

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Zack Thompson, Juli Hayes, Abigail Guzman, Barbara Brooks
OFFICIALS ABSENT: Jon Elliott
VACANT POSITION: Ward 1
STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Lackey, Angela Sheppard, Abb Hayes, Alisa Grayson

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

DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

2025 Community Trust Fund Campaign Report

Community Service Center Deputy Director Karina Costantini presented the results of the 2025 campaign and noted there was a new organization for the fire department this year. The total raised was \$61,861.60, which was a small decrease from the prior year. She recognized the department representatives who volunteered their services in support of this initiative.

Resolution: Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Community Service Center Deputy Director Karina Costantini requested approval of the update to the annual safety plan for submission to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). This is a requirement of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Placed on the January 20, 2026 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Resolution: Accepting Remainder of Millside Parkway as a City Street

Deputy Director of Engineering & Transportation Matt Tarver stated the proposed resolution was a request for acceptance of a portion of Millside Parkway in the Mundy Mill development. An inspection of the improvements was completed and all was in order. Staff recommended acceptance of the portion of Millside Parkway as a city street.

Placed on the January 20, 2026 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

Resolution: Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Gainesville and Gwinnett County for Emergency Water Usage

Department of Water Resources Deputy Director Myron Bennett stated the proposed resolution authorized renewal of an agreement for an emergency water interconnect. This is a two-way agreement for supplying water in the event of an emergency. This is the second renewal. The original agreement was in 2004. The term is for 25 years. This is similar to the other emergency agreements the city has with White County and Jackson County. Upon inquiry, Mr. Bennett commented on how the rates are considered.

Placed on the January 20, 2026 Council Meeting Consent Agenda

MAYOR/COUNCIL ISSUES:

Council Member Guzman

Commented on attending a ribbon cutting for the Boys and Girls Club's new Dream Court. She shared how fun and rewarding it was to interact with the kids.

Mayor Thompson

Later in the meeting, Mayor Thompson nominated Ryan Thompson to serve on the Chattahoochee Golf Course Advisory Committee.

Placed on the January 20, 2026 Council Meeting Agenda

CITY ATTORNEY ISSUES:

Resolution: Special Election for City Council Ward 1 Seat to be held in Conjunction with the May 19, 2026 Hall County General Primary/Nonpartisan Election

City Attorney Abb Hayes stated the proposed resolution authorizes a special election on May 19, 2026 to fill the vacant Council Member Ward 1 seat with a term to expire December 31, 2029.

Placed on the January 20, 2026 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 9:10 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Hayes

Motion seconded by Council Member Guzman

Votes favoring the motion: Hayes, Guzman, Brooks

Absent: Elliott

Vacant: Ward 1

Motion passed with affirmative vote of majority of members present in accordance with the Charter Section 2.22(c).

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Zack Thompson, Juli Hayes, Abigail Guzman, Barbara Brooks

OFFICIALS ABSENT: Jon Elliott

VACANT POSITION: Ward 1

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Lackey, Abb Hayes, Angela Sheppard, Alisa Grayson, Rusty Ligon

Motion to close the Executive Session at 9:54 AM.

Motion made by Council Member Guzman

Motion seconded by Council Member Hayes

Votes favoring the motion: Hayes, Guzman, Brooks

Absent: Elliott

Vacant: Ward 1

Motion passed with affirmative vote of majority of members present in accordance with the Charter Section 2.22(c).

CITY CLERK ISSUES:

Cities United Summit

City Clerk Alisa Grayson reminded Council of the upcoming GMA Cities United Summit in Atlanta and noted information was available for distribution.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Smoke-Free Designation

Council Member Juli Hayes provided a recap on discussions regarding a smoke-free designation and noted the subject was recently brought back up. Staff requested input from Council on how they would like to proceed. It was noted, there are currently some smoke-free areas in place now (i.e., inside). After further discussion there was consensus for staff to send a draft for review and consideration.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:11 AM

/ag

Zack Thompson, Mayor

Alisa Grayson, City Clerk