

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.

CITY CLERK ISSUES:

Resolution: BR-2025-01 Emergency Interim Successors

City Clerk Denise Jordan stated the proposed resolution list the order of succession as follows: Mayor Couvillon, Council Member Thompson, Council Member Brooks, Council Member Hayes, Council Member Guzman, Council Member Dunagan.

Added to the January 7, 2025 Organizational Meeting Agenda

Appointment: Administrative Hearing Officer

City Clerk Denise Jordan presented G. Hammond Law, III for reappointment as the Administrative Hearing Officer.

Added to the January 7, 2025 Organizational Meeting Agenda

Appointment: Legal Organ

City Clerk Denise Jordan presented The Times for reappointment as the Legal Organ.

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Appointments: Board/Committee Ex-Officio Members

City Clerk Denise Jordan stated the existing ex-officio appointments would remain the same in 2025 per nomination by Mayor Couvillon at the last work session. They are noted as follows:

COMMITTEE	APPOINTEE(S)
Airport Advisory Committee	Barbara Brooks & Juli Hayes
American Red Cross	Mayor
Board of Health	Barbara Brooks
Chattahoochee Golf Course Advisory Committee	Zack Thompson
Chicopee Woods Area Park Commission	Juli Hayes
Economic Development Council	Mayor
Gainesville-Hall County Development Authority	Mayor
Gainesville-Hall County Land Bank Board	Barbara Brooks
Gainesville Non-Profit Development Authority	Barbara Brooks
Gainesville Redevelopment Authority	Zack Thompson
Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors	Mayor
Hallmark Initiative	Mayor
Historic Preservation Commission	C. Danny Dunagan, Jr.
Housing Authority	Abigail Guzman
Keep Hall Beautiful/Hall County Green Alliance	Zack Thompson
Main Street Gainesville Advisory Board	C. Danny Dunagan, Jr.
Parks & Recreation Board	Juli Hayes
Parks & Recreation Foundation, Inc. (Formerly FOP)	Abigail Guzman
Planning and Appeals Board	Barbara Brooks

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Appointment: Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

City Clerk Denise Jordan stated the Mayor agreed to continue representing the City.

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Resolution: Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) City of Ethics Recertification

City Clerk Denise Jordan stated Gainesville has been a City of Ethics since 2009 and submitted recertification documents to retain the designation. GMA provided notice it's time to complete this process which requires adoption of a resolution reaffirming commitment to the following ethics principles:

1. Serve others, not ourselves
2. Use resources with efficiency and economy
3. Treat all people fairly
4. Use the power of our position for the well-being of our constituents
5. Create an environment of honesty, openness and integrity

The resolution must be signed by a majority of the governing body and forwarded to GMA with a letter from the Mayor providing notice of changes to the Ethics Ordinance since the 2020 recertification process. She indicated there are no changes to report. Recertification recognition will occur during the June 2025 Annual GMA Convention.

Added to the January 7, 2025 Organizational Meeting Agenda

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Couvillon requested an Executive Session to discuss real estate matters.

Motion to close the meeting for an Executive Session to discuss real matters at 9:05 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan

Motion seconded by Council Member Hayes

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

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NOTE: Council Member Brooks joined the meeting at 9:11 AM.

Motion to close the Executive Session to continue the meeting at 9:30 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan

Motion seconded by Council Member Thompson

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Opt Out of House Bill 581 Homestead Exemption

City Manager Bryan Lackey distributed a draft press release from Hall County. He summarized the

process which included but was not limited to advertisement and three public hearings.

There was consensus to proceed with advertising public hearings to opt out.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:40 AM

/dj

W. Samuel Couvillon, Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk