

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

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and served as the presiding officer.

Council Member Brooks provided the invocation after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Hayes

Thanked City staff for working diligently during the winter weather in keeping everyone safe and addressing any problems.

Mayor Thompson

Expressed appreciation for City staff and all their hard work/efforts in being prepared and keeping everyone safe during the winter weather.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mateo Penado, 529 Ridgewood Terrace, stated she is Chair of the Rainbow Collective organization and noted her resume as a community organizer and immigration paralegal. She shared the community's concerns surrounding urgent issues with 1) the Project Turbo Data Center, and 2) a potential ICE detention center in Oakwood. She also commented on the Hispanic community's concerns with information not being provided in Spanish. They requested a moratorium on data centers due to the concerns/issues raised and urged Council to act on opposing the detention center.

Nick Hoecker, 1222 Lakestone Court, shared concerns with data centers and the water usage associated with it noting he has researched the information.

Council Member Hayes commended Miss Penado's impressive resume. She emphasized the pride Council has in the city's diversity and culture. She noted the city has a translation portal available on the website and strives to provide accessible bilingual resources. She also commented on the Police Department's commitment to community engagement noting the officers actively engage with residents to create a sense of safety and protection. She thanked the speakers for sharing their concerns.

Council Member Brooks commented on how much Gainesville cares and expressed her appreciation for citizens sharing their concerns.

Mayor Thompson also expressed appreciation for speakers coming to the meetings to share their concerns with Council.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Appointment - Keep Hall Beautiful/Hall County Green Alliance Ex-Officio Member – Appoint Jon Elliott

Appointment - Habitat for Humanity of Hall County Ex-Officio Member – Appoint Juli Hayes

Motion to appoint Jon Elliott as Ex-Officio on the Keep Hall Beautiful/Hall County Green Alliance and appoint Juli Hayes as Ex-Officio on the Habitat for Humanity of Hall County Board as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Hayes
Motion seconded by Council Member Brooks
Votes favoring the motion: Thompson, Hayes, Brooks, Elliott
Absent: Guzman
Vacant: Ward 1

Minutes: January 15, 2026 Work Session
Minutes: January 20, 2026 Mayor/Council Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes accepting edits as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Brooks
Motion seconded by Council Member Hayes
Votes favoring the motion: Thompson, Hayes, Brooks, Elliott
Absent: Guzman
Vacant: Ward 1

Resolutions

A. BR-2026-05 Declaration of Surplus Property

City Manager Bryan Lackey provided a brief summary of the resolution.

Motion to adopt the resolution as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Hayes
Motion seconded by Council Member Elliott
Votes favoring the motion: Thompson, Hayes, Brooks, Elliott
Absent: Guzman
Vacant: Ward 1

GENERAL LEGISLATION:

Ordinance 2026-04

Amend Chapter 3-4 As it Pertains to Parking

City Manager Bryan Lackey stated Police Chief Jay Parrish presented the proposed ordinance amendment at Thursday's Work Session. The changes included a cleanup of outdated street information and regulations with the most significant change being the addition of paid street parking to address the downtown parking. He displayed graphics of the Downtown Parking Map & Guide and the Signage and noted this information will be available on the website. He shared the process for engaging the parking system and the rates associated with it. Notable comments were as follows:

- The parking map is color coded by zones.
- Signs will include a QR code and text option for payment.
- The first two hours of parking are free.

- No fees from 11 PM – 7 AM.
- A soft launch will begin April 6 for a four-week adjustment period.
- The system will go live in early May.
- This system will be enforced by the city.
- This initiative aims to improve downtown parking turnover and accessibility for merchants. It is not for revenue generation.

Upon inquiry, Mr. Lackey confirmed there will be no cost during the first four-weeks engagement period.

Council Member Hayes reiterated that the handicap parking spaces and the parking decks will remain free. She also noted that you must engage the system to start the first two free hours.

Mayor Thompson commented on this being a great example of working through a concept which will be beneficial for the downtown merchants. He thanked staff for working through this.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2026-04, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 3-4 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA BY AMENDING SECTIONS 3-4-2, 3-4-6(a), 3-4-12(b), 3-4-76, 3-4-77, 3-4-78(b)(2), 3-4-79, 3-4-80, 3-4-82 THROUGH 3-4-85, 3-4-87, 3-4-88, 3-4-90 THROUGH 3-4-100, AND 3-4-203(a) AND BY DELETING ARTICLE X; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES as presented.

Motion made by Council Member Elliott

Motion seconded by Council Member Brooks

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

Absent: Guzman

Vacant: Ward 1

CITY MANAGER ISSUES:

Winter Weather

City Manager Bryan Lackey commented on staff and their hard work during the winter weather for the past weeks.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:56 PM

/ag

Zack Thompson, Mayor

Alisa Grayson, City Clerk