

2013 Mayor and City Council Team Expectations

As part the 2013 Strategic Planning Retreat, the City Council discussed factors that would help the City Council be successful throughout 2013. The following items are highlights from the discussion, designed to be used as a reference guide throughout 2013.

- **Listen actively**

The Dunwoody City Council is comprised of individuals with a wide variety of backgrounds, personalities, values, opinions, and goals. Each member of Council has something important to add to the conversation and discussion of issues. Allow for full explanations and consider the points of view that are presented before reacting. The common goal of serving the community should be acknowledged even as Council may "agree to disagree" on contentious issues.

- **Represent the community as a whole**

While it is good and appropriate that each Council member regularly hears from and communicates with members of the community, Council decisions should be based on the needs of the City as a whole, not just vocal minorities. Be cautious in forming opinions based on the needs of one particular group or segment of the community.

- **Support the direction of Council**

Although each Council member often has a personal opinion, once an issue has been decided by the Council each member should support the direction of Council, respect the decision that has been made, lay aside differences, and move forward. When bringing issues up for discussion, socialize ideas with fellow Council members and respect that Council action only comes through consensus or majority vote.

- **Practice civility and professionalism in discussions and debate**

Difficult questions, tough challenges, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of a free democracy in action. This does not allow, however, Council members to make personal or disparaging comments to any elected officials, staff, or citizens. Council members should conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. When possible, frame comments in a positive manner.

- **Maintain proper decorum**

The actions, mannerisms, and language of the Council are constantly monitored and observed by the community. Maintain proper decorum amongst Council members when interacting with each other and with the public. Casual comments between individuals before, during, and after public meetings are noted. Treat all citizens in a dignified manner and avoid labeling groups or individuals.

- **Stay focused on policy and long-term issues**

Collectively, the Council makes all policy decisions for the City of Dunwoody while the administrative staff, led by the City Manager, work diligently to implement the decisions that have been made. By focusing on making good decisions for the overall and long-term issues, Council can keep the City moving forward.