



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 7, 2016  
6:00 P.M.  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session Monday, March 7, 2016. Members Michael Clemons, Roman Gaddis, Bruce Hoffman, Ron Larson, Sam Norton, Mitchell Ridley and Mayor Gary McCullough were present. Staff members City Manager Bill Schmid, City Attorney Doug Parks and Planning Director Chris Head and D.D.A. Director Joel Cordle were present.

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance

**PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

City Manager Bill Schmid led prayer. Council Member Michael Clemons led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to amend the agenda by adding Consideration of Approval of Budget Amendment. Motion made by Council Member Norton, seconded by Council Member Larson. Mayor McCullough asked all in favor of motion to say aye, like sign opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion made by Council Member Gaddis, seconded by Council Member Clemons. Mayor McCullough asked all in favor of motion to say aye, like sign opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**RUSHTON & COMPANY PRESENTATION OF AUDIT OF FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015**

Chris Hollifield of Rushton & Company was present to present the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and report to Mayor and Council of the City of Dahlonega for fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. Mr. Hollifield commended staff for their cooperation with the audit. He said the process went smoothly and there were no findings to report. Hollifield reported the net position of each fund and explained changes to net position due to new reporting requirements of Government Accounting Standards Board for pension funds.

Council Member Larson asked if Dahlonega's pension fund is a defined benefit plan and if any other cities Rushton & Company does business for have abandoned defined benefit plans. Hollifield explained that of the cities Rushton & Company does business for that have defined benefit plans, none have abandoned their plans, but no new defined benefit plans are being put in place. Hollifield said that Dahlonega's defined benefit plan is funded at 85%.

Council Member Norton said he felt it was important to point out that this is the fifth year in a row that Dahlonega has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Mayor McCullough thanked staff for their diligent efforts in keeping all of the City of Dahlonega's financial dealings above board and transparent which shows there is no corruption or wrongdoing in the working of the city.

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**MINUTE APPROVAL**

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held February 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Mitchell Ridley, seconded by Council Member Ron Larson. Mayor McCullough asked all in favor of motion to say aye, like sign opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting of February 1, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Sam Norton, seconded by Council Member Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked all in favor of motion to say aye, like sign opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Work Session Meeting of February 18, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Roman Gaddis and seconded by Council Member Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked all in favor of motion to say aye, like sign opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting of February 18, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. Motion made by Council Member Gaddis and seconded by Council Member Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked all in favor of motion to say aye, like sign opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Mayor McCullough said the departmental reports were included in the agenda packet and asked if there were any questions.

Council Member Gaddis asked if the North Grove Property was in front of the Historic Preservation Commission for preliminary review and if any decision was made. Planning Director Chris Head replied that it was a conceptual review only, with no decision at this time.

Council Member Hoffman asked what the intended use of the house on North Grove would be. Planning Director Chris Head replied that the concept under review is for a restaurant and is currently scheduled to go in front of the Planning Commission for building changes and landscape buffer approval as well as review and possible variance request.

Council Member Clemons asked if the property would really hold 35 parking spaces. Planning Director Chris Head replied that since the plans are currently under review by the Planning Commission and may come to the Council it would not be appropriate to discuss at this time.

Council Member Gaddis questioned the proposed parking spaces on Boyd Circle for this property due to the landscape border that is also proposed. Planning Director Chris Head replied that she could state that those proposed parking spaces were removed from the plan at staff recommendation.

Mayor Gary McCullough asked for a motion to approve the requested Special Event Alcohol Permit for Bear on the Square for April 15, 16 and 17, 2016. Council Member Clemmons made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Council Member Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked all in favor of motion to say aye, like sign opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Bill Schmid directed the Council to page 232 of their packet and explained that all future Project Reports from Public Works would include the current month and a look back at the prior eleven months, instead of showing one month of projects with nothing in the forward months.

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Mr. Schmid said every three years the Waste Water permit has to be renewed and the application is underway.

Mr. Schmid reported a request has been made to Georgia Department of Transportation for approval that the three phases of the Streetscape project run sequentially rather than concurrently due to the impact it could have on the public and businesses if all three phases were under construction at the same time.

Mr. Schmid said he has mentioned to several council members previously that Tim Haahs, who has done past parking studies for the city has provided a proposal for \$7,500.00 and negotiations have been made to have the first \$1,000.00 of work be consultation by telephone, to provide a specific deliverable for the second \$1,500.00 and reserve the remaining \$5,000.00 above that. Schmid said this is not a specific request for use of the \$5,000 at this time, rather to inform Mayor and Council of his intent to have this firm update the work done in the past.

Schmid reported that he made some operational changes in the Waste Water Treatment Plant related to the significant construction projects about to be begin in the month of March including bids received for an approximate three million dollar upgrade to the Waste Water Treatment Plant as well as the first phase of Streetscape. In an effort to make this easier on all involved some operational changes have been made internally.

Council Member Larson asked if this would be an appropriate time to ask if feedback has been received from merchants and what impact leaving Christmas lights on thru the end of January caused. City Manager Schmid deferred answer to DDA Director Joel Cordle. Cordle replied that he has received a lot of positive feedback from one particular merchant. Cordle said he would bring it up at the next Merchants Meeting and see if there is feedback positive or negative as well as report what the final power bill for the lighting is when received.

City Manager Bill Schmid requested approval of a budget amendment moving \$10,000.00 from the General Fund to the Downtown Development Authority Fund for travel expenditures, promotional materials and personnel costs.

**MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the budget amendment to move \$10,000.00 from the General Fund to the Downtown Development Authority Fund for travel expenditures, promotional materials and personnel costs. Motion made by Council Member Gaddis, seconded by Council Member Clemmons. Mayor McCullough asked all in favor of motion to say aye, like sign opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

City Attorney Doug Parks said he would like to thank the coordinators of Bear on the Square of their effort working out the licensing issue for alcohol sales at their event.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member Norton said he feels really strongly that a raised or more visible crosswalk of some sort is necessary at the Continuing Education Building of UNG and needs the college's position on this matter because of the danger in that area. City Manager Schmid said he has a meeting pending with UNG and **CITY OF** this matter will be brought up at the meeting.

Council Member Hoffman said he would like Chief Gaines invited to any meetings regarding Streetscape that may involve pedestrian issues near the college.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor McCullough said there being no further business to discuss he would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Norton, seconded by Council Member Larson. Mayor McCullough asked all in favor of motion to say aye, like sign opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_ Gary McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_ Kimberly A. Smith, City Clerk