

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

Mayor Couvillon called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and served as the presiding officer.

DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Tourism Update for 4th Quarter 2021

CVB Executive Robyn Lynch used a PowerPoint presentation to supplement the presentation. She shared information about the economic impact, hotel/motel stats, marketing, Lake Lanier Olympic Park (LLOP), the Greater Gainesville Sports Alliance and upcoming events. Notable comments are as follows.

- October's hotel/motel revenue collections represent a record high.
- Event participation via social media is high.
- Small conference events are experiencing challenges securing hotel space.
- The Chicken Festival at LLOP was well received. Plans are underway to continue at this location on October 22, 2022.

Ms. Lynch closed by sharing information about a couple of projects. An update on the Historic City Hall Project included discussion about improvements to the building and the possibility of creating a small conference area. An update on the Boathouse Renovation Project included an overview of some features and the notation that this will be the only lakeside venue other than Lake Lanier Island.

CITY MANAGER ISSUES:

Resolution: Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Hall County Regarding Highlands to Islands Trail Improvements In and Around Roosevelt Square

Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard commented on the Renaissance Project Pocket Park. There is a desire to continue some of these improvements to provide a better trail connection that is more visible and accessible. The IGA outlines some details, authorizes the County to pay the City \$200,000 toward the improvements and authorizes the City to accept the funds.

Placed on the February 1, 2022 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

HUB Cities Meeting

City Manager Bryan Lackey commented on the HUB Cities meeting after the GMA Cities United Summit.

MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES:

Council Member Thompson

Presented the Housing Authority meeting ex-officio report noting Darryl Smallwood was elected to serve as the Chair and Faron Thompson was reelected as the Vice Chair.

Council Member Clay

1. Commented on the GMA Cities United Summit.

2. Reported conversation about the Police Department Mental Health Program at the recent United Way Meeting noting there's a lot of support to continue this program.

Council Member Wangemann

1. Reported the Georgia Mountain Food Bank received a \$2.9 million grant for expansion.
2. Presented the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission meeting ex-officio report.
3. Reported a good experience at the GMA Cities United Summit and shared details about the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) session.

Appointments: Friends of the Parks Board

Mayor Couvillon expressed a desire to reappoint Alisa Thompson and Nancy Moore.

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Appointments: Planning and Appeals Board

Mayor Couvillon reported Eddie Martin, Sr., Doug Carter and Kelvin Simmons were willing to serve another term and expressed a desire for their reappointment upon completion of the administrative review.

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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 9:30 AM to enter an Executive Session to discuss real estate matters.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

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Motion to close the Executive Session at 9:52 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan

Motion seconded by Council Member Thompson

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

ADJOURNMENT: 9:52 AM

/dj

W. Samuel Couvillon, Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk