

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Sam Couvillon, Juli Hayes, Barbara Brooks, Danny Dunagan, Zack Thompson
VACANT POSITION: Ward 4
STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Lackey, Angela Sheppard, Abb Hayes, Alisa Grayson
STAFF ABSENT: Denise Jordan

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

DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Resolution: Declaration of Surplus Property

Budget and Purchasing Manager Brenda Carpio presented the proposed resolution declaring the listed assets as surplus property. She summarized the process noting the listed property has served beyond its useful life and/or was no longer needed.

Placed on the March 5, 2024 Council Meeting Consent Agenda.

Resolution: Authorization to Apply for and Accept a One Georgia Equity Fund - Rural Workforce Housing Initiative Grant

Neighborhood Development Manager Jessica Tullar presented the proposed resolution and requested support of an application for the Rural Workforce Housing Initiative grant noting it's a brand-new initiative intended to provide funding flexibility for infrastructure to support the development of affordable housing and to develop housing. If awarded, the funds would be used to help with infrastructure improvements specifically as it relates to stormwater improvements in the Marler Street area. For competitive purposes, the application would be submitted with a match of \$1M from the DWR CIP funds. She briefly commented on the application process. The resolution authorizes submittal of the application and acceptance, if award, of the grant funding with the match.

Mayor Couvillon commented on this being a great example of the great work that staff does.

Council Member Hayes reported Mrs. Tullar will be on the Habitat for Humanity Women Build panel as representative of the City.

Placed on the March 5, 2024 Council Meeting Consent Agenda.

Public Hearing Item: Request from the City of Gainesville to rezone two parcels totaling 0.5± acre located within the Midtown Overlay Zone (a/k/a 718-A Bradford Street and 733 Main Street SW) from Light Industrial (L-I) to Office and Institutional (O-I). Ward Number: Three. Tax Parcel Number(s): 01-015-001-010 and 013. Request: Existing uses.

Public Hearing Item: Request from HadjPadj Technologies, LLC for a special use on a 1.37± acres tract located on the south side of Palmour Drive, west of the intersection of Palmour Drive and Queen City Parkway (a/k/a 1176 Palmour Drive, SW), having a zoning of Heavy Industrial (H-I). Ward Number: Five. Tax Parcel Number(s): 15-035-000-015. Request: Data mining facility.

City Attorney Abb Hayes summarized the applications noting the request from HadjPadj Technologies was tabled at the Planning and Appeals Board Meeting. No action will be required.

Public hearing items advertised for the March 5, 2024 Council Meeting.

CITY MANAGER ISSUES:

Resolution: Adoption of Addendum to Intergovernmental Agreement Concerning Trails and Associated Greenspace and Community Service Center Campus Improvements

Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard stated the proposed resolution authorizes an amendment to an agreement with Hall County established in 2021. The addendum will provide additional funding for the trails to complete the "Airport Connector". The Highlands to Islands Trail Committee collectively identified the Airport Connector segment as the highest priority of the next phase to be completed which is a two-and-a-half-mile segment of the trail between Industrial Parkway and Palmour Drive. She referenced the current processes underway noting the next critical phase of the process is to secure the SPLOST funds. SPLOST VIII authorized a Tier II level funding dedicated for Trails and Greenspace. The resolution amends the intergovernmental agreement to secure \$3.2M of SPLOST VIII funding. They were excited to get the project underway.

City Manager Bryan Lackey commented on this being a huge win for the community and seeing this SPLOST project come to fruition.

Mrs. Sheppard stated the addition of this segment will provide eight continuous trail miles.

Resolution: Adoption of Intergovernmental Agreement for Athens Street Corridor Park, Recreational Trail, and Lighting, Pedestrian, and General Facility Improvements

Neighborhood Development Manager Jessica Tullar stated the City and County received more than \$2M each from the State Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities Grant last year. The funds will be used for recreational trails, sidewalks and other public improvements along Athens Street. For the purposes of cohesiveness and consistency, they agreed it was in the best interest of the city and county residents to use the same design firm to engineer the design. The proposed resolution authorizes an IGA with the County to allow the City to facilitate the design coordinated effort with the City taking the lead. Separate action will be taken as it relates to construction firms and contracts.

Council Member Brooks expressed appreciation for Council and staffs support on this project.

City Manager Bryan Lackey bragged on City and County staff for doing a great job with managing the projects.

Mrs. Tullar stated there is a time constraint for project completion within the next two years. She also stated there will be some level of public involvement for engagement as part of the process.

Both items placed on the March 5, 2024 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES:

Council Member Brooks

Presented the Planning and Appeals Board and Gainesville Non-Profit Development ex-officio reports.

Council Member Hayes

1. Presented the Chicopee Woods Area Park ex-officio report.
2. Reported she had the opportunity to speak at the Newly Elected Officials Training.

Council Member Thompson

Presented the Housing Authority ex-officio report noting Jane Smith was hired as the Chief Financial Officer.

Council Member Dunagan

1. Presented the Lake Lanier Olympic Park Foundation ex-officio report.
2. Commented on the new boathouse being gorgeous.
3. Reported he missed the Main Street Advisory Board meeting.

Mayor Couvillon

Shared a compliment, relayed via a third-party, that representatives of Dalton County, when speaking to groups, reference how they try to pattern after the City of Gainesville.

Appointments

Shared the pending and upcoming appointments for positions on the Historic Preservation Commission, Chattahoochee Golf Course Advisory Committee, Planning and Appeals Board, Parks and Recreation Foundation, Parks and Recreation Board, Housing Authority, Building Board of Appeals, Chicopee Woods Area Park Commission, and Gainesville-Hall County Development Authority.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

City Attorney Abb Hayes requested an executive session to discuss real estate, litigation and personnel matters.

Motion to close the meeting to enter an Executive Session to discuss real estate, litigation and personnel matters at 9:19 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan

Motion seconded by Council Member Thompson

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

Vacant Position: Ward 4

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Motion to close the Executive Session to continue the meeting at 10:42 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan

Motion seconded by Council Member Brooks

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

Vacant Position: Ward 4

ADJOURNMENT: 10:42 AM

/ag

W. Samuel Couvillon, Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk