



CIVILITY PLEDGE

The way we govern ourselves is often as important as the positions we take. Our collective decisions will be better when differing views have had the opportunity to be fully vetted and considered. All people have the right to be treated with respect, courtesy and openness. We value all input. We commit to conduct ourselves at all times with civility and courtesy to each other.

ALAN HALLMAN
MAYOR

MIKE RAST
ALDERMAN AT LARGE

BRETT REICHERT
COUNCILMAN AT
LARGE

MARK ADAMS
COUNCILMAN WARD I

CHLOE ALEXANDER
COUNCILMAN WARD II

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Join in person at 700 Doug Davis Drive, Hapeville, GA 30354 Or, visit the City's Website for live stream at
<https://hapevillega.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1074/overview>

May 7, 2024 6:00 PM

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** by Mayor Hallman at 6:01 PM
2. **ROLL CALL:** All Members of Council were present, which constituted a quorum.
 - ☒ Alan Hallman
 - ☒ Mike Rast
 - ☒ Brett Reichert
 - ☒ Mark Adams
 - ☒ Chloe Alexander
3. **WELCOME:** Mayor Hallman welcomed all to the May 7th Meeting.
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge of allegiance was recited in unison.
5. **INVOCATION:** Given by Pastor Barry Odom.
6. **PRESENTATIONS:**
 - 6.I. Proclamation Honoring Municipal Clerks Week

Mayor Hallman officially presented a proclamation during the meeting, recognizing and honoring Municipal Clerks Week and honoring the City Clerk, Sharee Steed.
 - 6.II. Gallagher 2024 Insurance Renewal.

DISCUSSION: John Beckett, the account executive, and Yvette Jones, the senior client service manager, addressed the Mayor and Council to present and discuss the renewal of insurance and the emerging trends in the insurance marketplace. Mr. Beckett noted that Gallagher has worked with the City of Hapeville for ten years. He highlighted the impact of climate change on property costs, increased social inflation leading to higher business operation costs, and the rise in auto liability due to more frequent and severe accidents. Despite these challenges, Hapeville's insurance renewal rate increase was only 6.1%, significantly lower than the state average of 15% for GIRMA members. Mr. Beckett also noted a 50% increase in the city's payrolls and a 35% increase in property values over the past five years, driving up insurance costs. After evaluating alternatives like Travelers, Liberty, and Tokyo Marine, it was confirmed that GIRMA remains the best fit for Hapeville due to market conditions and proximity challenges related to Atlanta.
7. **PUBLIC HEARING:** There were no public hearing items at this meeting.
8. **QUESTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**
 1. Jordana Arias
9. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - 9.I. Consideration and Action to approve April 16th, Council Meeting minutes.
 - 9.II. Consideration and Action to approve the April 16th, Executive Session minutes.

MOTION: Councilman Adams motioned to approve the consent agenda; Councilman Alexander provided a second. **Motion carried 4-0.**

10. OLD BUSINESS: There were no old business items at this meeting.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

11.I. Consideration and Action to Approve Gallagher 2024 Insurance Renewal.

MOTION: Alderman Rast motioned to approve the Gallagher 2024 Insurance Renewal; Councilman Alexander provided a second. **Motion carried 4-0.**

11.II. Consideration and Action to Approve Maintaining a Disorderly House Ordinance.

Background:

Police and Code Enforcement incur instances where it is difficult to identify a specific offender in a nuisance residence. A Disorderly House ordinance would allow officers to charge residents who have exhibited a pattern of behavior to the detriment of the neighborhood in which they live. Loud parties, constant police calls to a residence, etc. can all be addressed by one charge addressing the nuisance created by such unlawful activities where the owner or renter would be responsible, not just the single offender(s). Currently, HPD uses a state charge, and the court of jurisdiction is Fulton County State Court. By approving this ordinance, the City would have more control over the case by having it heard in Hapeville's Municipal Court. Additionally, we would have access to the City Judge and Prosecutor should we have trouble spots and/or repeat offenders.

DISCUSSION: Chief Hedley led the discussion on the importance of handling noise misdemeanor violations locally. He emphasized that keeping cases local allows for better control over the trial process, resulting in faster resolution and appropriate punishment. This approach is particularly beneficial for addressing quality of life issues and repeat offenders, as it enables quicker action by local prosecutors.

City Attorney Ransaw explained that under state statute, a "disorderly house" is defined as a place where activities disturb the neighborhood or harm public morals, health, convenience, or safety. She also mentioned the possibility of adding a notification provision for property owners regarding violations, as requested by the Council.

MOTION: Councilman Adams motioned to approve the Maintaining a Disorderly House Ordinance with the provision provided by the Council. Councilman Alexander provided a second. **Motion carried 4-0.**

11.III. Discussion on amending the Ordinance that would allow outside alcohol vendors to service city-sponsored events.

Background:

With the upcoming summer events approaching, staff is encountering challenges securing alcohol services from local businesses for City events. As Hapeville continues to expand, businesses with alcohol licenses are increasingly in demand, limiting the ability of our local vendors to supply City events in addition to their current operations. Therefore, staff suggests expanding the Off-Premises/Special Event permit to allow outside alcohol vendors to provide services exclusively for sponsored city events. This adjustment aims to ensure uninterrupted alcohol services at City events, mitigating the risk of last-minute cancelations.

DISCUSSION: City Attorney Ransaw clarified the requirements under the current statute, beginning at line 49 of the draft ordinance. Previously, vendors were required to hold a license and permit in good standing with the City of Hapeville. The proposed change would remove the local license requirement, allowing vendors with valid state and local licenses to serve alcohol at city events. She added the Council's requested language: "Should local vendors not be available; an outside vendor will be considered."

- No action was taken; this was a discussion item only.

11.IV. Discussion on amending the Ordinance that changes the Alcohol Renewal Cycle date.

Background:

The City has an Alcohol license period of January 1 through December 31. The current annual renewal period is October 15th to December 15th. Businesses often submit documentation near the end of the period, leaving a short window of time to efficiently process the renewals with high levels of service. Staff proposes adjusting the renewal period to run from September 15th to November 15th. This adjustment would afford additional time to address any potential challenges and would align the renewal cycle with the Department of Revenue's annual renewal date cycle.

DISCUSSION: City Manager Tim Young explained that the proposed change would not impact or conflict with business operations, as the business license renewal period runs from February to the end of March. Therefore, the renewal windows for business licenses and the proposed changes are in a separate timeframe.

- No action was taken; this was a discussion item only.

12. **CITY MANAGER REPORTS:** City Manager, Tim Young spoke about the following items.

- **Spin The District Event:**
 - The race was held on Friday, May 3rd.
 - Though not attended personally by City Manager Young, he noted that he received a favorable report from Cookie Smoak.
 - Moving the event to Friday increased participation, especially from parents and children, due to fewer weekend obligations.
 - The event was a big success and fortunately avoided the rain that occurred on Saturday.
- **National Police Week:**
 - May 12th through May 18th.
 - Encourage residents to embrace police officers this week.
 - A proclamation for National Police Week will be presented at the next meeting.
- **La Fiesta in Hapeville:**
 - Set for Saturday, May 18th, at Jess Lucas Park.
 - Expected to be a good event.
- **Bridge Budget:**
 - For the period from July through September.
 - The bridge budget will be posted for public viewing next week.
 - The presentation to the council will occur in June.

13. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There was no public comments at this meeting.

14. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Reichert expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the Spin The District event, highlighting the extensive use of the parking lot for this year. He noted that the First Baptist Church generously donated the use of their parking lot for free, which is a significant contribution, and he publicly thanked them for their support. Councilman Reichert praised the event as wonderful, with perfect weather, food vendors, a kids' area, and attendees from around the world, making it an exciting occasion for Hapeville.

Councilman Adams thanked the city staff for their efforts in making Spin The District a very successful event. He also reminded everyone to thank nurses during Nurses Week, from May 6th to 12th, recognizing their tireless work during COVID-19 and emphasizing that their service was crucial during the pandemic.

Alderman Rast did not have any comments at this time.

Councilman Alexander mentioned her voluntary work for an arts organization and her role on their executive board, which supports various types of artists, including sculptors. She discussed a public art project for which they are applying for a VIA grant on behalf of a sculptor. Councilman Alexander suggested Hapeville as an ideal location for the sculpture. She sought a verbal consensus from the Mayor and Council to name Hapeville as a potential site and to provide a letter of interest. The proposed sculpture consists of eight by four-foot modular panels made of transparent colored plexiglass that can be configured in various ways, such as a passageway, open-air structure, or maze.

The panels, generated from community maps, would include community engagement workshops and activations throughout the installation. Councilman Alexander emphasized that the grant would cover the entire project with no financial obligation from the city. She requested approval to submit the letter of interest before applying for the grant.

Mayor Hallman expressed gratitude to everyone for attending the meeting and echoed the positive comments about the "Spin The District" event. He noted the expansive display and thanked everyone involved, acknowledging the efforts of the police officers managing traffic. He also reminded attendees about the upcoming Memorial Day service at the Recreation Center on May 30th at 10:00 AM, emphasizing its importance. Additionally, he announced that Cookie Smoak, who has been instrumental in running the ATL Airport District CVB, will be retiring in September, and thanked her for her remarkable contributions. Mercedes Miller, who has been involved with the GICC, will be her replacement, and Mayor Hallman expressed confidence in her abilities while wishing Cookie well in her future endeavors

15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *When Executive Session is Required one will be called for the following issues: 1) Litigation O.C.G.A. §50-14-2; 2) Real Estate O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(1); or 3) Personnel O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(2).*

MOTION: Councilman Reichert made a motion to go into recess; Councilman Adams provided a second. **Motion carried 4-0.**

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion to go into executive session at 6:55PM; Councilman Alexander provided a second. **Motion carried 4-0.**

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion to convene back into regular session at 7:43 PM, Councilman Alexander second. **Motion carried 4-0.**

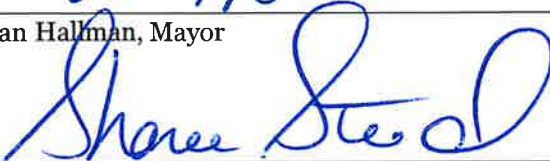
16. **ADJOURN:**

MOTION: Councilman Alexander motioned to adjourn at 7:44 PM; Councilman Adams provided a second. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Hallman, Mayor



Sharee Steed, City Clerk