

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Sam Couvillon, Barbara Brooks, Zack Thompson, Danny Dunagan,
George Wangemann

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Juli Clay

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:

Resolution: FY25 Section 5307 Grant Application & Contract

Community Service Center Director Phillippa Lewis Moss requested approval of the proposed resolution allowing staff to submit an application to the Federal Transit Administration that would provide 80% of the required funding for capital expenses and 50% of the required funding for operating expenses. These funds will be used to implement changes for monitoring the location of vehicles and to purchase property to park vehicles.

Placed on the September 5, 2023 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Resolution: Property Acquisition from CSX Transportation, Inc. (East/West Spur)

Neighborhood Development Manager Jessica Tullar shared some history about securing the CSX rail line to transform it into a multi-use trail noting it is continually being improved with amenities to make it a true destination spot. There is an opportunity to purchase the east/west spur from Grove Street to Athens Street. The plan is to connect the trail to Athens Street thus connecting another neighborhood. The proposed resolution authorizes the purchase of 3+ acres that would go through the Georgia Brownfield Program to provide protection from future issues.

Placed on the September 5, 2023 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Council Member Brooks expressed appreciation for the work that has been done.

Public Hearing Item: Request from Jose Carrillo to rezone a 1.42± acres tract located on the northeast side of the intersection of Atlanta Highway and Hospital Drive, and the southeast side of the intersection of Atlanta Highway and Hilltop Street (a/k/a 805 Hospital Drive, SW) from General Business (G-B) to Planned Unit Development (P-U-D). Ward Number: Five. Tax Parcel Number(s): 00-132-005-003. Request: Mixed-use.

City Attorney Abb Hayes summarized the application. There was no public opposition; and a unanimous recommendation for approval from the Planning and Appeals Board. Mr. Hayes asked that questions be referred to the Community and Economic Development Department.

Public hearing scheduled for the September 5, 2023 Council Meeting

MAYOR ISSUES:

Appointment: Convention & Visitors Bureau Authority

Mayor Couvillon nominated Rand Carswell for appointment. He also nominated Jay Singh and Jeff Pruitt for reappointment.

Placed on the September 5, 2023 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Mayor Couvillon requested candidates to fill openings on the Historic Preservation Commission, the Redevelopment Authority, the Chattahoochee Golf Course Advisory Committee and the Parks

and Recreation Board.

CITY CLERK ISSUES:

Announcements

1. City Clerk Denise Jordan stated Community Trust Fund information was due by September 8.
2. The State Ethics Commission is offering Campaign Finance training on September 15 at the Athens-Clarke County Extension Office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

City Attorney Abb Hayes requested an Executive Session to discuss legal and real estate matters.

Motion to close the Work Session at 9:12 AM to enter an Executive Session to discuss litigation and real estate matters.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

Absent: Juli Clay

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Motion to close the Executive Session at 10:35 AM to continue the Work Session.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan

Motion seconded by Council Member Wangemann

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

Absent: Juli Clay

OTHER BUSINESS:

Unopposed Election

City Manager Bryan Lackey commented on the qualifying period closing with no opposition. In the absence of a write-in candidate, the election will be canceled. A series of announcements will occur to notify the public. Mr. Lackey felt this was a vote of confidence from the community.

Noise on the Downtown Square

City Manager Bryan Lackey reported the Police Department identified a new law that allows noise enforcement in certain situations. There will be a notable presence to address this.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:39 AM

/dj

W. Samuel Couvillon, Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk