

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Dunagan, Hamrick, Figueras, Bruner, Wangemann, Couvillon
STAFF PRESENT: Marlowe, Sheppard, Palmour, Jordan

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

DEPARTMENT ISSUES

Stream Litter Trap Update

Director of Water Resources Kelly Randall stated staff received comments from citizens regarding litter washing into Flat Creek. Staff investigated a bandalong trash trap as a possible solution. (This device catches floating objects.) He discussed the vision for the project which included an educational component. He also discussed the estimated cost (\$174,000) noting Hall County would provide 60% of the funding. Upon Council's direction, staff will prepare an intergovernmental agreement for consideration at a later date. Mr. Randall stated this was an opportunity to show a collaborative effort supporting watershed issues.

There was consensus to proceed with the intergovernmental agreement.

Council Member George Wangemann commented on the annual Flat Creek cleanup which involves approximately 100 people.

FY2016 Ad Valorem Tax Rate – City of Gainesville

Interim City Manager Melody Marlowe presented ad valorem tax rollback information. The rollback rate for general government was 1.63 mills and will not cause a tax increase for the general fund. The rollback rate for the recreation system was lower than the minimum rate allowed (not less than 0.75 mills). Increasing the rate to 0.75 mills was considered a tax increase. An increase in the debt service millage rate was needed to provide funding for outstanding debt. Mrs. Marlowe recommended a rollback from 3.02 mills to 2.98 mills on the 2015 millage rate. Since the rollback is considered to be a tax increase, the public must be notified and three public hearings were required. The proposed public hearing dates coincide with regularly scheduled meetings. Mrs. Marlowe called attention to the press release, the notices for the newspaper and a schedule of billing activities. It was noted that the general fund will be revenue neutral.

There was consensus to (1) schedule public hearings for September 15, October 1 and October 6 and (2) place the ordinance on the September 15, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda

FY2016 Ad Valorem Tax Rate – Board of Education

Interim City Manager Melody Marlowe stated the school board met on August 17 and voted to rollback their millage rate from 7.48 mills to 6.89 mills. When considering both entities (the City and the Board of Education), the overall rollback was from 10.50 mills to 9.87 mills.

There was consensus to place the ordinance on the September 15, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda

Council Member George Wangemann expressed a desire to follow the Board of Education's example of no millage increase which lead to discussion about addressing the debt service payments.

Mrs. Marlowe stated a called meeting was required on October 1 to meet the proposed schedule. The meeting would be held at the Gainesville Justice Center. The downtown master plan would be presented during the same meeting.

Public Hearing Item for the September 1, 2015 Council Meeting

Request from Jose Valerio to rezone a 0.28± acre tract located on the north side of Myrtle Street, northeast of its intersection with Airport Drive and Ralston Street (a/k/a 1230 Myrtle Street SW), from General Business (G-B) to Residential-II (R-II). Ward Number: Four. Tax Parcel Number(s): 00-125-002-004A. Request: Two-family residence.

Planning Manager Matt Tate stated this is a proposal to rezone the subject property to expand and convert an existing single-family residence into a two family residence. The property was one of the islands annexed in 2013. Staff and the Planning and Appeals Board recommended approval with conditions.

Placed on the September 1, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda

Public Hearing Item for the September 1, 2015 Council Meeting

Request from the City of Gainesville to amend the Unified Land Development Code for the City of Gainesville, Georgia. The proposed amendments are to amend Chapter 9-2-2, entitled "General Definitions" to provide for definitions of "Consumer Fireworks," "Consumer Fireworks Retail Sales Facility," and "Fireworks;" to amend table 9-6-1 entitled "Permitted and Special Uses for Nonresidential Zoning Districts" to Specify Consumer Fireworks Retail Sales Facility as a permitted use within the Light Industrial (L-I) zoning district to provide for better clarity.

Planning Manager Matt Tate commented on House Bill 110 which allows the sale of consumer fireworks. The Planning and Appeals Board recommends an amendment to the Unified Land Development Code to provide a definition for "consumer fireworks, "consumer fireworks retail sales facility" and "fireworks".

Council Member Sam Couvillon asked if there had been conversation with the local legislative delegation regarding this bill.

Upon inquiry from Mayor Dunagan, Mr. Tate discussed the hours fireworks can be used and indicated it was his understanding that the city cannot restrict the location for using fireworks.

Placed on the September 1, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda

MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES

Appointment(s): Airport Advisory Committee

Mayor Dunagan recommended reappointing Greg Hake and Rodney Smith.

Placed on the September 1, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda

Council Member Ruth Bruner

1. Presented an ex-officio report regarding Hall '96.
2. Asked the Assistant City Manager to respond to R.K. Whitehead regarding the maintenance of detention ponds on Chicopee Woods Area Parks Commission property.

Council Member Myrtle Figueras

1. Commended Communications and Tourism for their involvement with Up With People.

2. Requested Council representation at the Ed Cabbell Field Dedication scheduled for August 29 at 10 AM.
3. Presented a report regarding the Human Service Council Meeting.
4. Recognized individuals attending the Work Session that were planning to run for office.
5. Commented on the Racial Profiling Meeting schedule for August 27, 6:00 PM at St. Paul United Methodist Church.

Council Member George Wangemann

1. Commented on the Rivers Alive and Shore Sweep events.
2. Commented on a recent Keep Hall Beautiful cleanup effort.
3. Commented on the Board of Health Meeting.

Council Member Bob Hamrick

Complimented the improvements to the Ninth District Building.

CITY CLERK ISSUES

Save the Date: Linwood Nature Preserves Ribbon Cutting

City Clerk Denise Jordan reported the Parks and Recreation Department was working to schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Linwood Nature Preserves. They're considering Tuesday, October 27 at 10 AM and asked Council to attend.

There were no conflicts with this date.

ADJOURNMENT 10:11 AM

/dj

C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk