

**Action Requested/Required:**

- ☐ Vote/Action Requested
☒ Discussion or Presentation Only
☐ Public Hearing
Report Date: _____
Hearing Date: _____
Voting Date: _____

Department: Administration **Presenter(s) & Title:** Billy Peppers
City Manager

Agenda Item Title:

Discussion of Renewal of the City of Civility Resolution and Pledge

Summary:

The EMBRACE Civility initiative through the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) encourages municipal elected officials to embrace their role in modeling open, free and vigorous debate while upholding the highest standards of civility, honesty and mutual respect. Becoming a City of Civility involves adopting a civility resolution that aligns with the recommendations approved by the GMA Board of Directors and agreeing to the civility pledge based on nine pillars of civility. This designation is to be renewed every two years. The City of Canton is currently a City of Civility and it is time to renew our designation.

Budget Implications:

Budgeted? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Total Cost of Project: _____ Check if Estimated ☐

Fund Source: General Fund ☐ Water & Sewer ☐ Sales Tax ☐ Other: _____

Staff Recommendations:

Staff will recommend action at the December 19th Council meeting.

Reviews:

Has this been reviewed by Management and Legal Counsel, if required? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Attachments:

City of Civility Resolution and Pledge

**A RESOLUTION
PLEDGING TO PRACTICE AND PROMOTE CIVILITY IN THE CITY OF CANTON**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Canton (the “Council”), the governing body of the City of Canton, Georgia (the “Municipality”), recognizes that robust debate and the right to self-expression, as protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, are fundamental rights and essential components of democratic self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further recognizes that the public exchange of diverse ideas and viewpoints is necessary to the health of the community and the quality of governance in the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, the members of City Council, as elected representatives of the community and stewards of the public trust, recognize their special role in modeling open, free and vigorous debate while maintaining the highest standards of civility, honesty and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, City Council meetings are open to the public and thus how City officials execute their legal duties is on public display; and

WHEREAS, civility by City officials in the execution of their legislative duties and responsibilities fosters respect, kindness and thoughtfulness between City officials, avoiding personal ill will which results in actions being directed to issues made in the best interests of residents; and

WHEREAS, civility between City officials presents an opportunity to set a positive example of conduct and promotes thoughtful debate and discussion of legislative issues, resulting in better public policy and a more informed electorate while also encouraging civil behavior between residents; and

WHEREAS, civility between City officials is possible if each member of the elected body remembers that they represent not only themselves, but the constituents of their district and city; and

WHEREAS, in order to publicly declare its commitment to civil discourse and to express its concern for the common good and well-being of all of its residents, the City Council has determined to adopt this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE

The City of Canton pledges to practice and promote civility within the governing body as a means of conducting legislative duties and responsibilities.

SECTION TWO

The elected officials of the City Council enact this civility pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of the City of Canton.

SECTION THREE

This pledge strives to ensure that all communication be open, honest, and transparent as this is vital for cultivating trust and relationships.

SECTION FOUR

This pledge strives to show courtesy by treating all colleagues, staff and members of the public in a professional and respectful manner whether in-person, online or in written communication, especially when we disagree.

SECTION FIVE

This pledge strives to ensure mutual respect to achieve municipal goals, recognizing that patience, tolerance and civility are imperative to success and demonstrates the Council's commitment to respect different opinions, by inviting and considering different perspectives, allowing space for ideas to be expressed, debated, opposed, and clarified in a constructive manner.

SECTION SIX

This pledge demonstrates our commitment against violence and incivility in all their forms whenever and wherever they occur in all our meetings and interactions.

SECTION SEVEN

The City of Canton expects members of the public to be civil in its discussion of matters under consideration by and before the City Council, with elected officials, staff, and each other.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Mayor Bill Grant

Mayor Pro Tem Dwayne Waterman

Councilmember Sandy McGrew

Councilmember Travis Johnson

Councilmember Shawn Tolan

Councilmember Bryan Roach

Councilmember Farris Yawn

ATTEST:

City Clerk