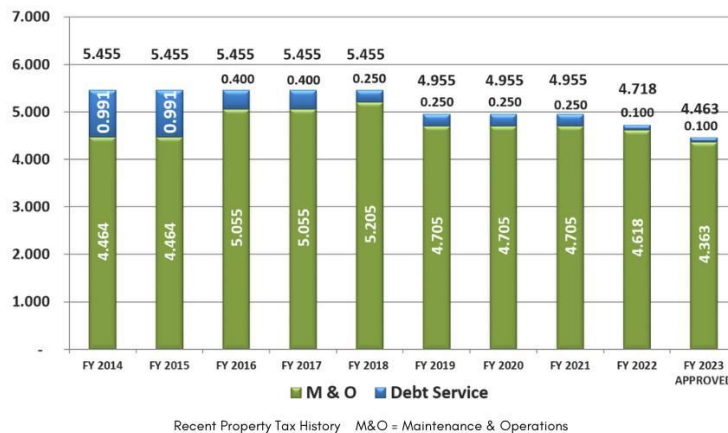


# Christine Hall

## FOR ROSWELL CITY COUNCIL

### Recap 2022 Finance Liaison



Together over the last year we have been making such good progress. Thank you for your support and affection for our city. Please keep your ideas and comments coming – your priorities and involvement continue to be key to the success of our hometown Roswell.

Before January ends, I want to reflect on the year just past to recap some of the top accomplishments. It was a busy year, and this post by no means covers everything. It is a bit long and may remind you of the longest Christmas letter you ever received. But hopefully the reading is easy, as it does reflect the things that I have been hearing are important to you.

Last January, we were off and running. You elected a new Mayor and 3 new Council Members. Being aligned with the vision of the residents, we have been committed to working together for the community of Roswell.

Some of the major highlights from our work in 2022 are:

- Streamlined and adopted a RESIDENT-FOCUSED STRATEGIC PLAN as a roadmap for our future.
- Created and implemented a 100 DAY PLAN based on resident priorities, including:
  - o RIVER PARKS MASTER PLAN: Approved with plans to activate the river corridor for residents and visitors. CM Will Morthland spearheaded the work group that developed the plan for ACE Sand Dredging to mitigate environmental impacts.

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o ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Funded and hired an Economic Development Director. CMs Mike Palermo, Marcelo Zapata and I had been advocating for an Economic Development Director for a long time to expand our economic efforts with focus and coordination.

Under the leadership of [Mayor Kurt Wilson](#), CMs [Mike4Roswell](#) and Peter [Vanstrom4Roswell](#) The DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF ROSWELL (DAR) was activated by Mayor and City Council to complement the DDA, the beginning step to bring economic opportunities to the rest of the city with a special focus on East Roswell and the GA 9 Corridor. <https://bit.ly/3XMAS10>

o OXBO: Last January work was at a standstill. We changed that to an active construction site with a revised plan on track for completion in 2023.

[Mayor Kurt Wilson](#) and CM [Lee Hills for Roswell City Council](#) led a very needed initiative to help stop human trafficking and exploitation in Roswell. City Council voted unanimously to amend an ordinance giving our police the tools needed to fight this illegal activity. <https://bit.ly/3kG6dUE>

In 2022, I was the LIAISON to the FINANCE DEPARTMENT whose mission is “to provide financial stewardship by effectively managing the fiscal activities of the City.”

The new Mayor and City Council adopted Zero Base Budgeting (ZBB) a budgeting technique utilized in the corporate world, in which all expenses must be justified starting from zero, versus starting with the previous budget and adjusting. This tool is already helping the city identify and eliminate unnecessary costs, keep control of spending, while focusing on resident high-priority and economic initiatives.

Last year, the following taxpayer savings were accomplished with a partial implementation of ZBB and this budget tool will be fully implemented this year:

- Identified over \$600K in savings in General Fund accounts
- Audited and evaluated IT resulting in a savings of \$700K
- Audited and evaluated energy consumption, identified potential savings of \$300K+

A few more budget highlights:

- MILLAGE RATE LOWERED: 4.463 mills, 5.4% lower than previous fiscal year.

<https://tinyurl.com/327udrxr>

- ROSWELL POLICE: A Best-in-Class Police Pay Plan approved. RPD just announced no vacancies for the first time in many years. <https://cbsn.ws/3XNsQVF>

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- EAST HOLCOMB BRIDGE ROAD: Landscaped medians between Old Alabama and Nesbit Ferry funded for a more pedestrian friendly streetscape, design phase has started with installation fall/winter 2023 per GDOT permitting process. <https://bit.ly/3R0HR47>

- ROSWELL FIRE: Five Year transition plan to a full-time fire department approved with the first step the funding & hiring of 21 Full Time Captains, sworn in Dec 2022. <https://bit.ly/3ZZKCai>

- EAST ROSWELL PARK: \$3M approved for improvements (\$2.53M) & maintenance (\$473K). <https://bit.ly/3ZWRi8L>

Two other significant budget items:

- A coalition of all Fulton County cities successfully concluded the at times contentious LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) negotiations with Fulton County, keeping LOST in place for another 10 years. LOST revenues fund very important municipal services for all the cities.

- The residents of Roswell voted yes to invest in our city approving the BOND REFERENDUMS for Parks, Public Safety and a Downtown Parking Deck that were on the November 2022 ballot.

Roswell is a river community with ponds and creeks all over the city that primarily are the responsibility of individual neighborhood HOAs. That is why I have been working with our Public Works team to initiate an information exchange for residents, starting with the

NEIGHBORHOOD POND DREDGING WORKSHOP held on April 19th.

<https://bit.ly/3XUMMpP>

The safety of our roads is a major concern for our residents. In 2022, I worked with Dave Cox and RDOT on implementing a BIKE SAFETY improvement project on Eves Road and we worked with an HOA on implementing an improvement to their PEDESTRIAN SAFETY with a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRF) at the crosswalk near their neighborhood.

Here are a few other shared efforts by Mayor and City Council:

- Increased the number of lights installed on Scott Road for resident safety. <https://bit.ly/3woh9Jp>

- With input from our residents, the Heart of Roswell Park hosted this year's Christmas Tree Lighting.

- Continuing efforts to improve communication with our residents, including a People's Calendar of Events and taking Council Meetings on the road to East Roswell Park.

- Johns Creek & Roswell working together on a TSPLIT project to improve Nesbit Ferry Road. <https://bit.ly/3XLkYnw>

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- Beginning the conversation on how best to organize our Historic Assets, very timely with the purchase of the historic property Holly Hill.

- Roswell City Hall was illuminated in yellow and blue to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine. <https://bit.ly/3DeSEC3>

On a sad note, CM [Marcelo Zapata 4 Roswell](#) resigned his council post due to health considerations. Marcelo certainly embodies the words found in Roswell's oath of office to serve 'without fear, favor, or affection.' He was a champion for all Roswell residents and he will be missed.

There is a saying, "Once a Scout Mom, always a Scout Mom." And that is why it was a particular pleasure for me to meet with Hillside Elementary Troop 20607 at the Nesbit Lake Clubhouse and be the tour guide for Troop 22118 when they recently visited City Hall.

2023 has the potential to be an even busier year. I have enjoyed talking with so many of you to discuss and find solutions on topics unique to your neighborhoods. Please continue to give me a call anytime to share an idea or if you need help with an issue.

As we brush off the chill of January, I look forward to the return of spring and the [Roswell Farmers and Artisans Market](#). In the meantime, I wish you all a happy and healthy 2023!

[#recap2022](#) [#finance](#) [#community](#) [#service](#) [#scoutmom](#)