

Buford City Commission

August 7, 2023

The regular monthly meeting was held on August 7, 2023 at Buford City Hall and all Commission members were present.

Chairman Beard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Mr. Burge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Burge to approve the agenda for the August 7, 2023 meeting as presented.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to adopt the minutes from the July 17, 2023 meeting as presented by staff.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to change the September meeting to September 5, 2023.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Public Hearings

#Z-23-18: Meridith Simes requests rezoning for the property located at 6157 Gaines Ferry Road, being parcel 08-139-003008A, containing 4.52 acres from RA-200 to R-100. Jeff Pruitt spoke on behalf of the applicant and requested the rezoning be tabled. Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to table the request.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Zoning Modifications

#ZM-23-05: Clair Investment Properties & Interior Designs, LLC, 467 Thunder Road, requests to modify condition #5 of the zoning conditions approved on May 1, 2023 requiring four sides brick with accents not to exceed 20% on each elevation; requesting brick, stone, stucco with accents not to exceed 40% on each elevation and side setbacks to 5ft./15ft. Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to approve the request.

Ayes 3
Nays 0



#ZM-23-06: Clair Investment Properties & Interior Designs, LLC, 2251, 2253, 2255 and 2257 Buford Dam Road, requests to modify condition #2 of the zoning conditions approved on September 6, 2016 requiring accents not to exceed 35% on front elevation and 20% side and rear elevations; requesting brick, stone, stucco with accents not to exceed 40% each elevation and side setbacks to 5ft./15ft. After discussion, motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to table the request.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Chairman Beard stated at this time there would be a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget and 2023 millage rate rollback for Gwinnett and Hall County property taxes. Chairman Beard opened the hearings with comments on the FY 2024 budget, the proposed tax increases for 2023 and gave an overview of the law and the City's proposed millage rate. The Commission is proposing a millage rate of 12.50 for 2023 for both Gwinnett and Hall Counties, Hall County with the LOST rollback. The property tax increase for Gwinnett County is proposed at 11.34% over the rollback millage rate of 11.227 and the property tax increase for Hall County is proposed at 26.08% over the rollback millage rate of 9.914. The public was given an opportunity to provide comments on the budget and millage rate rollback. Several inquired about the millage rate increases in Gwinnett and Hall Counties. The Chairman explaining the statute and homeowners with the Homestead Exemption will not see an increase in taxes. The audience did not have questions regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget.

Allison Sinyard with Tunnel, Spangler, Walsh & Associates, gave a presentation regarding the City of Buford 2045 Comprehensive Plan Short-Term Work Program Five year update.


Chairman Beard stated that this concludes the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to approve the 2023 property tax millage rate for Buford City Schools in Gwinnett County of 12.50 mills and 13.45 mills in Hall County. Hall County Local Option Sales Tax rollback is 0.95 mills with a net millage rate for property taxes in both Gwinnett County and Hall County of 12.50 mills. Property taxes bills are due December 20, 2023.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Burge to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 operating budget and budget resolution and approve employee pay raises.

Ayes 3
Nays 0



Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to approve bids for construction of Buford City Stadium.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Burge to authority City Manager and City Attorney to negotiate purchase of property located on Bona Road for Buford City Stadium project.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to approve renewal of 2023-2024 health insurance policy with Anthem/Blue Cross and authorize City Manager to continue negotiating up to the approval date of September 1, 2023.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to approve amendment to moratorium to provide for the study and potential designation of certain properties and structures as "historic properties" and to study and make possible revisions to the City's zoning ordinance and development code in furtherance of protecting and preserving certain historical places and buildings; and other purposes, subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Burge to approve amendment to lease agreement for city owned property at 680 Forest St., parcel no. 7296 006, to provide for early termination of lease.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to approve surplus items as presented and authorize City Manager to list items on Govdeals.com and other markets.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Burge to authorize Chairman to sign an amendment to the Hall County Countywide Safety Plan allowing Buford to serve an additional fourteen (14) lots in a subdivision on Spouts Springs Road and addition of territory.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to approve renewal of annual contract for construction and renewal of natural gas services with Southern Pipeline, Inc. with an additional one (1) year option for renewal.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to approve amendment to City of Buford Massage Establishment Ordinance adding a provision that prohibits the issuance of a license having a revocation in the past twelve (12) months.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to authorize release of pledged funds with Peoples Bank & Trust. Chairman Beard abstained.

Ayes 2
Nays 0
Abstained 1

Motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Burge to authorize transfer of parcel 7270 044, portion thereof 5.92 acres +/-, to the Buford Downtown Development Authority.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to authorize the transfer of a portion of parcel 7302 109, as determined by the City Manager, to the Buford Downtown Development Authority.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Burge to approve conveyance of permanent easement from the City of Buford to Mary Alice Circle 2021, LP (Buford Housing Authority, Arnold Street and City New Street projects).

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to authorize payment #5 in the amount of \$86,539.21 to John D. Stephens, Inc. for new Buford High School stadium sewer project.

Ayes 3
Nays 0



Motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Burge to authorize change order #1 and payment #2 in the amount of \$81,000.00 to F. S. Scarbrough for Southside WPCP filter replacement project.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to authorize payment #3 in the amount of \$95,684.85 to Backbone Infrastructure, LLC for West Moreno Street improvements project.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Burge to authorize payment #25 in the amount of \$811,108.77 and payment #26 in the amount of \$81,500.09 to Ruby Collins, Inc. for water plant expansion project and payment of Invoice #2438-23 in the amount of \$1,980.00 to Global Control Systems, Inc. for specialized controls and instrumentation.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to authorize payment of Invoice #12 in the amount of \$48,229.32 to Charles Black Construction Company, Inc. for passive park at Harris Street project.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to authorize payment #5 in the amount of \$54,463.00 to Charles Black Construction Company, Inc. for Southside Water Treatment Plant Office Building Project.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to authorize payment #1 in the amount of \$71,869.00 to Charles Black Construction Company, Inc. for Buford bus parking lot project on Wiley Drive.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Burge to authorize payment #6 in the amount of \$1,176,162.00 to Charles Black Construction Company, Inc. for Buford Senior Academy addition project.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to authorize payment #10 in the amount of \$1,341,249.00 to Charles Black Construction Company, Inc. for Buford Middle School addition and renovations project.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to authorize payment of Invoice #1 in the amount of \$1,469,984.00 to Charles Black Construction Company, Inc. for Buford High School stadium project.

Ayes 3
Nays 0

Mr. Kerlin gave the City Manager's Report.

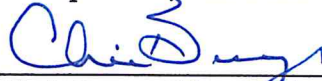
Mr. Jay gave the City Attorney's Report.

After a brief discussion with the audience, motion by Mr. Burge, seconded by Mr. Weeks to adjourn.

Ayes 3
Nays 0



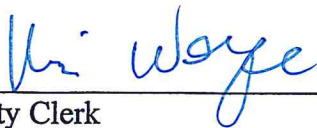
Phillip Beard, Chairman



Chris Burge, Vice-Chairman



Bradley W. Weeks, Commissioner



City Clerk



Date