

**CITY OF DAHLONEGA  
WORK SESSION  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 3, 2011**

The Dahlonega City Council held a Work Session on January 3, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall. Members present were Mayor Gary McCullough, Ralph Prescott, Gerald Lord, Michael Clemons, Terry Peters, Sam Norton and Johnny Ariemma. Also present were City Manager, Bill Lewis and City Attorney, Doug Parks.

**KOYO-TORRINGTON – EXPANSION/TAX ABATEMENT:**

Mr. Roger Yonts, Human Resource Manager at Koyo-Torrington Dahlonega Plant gave a presentation of the new proposed expansion of the plant. This expansion will enable them to manufacture a different product. They now produce a needle roller bearing and the new product will be a tapered roller bearing which is in high demand. The new expansion will add 30,000 square feet to the existing plant, thirty-five (35) to forty-five (45) million dollars will be invested in new equipment and forty (40) to fifty (50) new jobs will be added. Council was informed the existing infrastructure should be sufficient for the additional expansion.

Mr. Yonts stated that the tax abatement would be a big part of getting this opportunity and to be able to put all this together. At this time, Mr. Don Trice with the Development Authority advised Council on the process of the tax abatement between Lumpkin County, Koyo and the Development Authority. He stated Koyo would make payments to the Water Authority for their property taxes. There would be no payment due for the first year, then 10% would be due each year for 10 years and full tax value would be due the 11<sup>th</sup> year. Total taxes would be \$2, 833,000, Koyo would pay \$1,008,000 and the County and City portion would be \$1,022,000. These calculations are the accumulated totals within the 10 year abatement.

After further discussion, Mayor McCullough expressed his appreciation for the presentation and informing Council of the process of which taxes will be collected.

**MOUNTAIN FLOWER FINE ART AND WINE FESTIVAL:**

Ms. Kathy Aerts, President of the Dahlonega Merchants Association explained her request to Council for approval to use the pavilion in Hancock Park for the 2011 Wine Garden. She stated that the area they used last year was not feasible. There were seven wineries who participated and they had no place to store the wine and with raining conditions they had damage to the labels on the bottles. City Attorney, Doug Parks advised Council that with the existing Ordinance for Hancock Park, it states no alcohol use in the Park. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough stated that Council would review this conflict with the Ordinance and would contact Ms. Aerts within a two week period with clarification.

## **CITY LOGO:**

City Engineer, Ricky Stewart presented two different designs (A) and (B) of the City Logo from Applied Studios with the Cherokee word for Dahlonega located on them. Council also discussed the use of the gold round medallion logo from Sky Design. Councilman Norton asked Applied Studio's representative, Mr. Shannon Sims if their design could be sent electronically for business cards and stationary for clarity. Mr. Sims informed Council that it could be sent electronically. Councilman Peters expressed concern that if the design with eight (8) different colors was chosen for the City Logo, it would not be clear on the City vehicles. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough asked Council to agree to amend the Council Meeting Agenda to add a vote for approval of the logo option (B) for the official City Seal, stationary and entrance signs to Dahlonega, and the gold round medallion to be the logo incorporated into the historical area signage. Council was in agreement of the agenda amendment.

## **DIVING BELL PAVILION:**

Mayor McCullough at this time thanked the Diving Bell Committee for all their dedication to the Diving Bell project. Mr. Richard Owens, owner of Owens Environmental Design presented sketches of the pavilion design and stated that Hancock Park was an excellent location for this project. He informed Council the construction of the pavilion was an open shed with a metal roof, post beams are 12 inch poles in the pre-engineering stage, and could make adjustments to those for support. The trusses used for supporting the roof will leave enough height for the diving bell to be open for view and the stone columns are 4 feet high. Councilman Clemons questioned where the original air lock would be located. Mr. Owens stated that it would be located next to the diving bell for view, and the one top of the bell was recreated. He also informed Council there will be a wall at the back of the structure for seating, and the color and texture of the paving would give a created aggrades of water moving underneath the bell. There will be a three (3) feet metal cylinder fence painted black around the structure for security and lighting will be indirect on the bell. Mr. Owens stated that the frame structure under the bell will be two (2) feet high so there will be air flow underneath the bell and a door in the event someone needs to go underneath to inspect the bell. He also stated that plants found around a river, such as evergreens, and fall colors will be added behind the structure to cover the present dumpster site.

Mayor McCullough informed that the City had applied for a \$50,000.00 matching grant for this project and should know the status by August. Diving Bell Committee members informed Council that the City would own the new structure and would be responsible for ongoing maintenance. The Committee informed Council they had received \$41,344.81 through donations, which would be helpful in maintenance costs.