property in question. He stated a title search revealed water easements needed to be abandoned before closing on a pending sale. The proposed resolution authorized execution of documents prepared with assistance from the City Attorney.

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Hall Area Transit Development Plan Report

Community Service Center Director Phillippa Lewis Moss introduced Rod Wilburn and Wade Carroll (representatives from J.R. Wilburn and Associates, Inc.) noting they assisted with evaluating the transit program. They shared some information about current operations and presented the recommendations noted below.

- Strengthen existing weekday fixed route services over the next four years
 - Year 1 – Extend evening hours
 - Year 2 – Increase peak hour headways
 - Year 3 – Extend routes 10 and 50 and add a new route along SR 60
 - Year 4 – Begin Saturday service
- Recruit/hire a marketing coordinator
- Explore the potential for an intermodal center

Mrs. Moss confirmed the recommendations are achievable and shared supportive statements from community leaders. She expressed intent to implement the recommendations through the operating budget.

In response to an inquiry, it was noted that the fare structure was found to be appropriate. Revenues were slightly lower than other communities of similar size due to the mix of general public and reduced fare passengers.

Upon inquiry, Mrs. Moss stated public transit was not in competition with taxis and indicated it was important to have different modes of transportation considering the size of the community.

Upon inquiry, Mrs. Moss confirmed four years was a reasonable timeframe to implement the recommendations.

MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES:

Council Member Brooks

1. Expressed excitement about actions of the Gainesville Non-Profit Development Foundation and reported offers were made on four homes on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.
2. Shared information about the upcoming Butterfly Release.

Council Member Bruner

Inquired about the Land Bank efforts.

Council Member Wangemann

1. Presented a Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Meeting ex-officio report.
2. Presented a Board of Health Meeting ex-officio report.
3. Reported he will be out of town March 23-28.
4. Commented on Gainesville receiving a Tree City Award.

Mayor Dunagan

Requested recognition of Beth Morris at a Council Meeting in the near future.

CITY ATTORNEY ISSUES:

Resolution: Abandonment of a Portion of New Harvest Drive

City Attorney Abb Hayes distributed a resolution and Quit Claim Deed to abandon approximately 79 acres of property located in the Gainesville Business Park. This action relates to the Mincey Marble Project. The proposed resolution authorized execution of the appropriate documents.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

City Manager Lackey requested an Executive Session to discuss real estate matters.

Motion to close the Work Session at 10:20 AM to enter an Executive Session to discuss real estate matters.

Motion made by Council Member Bruner

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Dunagan, Bruner, Wangemann, Thompson, Brooks

STAFF PRESENT: Lackey, Sheppard, Hayes, Jordan

NOTE: Council Member Couvillon attended a portion of the Executive Session.

Motion to close the Executive Session at 11:08 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Bruner

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Board/Committee Appointments

Mayor Dunagan requested suggestions for addressing a position on the Planning and Appeals Board.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:09 AM

/dj

C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk