1. Call to Order

Chairman Higgins called the meeting to order at 6:24 p.m.

Present:

Chairman Richard Higgins, Vice Chairman Jeff Stowe and Commissioners Kathy Cooper, Billy Powell and Scott Gibbs

Also present were County Administrator Randy Knighton, Assistant County Administrator Marty Nix, Commission Clerk Lisa Ritchie and County Attorney Bill Blalock

2. Approve Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded by Commissioner Powell and voted, unanimously, to approve the Agenda.

3. Invocation

3.1 Pastor Mike Taylor, Pastor of Flat Creek Baptist Church/Volunteer Chaplain with Hall County Fire Services

4. Pledge of Allegiance

4.2 Commissioner Billy Powell will lead the Pledge

5. Presentation

5.3 Mid Year Budget Update

Zach Propes, Finance Director, gave the mid year budget update. He stated that Hall County’s current financial health is strong. Mr. Propes stated, in a proactive measure, that a reduction of approximately one million dollars is recommended.

Motion by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Stowe and voted, unanimously, to approve the proposed budget amendment to reduce the general fund from 96.95 million to 95.95 million for the remainder of the fiscal year.
6. Public Comment - Agenda Items Only (2 minutes per speaker/20 minutes maximum)

Myra Tap, 3109 Joe Chandler Road, addressed the Board in regards to the Joe Chandler Road bridge replacement.

Motion by Commissioner Stowe, seconded by Commissioner Powell and voted, unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda.

7. Consent Agenda

7.4 Approve December 5, 2016 Special Called Meeting Minutes
7.5 Approve December 5, 2016 Executive Session Minutes
7.6 Approve December 5, 2016 Work Session Minutes
7.7 Approve December 8, 2016 Voting Meeting Minutes
7.8 Approve the appointment of Commissioner Jeff Stowe as the 2017 Commission Vice Chairman
7.9 Approve the re-appointment of Randy Knighton as the 2017 County Administrator
7.10 Approve the re-appointment of Bill Blalock, Stewart Melvin & Frost as the 2017 County Attorney
7.11 Approve the re-appointment of Walt Davis as the 2017 Warden
7.12 Approve the re-appointment of Lisa Ritchie as the 2017 Commission Clerk
7.13 Approve Chairman Richard Higgins' re-appointment of Don Smallwood to the Planning Commission
7.14 Approve Commissioner Kathy Cooper's re-appointment of Frank Sosebee to the Planning Commission
7.15 Approve Commissioner Billy Powell's re-appointment of Chris Braswell to the Planning Commission
7.16 Approve Commissioner Scott Gibbs' re-appointment of Bo Brooks to the Planning Commission
7.17 Approve Commissioner Jeff Stowe's re-appointment of Johnny Varner to the Planning Commission
Commission

7.18 Approve 2016 EMPG Funds from Georgia Emergency Management Agency

7.19 Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Dawson County for Public Defender Services

7.20 Approve Collection of $155,000.00 Irrevocable Letter of Credit for Streets in Copper Glen Phase III Subdivision. Commission District 3.

7.21 Approve Collection of $275,383.00 Irrevocable Letter of Credit for Sidewalks in Avalon Hills Subdivision Phase II. Commission District 3.

7.22 Approve Award of IFB #030-37, Purchase and Install Safety Padding at the Hall County Jail, to Marathon Engineering Corporation

7.23 Approve award of RFP #37-006, Design Build Services for Joe Chandler Rd Bridge Replacement, to ER Snell/Moreland Altobelli

7.24 Approve Resolution authorizing the Tax Commissioner to accept checks, money orders and electronically transmitted payments for the payment of taxes

7.25 Approve Resolution authorizing the sale of a narrow parcel of unneeded road right-of-way located off of A Avenue and Elachee Drive

7.26 Approve Supplemental Tax Levy Resolution for Hall County School District Bonds

7.27 Approve amendment to the 2017 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

7.28 Approve Annual re-adoption of Robert's Rules of Order with an exception to allow for the Chairman to vote

7.29 Approve Annual re-adoption of Hall County's Code of Ethics

8. Other Business

8.30 First Reading of a resolution pursuant to section 17.40.030 entitled "Adoption of Official Zoning Map and District Boundaries" of Chapter 17.40, Title 17 of the Official Code of Hall County, Georgia to designate and adopt the Official Zoning Map - 2017 of Hall County, Georgia, in electronic format; to provide for an effective date for said resolution; and to repeal conflicting ordinances and resolutions, and for the other purposes.

Mr. Blalock issued the Reading.

Srikanth Yamala, Planning Director, addressed the Board and stated that the Second Reading and Public Hearing would be held at the January 26, 2017 Commissioners Voting Meeting.

Mr. Blalock issued the Public Hearing.
9. Public Hearing to consider applications to amend the Zoning Map of Hall County as follows:

9.31 Application of Cross Plains Baptist Church to rezone form AR-IV and I-II to AR-IV on a 3.60± acre tract located at the intersection of Cross Plains Road and Dixieland Farm Road; Tax Parcel 15025B000010. Proposed Use: Construct a church sanctuary. Commission District 3.

Mr. Blalock issued the Reading.

Srikanth Yamala, Planning Director, addressed the Board and stated that the Planning Commission recommends approval with no conditions.

Mr. Blalock issued the Public Hearing.

Kevin Brown, 2335 Fine Drive, Gainesville addressed the Board in favor of the item.

Motion by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded by Commissioner Powell and voted unanimously, to approve item 9.31.

9.32 Application of Green Implementation Group, LLC to rezone from AR-III to PRD; and to amend conditions of the existing PRD on a 110.90± acre tract located on the west side of Buffington Farm Road at its intersection with Water Lily Drive; a.k.a. Hazelton Park on Lanier Subdivision and 3271, 3293 and 3341 Buffington Farm Road; Tax Parcels 09106 000001A 09105 000001; 09106 000003; 09106 000007; 09106 000013 thru 09106 000024; 09108 000107 thru 109. Proposed Use: 185 lot subdivision. Commission District 3.

Mr. Blalock issued the Reading.

Srikanth Yamala, Planning Director, addressed the Board and stated that the Planning Commission recommends approval with three conditions and also requested that the applicant determine condition number eight that was approved in April 2016 and get clarification with the Engineering Department.

Mr. Blalock issued the Public Hearing.

Adam Whitmire, 5566 Barn House Lane, and Marion Meeks, 3332 Buffington Farms Road, addressed the Board in favor of the application.

Motion by Commissioner Gibbs, seconded by Commissioner Powell and voted unanimously, to approve item 9.32 with the conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission. CONDITIONS:

1) All prior conditions of approval for Green Implementation Group, LLC approved on April 27, 2016, including the additional 1 acre parcel in this
request, shall remain in effect, with the following modifications:

a. Condition 5 of the April 27th zoning shall read as: All lots must be accessed via internal roadways. Lots with rear entry may be accessed via private drive. Lots 1-11 may be accessed via private drive.

b. Condition 8 of the April 27th zoning shall read as: The common area street connected to Wishing Well Terrace that leads to the dock will be widened to a 24 ft. private street with a 40 ft. right-of-way from the centerline of the street and a maximum allowable grade of 17%.

2) A private gate will be added to Buffington Farm Road, as shown on the concept plan, to accommodate existing and future home owners residing within the gate on Buffington Farm Road.

3) The existing section of Buffington Farm Road within the proposed gate will be rezoned to PRD and taken out of county maintenance.

10. Report from County Attorney

Mr. Blalock did not have any items to report.

11. Report from County Administrator

11.33 Hall County Accomplishments in 2016

Mr. Knighton stated some of the many accomplishments of 2016 including opening a new Sheriff’s Headquarters, paying down sewer debt, implementing an automated payroll and timekeeping system, as well as receiving awards for projects that have been completed in the last year. He encouraged citizens to view the listing of accomplishments on the County website.

11.34 Hall County Offices will be closed on Monday, January, 16, 2017, in observance of the Martin Luther King Day Holiday.

12. Commission Time

Commissioner Kathy Cooper, District 1, did not have any items to report.

Commissioner Billy Powell, District 2, did not have any items to report.

Commissioner Scott Gibbs, District 3, did not have any items to report.

Commissioner Jeff Stowe, District 4, said it was a great month for Gainesville/Hall County athletes. He said Blake Sims, former quarterback at Gainesville High School signed with Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Tasha Humphries, who played basketball at Gainesville High School, was named to the 2017 SEC Legends Deshaun Watson brings home the first starting quarterback to win a national championship is from Gainesville. He said he wished to congratulate those athletes and he looks forward to many great things out of those young people in the future.
Chairman Richard Higgins stated that a Hall County Deputy and his wife lost their home. He said there is an article in The Times that gives direction on how the public can help.

Mr. Knighton stated that the County has an employee first initiative that allows employees to help support a fund for other employees who experience catastrophic events. He said the fund is appropriate for the Deputy’s loss.

13. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs and voted unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

If you have a disability or impairment and need special assistance, please contact the Commission Clerk prior to the meeting at 770-535-8288