

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Sam Couvillon, Zack Thompson, Barbara Brooks, Juli Hayes, Abigail Guzman
OFFICIALS ABSENT: Danny Dunagan
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:

Fiscal Year 2024 Retirement Plan A (RPA) Actuarial Valuation

Actuary Joe Griffin, Foster & Foster, stated his role was to assess the financial wellness of RPA. He stated preparing the valuation involves projecting benefit payments for the next 100 years and assessing compliance with Georgia Minimum Funding Standards. The contribution rate (26.4%) is sufficient to pay unfunded liability in 23.3 years. In summary, everything looks good.

FY2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

Accountants Chris Hollifield and Sam Latimer represented Rushton. Three required letters were issued indicating all was in order. He summarized the Government-Wide Statement noting there was an increase in the net position. There was discussion about revenues and expenditures before commenting on new and future Governmental Accounting Standard Board (GASB) statements.

Resolution: Fourth Quarter Budget Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2024

Resolution: First Quarter Budget Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2025

Deputy Chief Finance Officer – Budget and Purchasing Kevin Hutcheson presented two budget adjustment resolutions noting all adjustments were balanced and all fund budgets remain balanced. He reviewed notable adjustments as referenced in the resolution attachments.

Both resolutions placed on the January 21, 2025 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES:

Faye Bush Proclamation and Street

Council Member Brooks reported a request from the Newtown Florist Club to recognize Faye Bush during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Program. Plans were underway to issue a proclamation and to rename a portion of MacDonald Street (the portion that doesn't have any residents).

City Manager Bryan Lackey stated a resolution for the street name change was necessary to update the Hall County Geographical Information System.

Resolution placed on the January 21, 2025 Council Meeting Agenda

Staff Appreciation Associated with Winter Storm Enzo

Mayor Couvillon expressed appreciation to the Public Works Department for action before, during and after the winter storm.

Appointment: Convention & Visitors Bureau Authority

Mayor Couvillon nominated Ross Stevens to fill a vacant seat.

Placed on the January 21, 2025 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Appointment: Housing Authority

Mayor Couvillon nominated Jenni Hothem to fill a vacant seat.

Placed on the January 21, 2025 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

CITY ATTORNEY ISSUES:

City Attorney Hayes introduced Hudson Everett, a student working with Hulsey, Oliver and Mahar.

CITY CLERK ISSUES:

Resolution: 2025 Election and Qualifying Information

Deputy Clerk Alisa Grayson presented the resolution addressing the 2025 election which will address expiring terms and set the qualifying fee as follows:

- Mayor - \$1200.00
- Council Member Wards 1 and Ward 4 - \$765.00
- Board of Education Member Districts 1 and 4 - \$360.00

The qualifying period would be August 18-20, 2025. The City Clerk and City Attorney will make decisions relevant to candidate qualifications. The first advertisement was scheduled for January 29.

Placed on the January 21, 2025 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Georgia Municipal Association Cities United Summit

Deputy Clerk Alisa Grayson reported registration and travel information will be released later today.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Intent to Opt Out of Homestead Exemption

City Manager Bryan Lackey expressed the City's intent to opt out of the Homestead Exemption related to House Bill 581 and provided additional information. Three public hearings were required before adopting a resolution.

City Attorney Abb Hayes called for the public hearing. There were no comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Motion to close the meeting to enter an Executive Session to discuss real estate matters at 9:35 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Hayes

Motion seconded by Council Member Thompson

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

Absent: Dunagan

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Motion to close the Executive Session at 9:47 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Hayes

Motion seconded by Council Member Thompson

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

Absent: Dunagan

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chattahoochee Golf Course

Mayor Couvillon inquired about placing the golf course in a land trust.

City Attorney Hayes was asked to research this matter.

Downtown Parking

City Manager Bryan Lackey reported the Main Street Advisory Board will discuss the downtown parking plan at their upcoming meeting.

Council Member Guzman reported issues related to construction workers parking on Bradford Street and inability to access the trash dumpster.

Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard agreed to address the construction team.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:55 AM

/dj

W. Samuel Couvillon, Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk