



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**The Wednesday Wrap-Up:  
Highlights from the Augusta Commission meeting held March 7, 2023**

**AUGUSTA, GA (March 8, 2023)** – In this week’s Wednesday Wrap-Up of the Augusta Commission meeting held on March 7, 2023, elected officials accepted an array of action items, such as approving the city’s participation in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s HOME Investment Partnership Program and collaborating with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to patrol and regulate hunting activities at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park. View the news briefs below for more details.

**Augusta Commission approves submission to the HOME Investment Partnership Program**

The Augusta Commission approved Augusta, Georgia’s submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s HOME Investment Partnership Program- American Rescue Plan Cost Allocation Plan or HOME-ARP program. This initiative aims to address housing instability in local communities.

In 2022, the Augusta Commission approved the city’s receipt of HOME-ARP funds totaling \$3,483,201, and, with the approval of submission by the Augusta Commission, the city can move forward with the construction and rehabilitation of residential dwelling units to provide decent, safe and sanitary permanent housing options for residents experiencing, or at-risk of experiencing, homelessness, as defined by Federal statute.

**Sculpture donations accepted for public art installation**

The Augusta Commissioners approved the donation of two sculptures for a public art installation at the central island of the roundabout at North Leg Road and Milledgeville Road. The artworks have been created by Roger Finch and will increase Augusta’s public art portfolio as it continues to approve attractiveness in the area.

**Bond and Fiscal Health Work Session set for March 20, 2023**

The Augusta Commissioners have agreed to hold a Bond and Fiscal Health work session with the city’s financial advisor, Davenport & Company. The session will be held at 2pm on March 20, 2023, in the Linda Beazley Room in the Augusta Municipal Building.

The work session will include an update to the commission regarding current market conditions, upcoming bond issuances, Augusta’s bond ratings, debt capacity, Augusta’s fiscal health, and trends in the economy that may influence the bond market. Augusta is anticipated to go to the



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bond market twice this year. As a result, this presentation will include a review of the process and is not tied to a specific bond offering. This allows Davenport to present a global picture of Augusta's presence in the bond markets and current market trends.

### **State institution to patrol hunting activities at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park**

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources will patrol and regulate permitted outdoor activities, such as hunting, around the constructed wetlands and Phinizy Swamp Nature Park. The motion was approved by the Augusta Commission during Tuesday's meeting.

### **Augusta Commissioners make board appointments**

Environmental Engineer and former Augusta Commissioner John Clarke has been appointed to the General Aviation Commission, representing District 7. In addition, the local realtor and tax appraiser, James Scott has also been appointed to the Richmond County Board of Assessors, representing District 10.

Media interested in covering these topics should contact Public Information Manager Danielle Harris at 706-312-5511.

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