

REGULAR MEETING

DAHLONEGA CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

The Dahlonega City council met in regular session at City Hall on February 2, 2009. Council members present were Michael Clemons, Terry Peters, Sam Norton, Ralph Prescott and Gerald Lord. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was opened with prayer by Ralph Prescott and Gerald Lord led all present in the Pledge to the American Flag.

MINUTE APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Ralph Prescott to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held January 5, 2009. This motion was seconded by Terry Peters and approved by all members present.

CITIZENS:

Tommy Folger requested that the city perform a survey of his property located adjacent to the Morrison Moore Connector to identify the state streams located on the property. Mr. Folger advised that he had previously requested this information and was given an aerial map which did not note the state streams. The survey also extended onto his neighbor's property. Mayor McCullough advised that the city has met all state requirements and Mr. Folger would need to provide the survey of his property. Mayor McCullough recommended that Mr. Folger meet with City Attorney Doug Parks and Planning Director Chris Head.

JJ & G Engineer Ben Williams presented a Projects Status Report. He advised that the Yahoola Creek Water Treatment Plant Contract A is scheduled for completion on January 5, 2010 and the final completion date is February 4, 2010. The contract completion period is set at 640 calendar days and 367 calendar days are remaining. The project continues on schedule. The flocculation basin concrete work has been completed and successfully passed a hydraulic test. Chrom has a crew on site erecting the finished water ground storage tank. Electrical and plumbing subcontracts have crews on site installing conduit runs. Southern Champion has two piping crews and one concrete construction crew working on site. The filter building concrete pours are scheduled to be completed during the months of February and March 2009. The contractor has blankets that will be used to cover the slabs if they are required to keep the concrete warm while curing. During the next 60 days the city can expect to see the completion on the ground water tank, site piping, and filter building concrete slab. The steel frame erection on the filter building concrete slab is scheduled for April, 2009. The project is within budget. Mr. Williams also reported that JJ & G designed and bid Contract B which is 24 inch diameter raw and

finished transmission mains to provide connection to the treatment plant. City staff is providing the construction phase services. Contract C is the East Side Relief sewer and force main. This is an 18 inch gravity sewer. He reported that the design has been completed for the 18 inch line and the 12 inch force main section design is approximately 60% complete. The project is on schedule and within budget. The Timken Sewer design and bid phases are complete. JJ & G is responding to request for information during the construction phase. Mr. Williams advised that he would be happy to set a date for the council to do a site visit of these projects.

David Meyer has submitted an application for a beer and wine license for the Porter House Restaurant located on the public square. The council was informed by City Clerk Janet Jarrard that all paperwork is in order and the GCIC Report indicated no record. A motion was made by Michael Clemons to approve the license application. The motion was seconded by Gerald Lord and approved by all members present.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor McCullough advised that reports have been received from the Dahlonega Planning and Code Enforcement Departments for activities during the month of January, 2009.

Steven Smith distributed copies of the Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau Report. He read their Mission Statement and Goals for 2009. The Goals included working with the Turner Group to bring travel writers to Dahlonega and to promote tourism in Lumpkin County. They also plan to work with the Hospitality Highway to promote the 400 Corridor. They plan to produce a Weekly Entertainment Guide and to develop an advertising campaign to bring more visitors to Dahlonega and Lumpkin County. They plan to recruit and train volunteers to work at the Visitors Center and to keep the Visitors Center stocked with Chamber member's brochures. They plan to develop a retail sales store and to work with groups to improve state, regional and local tourism. They plan to work with all community festivals and to meet with the City Council quarterly in a Work Session. They plan to develop a reporting system to present to the City Council on Bed Tax Expenditures and to develop a Marketing Plan for Tourism for the next 3 years. They also plan to work with Great Southern Publishing on Grants for Map and Fulfillment Brochures and to develop a maintenance program for the Visitors Center and Public Restrooms. Usage Statistics were also presented to the Council. He noted that tourism is down 23 percent for January. He advised that the Chamber Tourism Contract with the city is close to completion.

SECOND READING AMENDMENT 1-ORDINANCE 95-7:

A motion was made by Gerald Lord to approve the second reading of Amendment 1 to Ordinance 95-7-Georgia State Minimum Standard Codes. This motion was seconded by Ralph Prescott and approved by all members present.

SECOND READING AMENDMENT 6-ORDINANCE 94-4:

A motion was made by Ralph Prescott to approve the second reading of Amendment 6 to Building Permit Ordinance 94-4. This motion was seconded by Terry Peters and approved by all members present.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE 2009-2-ANNEXATION:

A motion was made by Michael Clemons to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2009-2 to annex property owned by Jewell Wade. This property is located at 72 Trahlyta Trail and is to be zoned Residential 1. The motion was seconded by Terry Peters and approved by all members present.

SIGN MORATORIUM:

Mayor McCullough advised that the council has not had sufficient time to review the recommendations from merchants concerning the changes to the sign ordinance. He recommended that another resolution be approved to extend the sign moratorium until March 2, 2009. A motion was made by Gerald Lord to approve the attached Resolution. This motion was seconded by Ralph Prescott and approved by all members present.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

City Manager Bill Lewis recommended that a Comprehensive Financial Policy be adopted by the City Council. The objectives would be to link long-term financial planning with short-term daily operations; to maintain the city's stable financial position; to maintain the appropriate level of controls to safeguard the city's assets; to ensure that Council's adopted policies are implemented in an efficient and effective manner; to protect the city from emergency fiscal crisis by ensuring the maintenance of service even in the event of an unforeseen occurrence; and to secure the highest credit and bond ratings by meeting or exceeding the requirements of bond rating agencies through sound, conservative financial decision making. A motion was made by Terry Peters to approve the attached Financial Policy. This motion was seconded by Gerald Lord and approved by all members present.

Mr. Lewis advised that the FY 2009 Budget included \$44,000 for lift station pumps and control panels. One control panel has already been purchased at a cost of \$10,000. Two pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant are giving problems and need to be replaced. Also another control panel needs to be replaced. Flyght Pump has quoted \$24,679.35 to replace the pumps and control panel. Mr. Lewis advised that there is enough money left in the budget for this expenditure but he wanted to keep the council informed.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor McCullough recommended that Sara White be reappointed to the Dahlonega Historical Preservation Commission. A motion was made by Ralph Prescott to approve this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Michael Clemons and approved by all members present.

Mayor McCullough announced that the Timken Plant has installed a water recycling system at their Dahlonega Plant which will save the company approximately \$35,000 annually.

CITY ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS:

City Attorney Doug Parks advised that Wallace Landscaping Company has gone out of business but their business was replaced by Premier Landscaping. The city currently has a contract with Wallace Landscaping and a new contract is required with Premier Landscaping. A motion was made by Ralph Prescott to approve the new contract. This motion was seconded by Michael Clemons and approved by the following vote count: Voting for the motion were Clemons, Prescott, Norton and Peters. Gerald Lord voted against the motion because the project was not bid. Mr. Parks advised that he will bring this contract back to the council for ratification once the contract is signed by representatives of Premier Landscaping.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Michael Clemons to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Gerald Lord and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2009.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

