

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

Mayor Couvillon called the meeting to order and served as the presiding officer.

**DEPARTMENT ISSUES:**

**Resolution: Bureau of Justice Assistance Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program FY24-25**

Police Chief Jay Parrish commented on the 50/50 match grant indicating the department needs to replace 20 vests at a total cost of \$18,000. The amount not covered by the grant was budgeted.

Placed on the June 18, 2024 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

**CITY MANAGER ISSUES:**

**Resolution: Adoption of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Maintenance and Improvement of the Highlands to Islands Multi-Use Trail**

Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard stated staff worked with Hall County, the City of Oakwood and the City of Flowery Branch to create a maintenance agreement for the trail. This IGA creates maintenance standards and identifies the governmental entity responsible for said maintenance. The proposed resolution adopts the map and the design standards. All involved entities will adopt the IGA.

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**Resolution: Airport Connector Segment of the Highland to Islands Trail**

Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard stated the 2.5 mile segment connects Industrial Boulevard to Palmour Drive and this agreement brings the project to construction.

City Attorney Abb Hayes stated this is comparable to a mini road project. The proposed resolution allows staff to work with property owners to resolve issues so the project can be bid and constructed.

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**Resolution: TSPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement**

City Manager Bryan Lackey stated the proposed resolution authorizes the Mayor to sign the intergovernmental agreement and other necessary documents to meet the July 11, 2024 deadline.

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**BUDGET HEARING:**

**Fiscal Year 2025 Recommended Budget**

City Manager Bryan Lackey extended appreciation to staff then used a PowerPoint presentation as supplemental information. The following was noted:

- The budget priorities and areas of focus identified during Council Retreats were reviewed.
- The proposed budget is \$37,644,162 equating to a 7.32% increase over FY2024.
- A 0.239 millage rate was proposed for the general fund, i.e., the same rate as FY2024.

- The biggest expenditure is the 5% COLA for employees.
- The budget for capital project is \$47.9 million.
- Today offers the second of three public hearings.

### **Public Comments Regarding Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget**

City Attorney Abb Hayes opened the floor for comments.

Renee Gerrell, 493 Piedmont Court, expressed concerns about tax increases over the last two years noting she plans to file an appeal with the Tax Assessors. She also asked if TSPLOST was on target for moving forward.

### **MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES:**

#### **Council Member Hayes**

1. Commented on the annual employee appreciation event.
2. Commented on recent events hosted by the Police Department and the Parks & Recreation Agency.

#### **Council Member Brooks**

1. Presented the Planning and Appeals Board ex-officio report.
2. Expressed pleasure with diverse entertainment offered by the Arts Council.

#### **Mayor Couvillon**

1. Nominated Alan Wayne to serve on the Airport Advisory Committee.  
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2. Nominated Eliana Barnard, Pamela Williams-Lime, Connie Rock and Rachel Marshall to serve on the Main Street Advisory Board.  
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3. Summarized a press release from Governor Kemp announcing Gainesville received workforce housing grant funds (\$2.5 million) for drainage infrastructure improvements for two development projects.

### **CITY ATTORNEY ISSUES:**

#### **Planning and Appeals Board (PAB) Public Hearing Items**

City Attorney Abb Hayes summarized options allowing elected officials to be informed about PAB public hearing items and shared why this was important.

#### **Ordinance: Code Of Ordinances Recodification**

City Attorney Abb Hayes reported this multi-year project was initiated to conduct a thorough review of both codes (the Code of Ordinances and the Unified Land Development Code) to ensure consistency and to eliminate obsolete information. The Clerk's Office managed the project and all departments were involved. This task is complete. The next step is adoption of the Code of Ordinances which allows it to be republished online for a user friendly experience. The Unified Land Development Code will be presented after approval by the Planning and Appeals Board.

City Clerk Denise Jordan stated the proof is available for review. Upon adoption of the ordinance, the proof for the recodified Code of Ordinances will be authorized for online publication. The first supplement will be distributed as quickly as possible after online publication occurs.

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### **Introduction**

City Attorney Abb Hayes introduced Grace Hollifield, a summer employee at Hulsey, Oliver & Mahar.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

**Motion to close the meeting at 9:54 AM to enter an Executive Session to discuss real estate matters.**

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan

Motion seconded by Council Member Hayes

**Votes favoring the motion: Hayes, Brooks, Dunagan, Thompson, Guzman**

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**Motion to close the Executive Session at 10:30 AM to continue the meeting.**

Motion made by Council Member Council Member Hayes

Motion seconded by Council Member Council Member Dunagan

**Votes favoring the motion: Hayes, Brooks, Thompson, Dunagan, Guzman**

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

#### **Ex-Officio Appointment**

Mayor Couvillon revisited the ex-officio appointments to resolve a scheduling conflict. There was a brief discussion after which Council Member Thompson was nominated for reappointment as the Keep Hall Beautiful ex-officio member.

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### **ADJOURNMENT: 10:35 AM**

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W. Samuel Couvillon, Mayor

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Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk