

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia  
Mayor and Commission  
Tuesday, October 4, 2016  
7:00 P.M.  
City Hall

The Mayor and Commission of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia met this date in regular business session. Present: Mayor Denson, Commissioners Sims, Dickerson, Link, Wright, Bailey, NeSmith, Bell, Herod, Girtz, and Hamby. No one was absent.

#### Recognitions

Mayor Denson recognized Commissioners Allison Wright and Jared Bailey for achievement in continuing education by the Association of County Commissioners (ACCG). They both earned the designation of Certified County Commissioner. ACCG and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia work collaboratively to provide a yearlong training opportunity to Georgia's elected officials.

Ms. Wright and Mr. Bailey completed core curriculum and specialty track requirements in the Lifelong Learning Academy. Completion of the specialty tracks has specific topics of interest in local government such as public safety, intergovernmental relations, and citizen engagement among others.

Commissioner Wright completed her certification on December 3, 2015.

Commissioner Bailey completed his certification on April 30, 2016.

Last month, the Public Information Office was awarded a national first place Savvy Award from 3CMA - the City-County Communications & Marketing Association - at their annual conference. The Savvy Award was presented in the Printed Publications - Catalogs / Guides category for all populations.

The award was for the office's 2016 update of "ACC From A to Z: A Guide to the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government and Community Services." The guide is updated annually by the Public Information Office and was revamped this year as part of the recognition of the 25th anniversary of the unification of the City of Athens and Clarke County governments in 1991.

This award, which was accepted by Public Information Officer Jeff Montgomery, marks the 8th Savvy Award that the Public Information Office has received since 2008.

Manager Williams introduced newly hired Public Utilities Director Frank Stephens who made brief comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Bailey, to approve Minutes of meeting of Tuesday, September 6. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### Written communications

There were no written communications.

#### Old business – Consent

Items under this section were discussed at prior public meetings and were presented for consideration as a single item. Only one vote was taken.

#### Citizen input

There was no citizen input.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Girtz, to consent to action on the following five items. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

1. ADOPT: The following ordinance (#16-10-58) which was presented by title only.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA WITH RESPECT TO PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON GRESSOM STREET; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section 3-3-50 of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, parking is hereby prohibited on the west side of Gressom Street beginning at the southwest corner of its intersection with Vine Street and continuing on the west side of Gressom Street in a southerly direction for a distance of 125 feet, as more fully delineated on the drawing attached hereto, labeled Attachment #1, entitled "Gressom St." and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to Section 3-3-50 of the Code of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, parking is hereby prohibited on the east side of Gressom Street beginning at a point on the east side of Gressom Street located 125 feet south of the southeast corner of its intersection with Vine Street and continuing on the east side of Gressom Street in a southerly direction for a distance of 110 feet, as more fully delineated on the drawing attached hereto, labeled Attachment #1, entitled "Gressom St." and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

2. ADOPT: The following ordinance (#16-10-59) which was presented by title only as per agenda report dated August 29, 2016.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY 2017 ANNUAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA SO AS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FROM TRANSIT ENTERPRISE FUND WORKING CAPITAL FOR COMPLETION OF A TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia desires to amend the Transit Enterprise Fund to provide funding from Working Capital for the completion of the FY18 – FY22 Transit Development Plan. Said Operating and Capital budget is hereby amended as follows:

Transit Enterprise Fund:

Increase:

Capital Expenses:

Consultant Studies	\$125,000
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Decrease:

Un-appropriated Working Capital Balance	(\$125,000)
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SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

- 3a. APPROVE: Solicitor General's submission of a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) grant application for S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women (VAWA) grant funds in the amount of \$70,000 to be used to fund one domestic violence prosecutor position and necessary supplies and training for the prosecution of domestic violence cases in calendar year (CY) 2017;
- b. APPROVE: Acceptance of grant funds, if awarded;
- c. APPROVE: Continuation of one full-time authorized position for the Solicitor General's Office specialized domestic violence prosecution in CY17, the first half of which would be in FY17;
- d. ADOPT: The following ordinance (#16-10-60) which was presented by title only amending the Solicitor General's Office FY17 Budget (\$35,000) and related operating expenses for the first six months of the CJCC Grant (January through June 2017) as per Attachment #1 of agenda report dated August 22, 2016. The match requirement to be met by a portion of the salary of a current assistant solicitor is \$11,667 for the first six months of the grant; and
- e. AUTHORIZE: the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute all related documents

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY2017 ANNUAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA SO AS TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE GEORGIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR TWO FULLTIME POSITIONS AND ASSOCIATED EXPENSES TO SUPPORT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia desires to amend the Grants Special Revenue Fund to provide grant funding from the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for two fulltime positions and associated expenses to support domestic violence cases. Said Operating and Capital budget is hereby amended as follows:

Grants Special Revenue Fund:

REVENUES:

Increase:  
Stop Violence Against Women Grant (CJCC) \$35,000

EXPENDITURES:

Increase:  
Solicitor General Operating Expenses \$35,000

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

4. APPROVE: An appropriation from the General Fund Contingency of \$12,157 to the FY17 Operating Budget for Superior Court, Compensation – Supplemental as per agenda report dated August 31, 2016; and ADOPT the following ordinance (#16-10-61) which was presented by title only.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY2017 ANNUAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA SO AS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR OPERATING EXPENSES RELATED TO SUPERIOR COURT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia desires to amend the General Fund to provide funding operating expenses for Compensation - Supplemental. Said Operating and Capital budget is hereby amended as follows:

General Fund:

EXPENDITURES:

Decrease:  
General Fund Contingency \$12,157

Increase:  
Superior Court- Compensation - Supplemental \$12,157

Total \$12,157

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

5. APPROVE: Preliminary construction plans for the H.T. Edwards Learning Center Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project as shown in Attachment #1 of agenda report dated August 31, 2016; AUTHORIZE the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute any necessary utility relocation agreements and all other project related documents; and AUTHORIZE staff to acquire the necessary right-of-way and easements, prepare final construction plans, and subsequently enter into the bid phase for this project.

Old and new business – Discussion

Citizen input

There was no citizen input.

A motion was made by Commissioner NeSmith, seconded by Commissioner Wright, to

- a. Approve the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) Program Goals and Project Selection Criteria as noted in Attachment #1 of agenda report dated September 6, 2016 with the following commission-defined option (CDO):

For the purpose of clarity, the following sections of the goals and charge will read as follows: (All other paragraphs are unchanged by this CDO)

**SPECIFIC GOALS and PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA**

Project applications should address sustainability by identifying components within the proposed project that will accomplish one or more of the following criteria:

- Significantly improve the pavement maintenance schedule
- Maintain or Improve air quality
- Promote the upgrade and continued use of alternative transportation facilities currently owned by ACCUG
- Reduce traffic congestion by improving intersections and traffic control devices
- Increase effectiveness and convenience of Transit System routes and infrastructure

Special consideration should be given to the implementation of projects that would accomplish the next level of multi-phased projects initiated in or continuation projects from one or more of the earlier SPLOST programs. Examples of continuation projects may include, but not limited to, the following:

- Catching up on Pavement Maintenance Program
- Continuation of Fire Fly Trail and/or bridge over Trail Creek
- Continued Implementation of portions of the Greenway Network Plan
- Construction of roundabout at Whitehall Rd/Milledge Ave
- Continued Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvements

- b. Approve an implementation schedule and task list for the proposed TSPLOST 2017 program as noted in Attachment #1 of said agenda report; and
- c. Approve the “charge” to the TSPLOST 2017 Citizens Advisory Committee as noted in Attachment #1 of said agenda report.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hamby, seconded by Commissioner Girtz, to endorse a proposed expansion of the Downtown Athens Development Authority’s district as depicted in Attachment #1 of agenda report dated September 20, 2016; consent to allow Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County properties to be included in the revised district; and authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute all necessary documents. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

New business – Consider under suspension of Rules

There was no new business.

Citizen input on items other than those listed on this agenda

1. Sam Rafal, 230 Spalding Circle – concerned about EMS response time
2. Bob Gadd, 134 Miller Road, Winterville – concerned about EMS response time
3. Allie Hubbard, 160 Dudley Drive – supported International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
4. Gretchen Elsner, P.O. Box 562 – concerned about global warming; supported bicycle transportation
5. Jordan Hogby, 86 North Avenue – supported parallel ordinance
6. Shawn Corley, 225 China Street – supported parallel ordinance
7. Skip Eckert, Dewey Rose – supported parallel ordinance

The following citizens supported an anti-discrimination ordinance and/or a human relations council.

1. Cathy Woolard, 490 Hamilton Street S. E., Atlanta, GA
2. Caryl Sundland, 675 Rivermont Road
3. Rouhallah Agasale, UGA Globes
4. Sean Walton, 130 Churchill Circle
5. Mansur Buffins, 415 Baxter Street, UGA President NAACP
6. Heidi Elrod, 2505 West Broad Street
7. Broderick Flanagan, 1645 East Broad Street
8. Alvin Sheats. P.O. Box 5142
9. Mary Miller, 240 Tara Way
10. Joel Huff, 129 Pineview Drive
11. Jameka Patman, Athens Tech student
12. Ashley Cox, 2119 Athens Ridge Boulevard
13. Micah Miles, 760 East Campus Road
14. Charlie Gardner, Oak Tree Square
15. Jesse Houle, 260 North Chase Street
16. Michael Smith, 147 First Street
17. Jasmine Johnson, 651 Lakeland Way
18. Uma Nagendra, 305 Willow Run
19. Tim Denson, 290 Midway Road
20. Jelene McAfee, 840 Jefferson River Road
21. Tommy Valentine, 370 Cleveland Avenue
22. Gabriel Holmes, 240 Marion Drive
23. Amy Yoder, 129 Ashley Circle #7
24. Ashley Hannah, 270 Cobb Street
25. Richard Barton, 397 Ridgewater Circle
26. Katie Horton, 250 Dubose Avenue
27. Michael Cannon, 1446 East Broad Street
28. Eric Rose, 136 Sterling Drive
29. Briana Bevins, 127 Riverdale Drive
30. Taylor Lanum – 460 Forest Road
31. Adam Lassila, 260 North Chase Street

FROM MAYOR DENSON:

1. Announced Publix has awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Athens Emergency Food Bank.

FROM MANAGER WILLIAMS:

1. Received for information was a report of contract awards in excess of \$10,000 for August 2016.

FROM COMMISSIONER NESMITH:

1. Stated this is National Mental Health Awareness Week and applauded work of Advantage Behavioral.
2. Stated concern regarding EMS response times and that appointment of Fire Chief Jeff Scarbrough to the EMS Review Committee will be beneficial.

FROM COMMISSIONER BAILEY:

1. Expressed appreciation to citizens who commented.

FROM COMMISSIONER LINK:

1. Supported parallel ordinance.

FROM COMMISSIONERS NESMITH, LINK, AND GIRTZ:

1. Supported formation of a human rights commission.

FROM COMMISSIONER SIMS:

1. Questioned who will be willing to serve on a human rights commission.

FROM COMMISSIONER DICKERSON:

1. Expressed appreciation to Central Services Department for response to Johnson grass mowing.
2. Stated Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste is the initial recipient of a \$29,000 Foam Recycling Coalition grant .
3. Stated at the 1986 Clarke Central class reunion \$4,000 was raised and distributed locally as follows: \$2,000 to Food to Kids; \$1,000 to Boys and Girls Club; and \$1,000 to Junior ROTC.

FROM COMMISSIONERS HEROD AND BELL:

1. Stated discrimination issues are important.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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Clerk of Commission