OFFICIALS PRESENT: Sam Couvillon, Danny Dunagan, Barbara Brooks, Juli Hayes, Abigail Guzman
VACANT POSITION: Ward 2
STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Lackey, Angela Sheppard, Abb Hayes, Alisa Grayson

Mayor Couvillon called the meeting to order at 10:21 AM and served as the presiding officer.

DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Resolution: Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency Georgia Search and Rescue Team Memorandum of Understanding for 2025-2029
Fire Chief Brandon Ellis stated the proposed agreement was related to the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement approved earlier in the year. Gainesville serves as the host for the GSAR Task Force 1 team and initiates the four (4) year agreement. The agreement, which provides for mutual aid assistance in emergencies and coordinates the assistance between participating local governments, basically sets the guidelines put in place by the state.

Mayor Couvillon commented on a rescue of several individuals who went over an embankment as an example of mutual aid. Fire Chief Ellis shared an example of a rescue where a fire occurred and the victim was rescued by one of Gainesville's new firefighter recruits noting it was a testament to the training received.

Placed on the August 19, 2025 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Resolution: Authorization to Accept Modifications to GEFA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan
Engineering & Construction Services Division Manager Tracy Robar presented information regarding the GEFA loan noting, due to continued supply chain delays, they needed to request a loan modification and extension. GEFA has offered a no cost extension. The proposed resolution authorizes acceptance of a no-cost modification to the current Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan.

Placed on the August 19, 2025 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Resolution: Glassmanor Ridge Water Distribution System Improvements Cost Participation
Permitting Services & GIS Manager Nick Swafford presented a request for a water main extension cost participation with a developer. The proposed agreement provides improvements to the water system's functionality and redundancy in the area.

Placed on the August 19, 2025 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES:

Council Member Hayes
Presented a Parks & Recreation Board meeting ex-officio report.

Mayor Couvillon
Reported the City was hosting the Senate Study Committee on Making Georgia the No. 1 State for Tourism session today.

CITY ATTORNEY ISSUES:

Resolution: Acquisition of Land and Easement Rights Needed to Construct the Athens Street Trail Project
City Attorney Abb Hayes shared some background information on the project for improvements to the Athens Street area noting a grant was acquired to construct some sidewalks and trails. The proposed resolution authorizes staff to proceed with the project.

City Manager Bryan Lackey offered to provide a presentation at the Council Meeting to discuss the project in detail. After some discussion, it was noted two public meetings were previously held on the matter. There was a desire to fully educate everyone of interest on the plans. There was also some discussion about the process for the project improvements and the purpose of the resolution as it relates to the acquisition of the funding to do the work. Council Member Brooks further expressed her concerns with people walking in the area with no accessible sidewalk. The long-term vision was to tie this in with other sections to include the Midland Greenway, airport connector and CSX. It was noted that Hall County has also received funding for an eastside project.

Placed on the August 19, 2025 Council Meeting Agenda

Resolution: Authorizing, Approving and Directing the Employment of Certain Law Firm to Represent the City in Potential Litigation Related to PFAS
City Attorney Abb Hayes presented a proposed resolution authorizing the city to contract with Carothers & Mitchell, LLC for the purpose of providing legal services related to the pending PFAS litigation.

Placed on the August 19, 2025 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

City Attorney Abb 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 10:36 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan
Motion seconded by Council Member Guzman
Votes favoring the motion: Dunagan, Brooks, Hayes, Guzman
Vacant: Ward 2

OFFICIALS PRESENT:	Sam Couvillon, Danny Dunagan, Barbara Brooks, Juli Hayes, Abigail Guzman
VACANT POSITION:	Ward 2
STAFF PRESENT:	Bryan Lackey, Angela Sheppard, Abb Hayes, Alisa Grayson

Motion to close the Executive Session at 11:25 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Dunagan
Motion seconded by Council Member Hayes
Votes favoring the motion: Dunagan, Brooks, Hayes, Guzman

Vacant: Ward 2

ADJOURNMENT: 11:25 AM

/ag

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W. Samuel Couvillon, Mayor

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Alisa Grayson, City Clerk