

**CITY OF DAHLONEGA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 7, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session at City Hall on February 7, 2011. Council Members present were Ralph Prescott, Gerald Lord, Michael Clemons, Terry Peters, Sam Norton and Johnny Ariemma. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge to the American Flag led by City Manager, Bill Lewis and prayer by Larry Henry, Pastor of the Dahlonega Church of God.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment to move the Recognition of Jeff Underwood to the beginning of the meeting. Michael Clemons made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Gerald Lord and approved by all members present.

**RECOGNITION OF JEFF UNDERWOOD:**

Mayor McCullough presented Jeff Underwood with a framed collage of a Resolution and pictures of the event when Mr. Underwood brought the Capitol Christmas Tree through his home town of Dahlonega. Mayor McCullough expressed appreciation for Mr. Underwood's efforts in making this event prosperous for Dahlonega-Lumpkin County by bringing people to our town for this wonderful occasion.

**MINUTE APPROVAL:**

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. At this time Councilman Prescott informed Council that City Clerk, Lou Stewart had made a correction under City Clerk Comments. The word "requested" needed to be added on the third line between the wording Mrs. Stewart and Council. A motion was made by Ralph Prescott to approve minutes with the added correction, seconded by Sam Norton and approved by all members present.

**CITIZENS:**

St. Luke Catholic Church requested approval of four (4) Special Event Permits to include Alcohol to be permitted. Each event will be held inside the St. Luke's Parish Center located at 75 North Park Street. A motion to approve all four (4) permits was made by Michael Clemons, seconded by Sam Norton and approved by all members present.

Ms. Gail Jones, representative for the Dahlonega Merchants Association was present to request Council approval to move the annual Mountain Flower and Wine Garden Festival to Hancock Park. City ordinance does not allow alcohol in Hancock Park however, Council can amend ordinance for a City related Special Event. After further discussion, Council asked that security be provided by an off duty police officer and that the individual checking ID's would be an adult. A motion to approve this permit with the above stipulations was made by Michael Clemons, seconded by Sam Norton and approved by the following vote: Gerald Lord, Michael Clemons, Terry Peters, Sam Norton and Johnny Ariemma. Councilman Ralph Prescott abstained.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Monthly reports were submitted by the Planning and Code Enforcement Department and the Finance Department. Finance Director, Christopher Austin informed Council that all departments were on track with the budget. He stated that a revenue analysis is done monthly to make sure everything is in line with the FY budget.

## **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

City Manager, Bill Lewis requested approval of the new Fund Balance Policy. This policy is a requirement in accordance with GASB regulations. After further discussion a motion was made by Gerald Lord to approve as submitted, seconded by Terry Peters and approved by all members present.

City Manager, Bill Lewis requested approval of the annual Chamber of Commerce Contract. The only change that has been made is the date being December 30<sup>th</sup> for the deadline the Chamber shall provide the City the projected 2012 tourism budgets, advertising plans, cost allocation plans and projected Chamber budget for 2012. A motion was made by Sam Norton to approve the contract with the above mentioned change, seconded by Michael Clemons and approved by all members present.

City Manager, Bill Lewis requested adoption of a Resolution to allow the City to cooperate with the Department of Revenue to gather information to aid them in the collection of sales tax. Council discussed with Staff the need to have a place on the Occupational Tax License renewal and computer software program for their sales tax number to be listed. After further discussion a motion was made by Ralph Prescott to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Sam Norton and approved by all members present.

Mr. Lewis advised Council about the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) he had written to NGCSU concerning the maintenance of the traffic signal on West Main Street and Sunset Drive. He stated the issue of who is responsible for the maintenance of the light needed to be resolved due to the liability of an unmaintained signal. He further informed Council that when the right of way was transferred to the City of Dahlonoga from the Department of Transportation, the signal was in the right-of-way therefore, the City took ownership of the light. The University has agreed to share in the responsibility of the maintenance of the signal. Since the City does not have in house expertise, this service must be contracted out. The MOU explains that the City will be responsible for hiring contractor and billing the college for one half of the cost under the MOU.

## **MAYORS COMMENTS:**

Mayor McCullough informed Council that he would be joining some of the Chamber Staff to attend the meeting in Atlanta on Tuesday. They will be meeting the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House.

Mayor McCullough stated that Gerald Lord became Mayor Pro-Tem in late March of last year and asked the Council for a motion to have Councilman Lord remain Mayor Pro-Tem for the remainder of this year. A motion was made by Ralph Prescott, seconded by Sam Norton and approved by the following vote: Ralph Prescott, Michael Clemons, Terry Peters, Sam Norton and Johnny Ariemma. Councilman Gerald Lord abstained.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ms. Gail Jones, representative from the Dahlonega Merchants Association expressed her appreciation to the City for their participation in making Old Fashioned Christmas a success. She said she wanted to personally thank City Manager, Bill Lewis and all the City employees who put up lights and helped with all the decorations.

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. A motion was made by Gerald Lord, seconded by Johnny Ariemma and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk