

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Chris Pike, Finance Director

Date: January 25, 2016

Subject: **Approval of Financing and Participation in DeKalb Municipal Association**

ITEM DESCRIPTION

To approve participation in the DeKalb Municipal Association and authorize the payment of related dues in the amount of \$47,224.

BACKGROUND

In 2013, the City worked with Georgia Municipal Association to form the DeKalb Municipal Association. The intent was to provide guidance from GMA on local DeKalb issues; primarily legislative issues. Over the years, the DMA has worked with the City of a variety of issues such as the disclosure and computation of county millage rates charged to cities, the creation of SPLOST legislation, and annexation/incorporation.

When the DMA was formed, the vision was that all cities would participate and benefit from the DMA while sharing a proportionate share of the costs. The distribution of costs would be based on the number of residents in each city. Dunwoody was the largest city at the time and paid the largest due. However, Brookhaven had been approved by the voters and there was an assumption that Brookhaven would later participate in DMA; essentially causing Dunwoody to pay significantly less in the future. Brookhaven never did join DMA so the price to Dunwoody remains near \$50,000 per year. Initially, staff anticipated the annual fee to be around \$20,000 less than the first year once Brookhaven joined.

The main issue at this point is whether Council feels the cost of remaining in DMA justifies the benefit provided to the City. Besides financially, other issues exist such as whether or not Brookhaven still benefits from our participation without contributing as well as the fact that cities with DMA routinely differ in what direction is deemed best on various issues.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is respectfully requested of Council to consider further participation in DMA and direct staff whether to provide funding for the remainder of 2016. If it is determined to discontinue participation, staff respectfully request we provide sufficient notification of our intent to leave at the end of March and our willingness to provide *pro rata* funding through that time in the amount of \$11,806.