

**CITY OF DAHLONEGA
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 19, 2011**

The Dahlonega City Council met at City Hall on May 19, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. Members present were Gerald Lord, Terry Peters, Sam Norton and Johnny Ariemma. Michael Clemons and Ralph Prescott were not present. Also present was Public Works Director Ricky Stewart and City Attorney Doug Parks. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Gerald Lord, seconded by Sam Norton and approved by all members present.

CITIZENS:

Mayor McCullough requested Phil Collins, Executive Director of Alumni Relations at NGCSU to address Council concerning his request for a Special Event Alcohol License. Mr. Collins informed Council they were applying for a non-profit entity for a Special Event Alcohol License. This will be for an event that is connected with NGCSU and the Holly Theater fundraiser. The after party at the Mattea concert will be held at the Recreation Center beginning at 6:00 p.m. and ending at 12:00 a.m. A motion to approve was made by Sam Norton, seconded by Terry Peters. At this time, Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none he asked all in favor raise your hand, motion approved by all members present.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

City Manager Bill Lewis could not be present for the meeting therefore, Mayor McCullough requested Public Works Director, Ricky Stewart to inform Council concerning the bids for the Solid Waste Trucks. Mr. Stewart informed Council that five bids were received, with one bidder submitting two bids. He stated the low bid was Cherokee Truck Equipment with a bid of \$315,202.00 which was for a Heil truck body and a Peterbilt cab and chassis. Councilman Peters asked how this bid compared with the estimations staff had given. Mr. Stewart stated each truck was estimated at approximately \$130,000.00 each however, there were some increases due to new emission regulations and specs for a cab over cab and chassis. Councilman Ariemma asked other than original specs, if there were any additional upgrades. Mr. Stewart informed each truck would be equipped with back up cameras, lift systems with a hydraulic cylinder instead of a cable and the braking system uses the drive shaft to save on brake wear. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to accept the low bid from Cherokee Truck for \$315,202.00 for two garbage trucks. A motion to accept the bid was made by Johnny Ariemma, seconded by Terry Peters. Mayor McCullough asked all in favor raise your hand. Voting for the motion: Johnny Ariemma and Terry Peters. Voting against the motion: Gerald Lord and Sam Norton. Mayor McCullough voted to break the tie and voted in favor of the motion.

Public Works Director Ricky Stewart informed Council of the bid opening for the traffic signal repair and maintenance agreement located at Sunset Drive and Main Street. He stated North Cherokee Electrical Contractors was the only bid submitted. They submitted a bid for a one (1) year contract and also an optional three (3) year contract. Mr. Stewart recommended approval of the three year contract due to having a price locked in for a longer period of time whereas, with a one year contract, the price could increase with the next bid. He stated the bid figure was for maintenance to be completed on a quarterly basis. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough stated he would prefer to accept the one year contract and see if more bids were submitted next year. A motion was made by Councilman Lord to approve the one (1) year bid, seconded by Sam Norton. At this time Mayor McCullough asked for further discussion. Councilman Peters stated he had concerns with approving a one (1) year contract because there were as many downsides as approving a three (3) year contract. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough requested Mr. Stewart research with DOT and other entities to see if more interest could be found in accepting this traffic signal for a maintenance agreement, before Council approval. Mayor McCullough requested Councilman Lord to withdraw his motion and Councilman Norton withdraw his second. Councilman Lord withdrew his motion, Councilman Norton withdrew his second.

DDA Director Joel Cordle addressed Council about the background of how we are at the point we are today with the Tiger II Contract. Mr. Cordle informed when the Downtown Master Plan was done the Streetscape was identified as priority by the citizens input. At this point TEA Grants and congressional budget monies were applied for and were successful in receiving several hundred thousand dollars for these projects. When these funds were identified, a RFP was submitted for architectural and engineering services for the design work, engineering, surveying and studies that must be done. Robert and Company was selected to start all these studies for Phase I with the funding that was previously received. Mr. Cordle informed Council last year Robert and Company identified the federal stimulus money, the Tiger II Program that offered design grants for local communities. With their help, Georgia Regional and Council approval an application was submitted and successful in being awarded \$720,000.00 from the Tiger II Grant. This is enough money to complete all the design work and studies for all the core streets that were covered in the Downtown Master Plan. With all this work being completed, shovel ready construction documents are ready for bid for all those streets. At this point the GA DOT and Federal Highway Administration have given notice to proceed therefore; we now have Robert and Company's contract for additional services beyond the scope of work of the original contract. This contract is for the expanded scope of services for them to carry out all the Tiger II Grant services. The local match over a two year period is \$63, 539.00 only 19,000.00 of this being cash, the balance of \$44,459.00 is in-kind match plus staff time. At this time, Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the contract. Sam Norton made a motion, seconded by Terry Peters. Councilman Lord questioned if once the construction documents are complete, will additional funds have to be applied for to do the actual construction. Mr. Cordle informed Council that additional funds of 1,000,000.00 have already been applied for and are hoping to receive approximately \$500,000.00 of those funds. If so it can be used entirely for construction and staff will be researching for more available funds. Councilman Ariemma expressed his concerns with several sections of the contract. He stated he feels that a lot of staff hours are expected with this project. Mr. Stewart informed that the city's commitment for staff hours is \$18,000.00 over a two year period, which is minimal. At this time it will be more of a project management rather than being on site for a number of hours. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to raise their hand. Motion approved by all members present.

Councilman Norton requested if Council was in agreement, he would like to direct the City Engineer to look at the entrance to the parking lot on Warwick Street, between Park and Chestatee Street. He would like to make the entrance more user friendly and have some new ideas before the next council meeting.

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m. A motion was made by Terry Peters, seconded by Sam Norton and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2011.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk