

CITY OF DAHLONEGA

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES May 7, 2012

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 7, 2012 at City Hall. Members present were Bruce Hoffman, Ralph Prescott, Gerald Lord, Terry Peters, Sam Norton and Johnny Ariemma. Also present were City Manager Bill Lewis and City Attorney Doug Parks. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Prayer was led by Bradley McEntyre and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Councilman Bruce Hoffman.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to amend the agenda in order to hold a public hearing before the first reading of Ordinance 2012-1, concerning the annexation of the Camp Glisson property. A motion was made to approve the amended agenda by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

MINUTE APPROVAL:

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 2, 2012. Councilman Peters made a motion to approve as printed, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any corrections or additions, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 19, 2012. Councilman Prescott made a motion to approve as distributed, seconded by Councilman Ariemma. Mayor McCullough asked for any corrections or additions, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2012. Councilman Norton made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked for any corrections or additions, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Jay Markwalter from the Chamber invited everyone to the visitor center on Tuesday, May 8th at 2:00 p.m. for National US Travel Day. He informed Council the Chamber wanted to recognize the City Council in their upcoming initiatives. Mr. Markwalter further informed some of the upcoming highlights were the Lumpkin County Living History, Civil War commemoration and era and the Holly Theatre's Walking Haunted Tour of Town. He also informed Achasta would be hosting an event for pro golfers from different areas and the Chamber had requested a joint proclamation from Lumpkin County and the City to proclaim the month of May, Arts Month.

PUBLIC HEARING:

City Attorney Doug Parks requested Mr. Bradley McEntyre from Camp Glisson to present his property annexation request. Mr. McEntyre informed Council that Camp Glisson had purchased a small tract of property that joins their existing property on the Oak Grove Road side. He further informed that Camp Glisson has three hundred seventy-six (376) acres in the City and are planning to put in a new south side entrance in order to get to the new proposed dining hall. At this time, Mr. Parks asked staff for comments. Ms. Chris Head, Planning Director informed that the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the request and suggested the additional tract of property be zoned as the rest of Camp Glisson, which is O/I (Office/Institutional). Mr. Parks asked if there were anyone present to speak for or against the annexation. Hearing none, Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the annexation. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Peters. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES:

City Attorney Doug Parks informed Council the amendment to Ordinance 2011-2 was the Sexually Oriented Business distance requirement modification that was discussed in a prior Work Session. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the amendment. A motion was made by Councilman Lord to approve the amendment, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council the Short Term Work Program Resolution 2012-3 required re-adoption. This was adopted by Council at the April Council meeting however, this required State level review first. The City has received approval therefore; the Resolution needs re-adoption by City Council. Councilman Norton made a motion to re-adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Prescott. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

At this time, City Manager Bill Lewis requested City Engineer Ricky Stewart update Council on the Diving Bell project, Hancock Park and the Water Source/ Supply study.

Mr. Stewart informed Council the Diving Bell had been rebid on the plaza portion. This was due to only receiving one bid, so for comparison purposes the plaza portion was rebid. He further informed that only one bid was received again and it was the same one previously submitted. Councilman Lord asked if the bid proposal was well advertised. Mr. Stewart informed it was advertised in the local paper and in the Gainesville Times also. He further informed there were three contractors who picked up the plans however; they did not attend the pre-bids which were a requirement because of the Grant funding portion of this project. The plaza portion bid only includes the concrete and landscaping. Three bids have been submitted on the timber portion of the project, but this has not been awarded yet because of a possible scale down of the project due to budget restraints.

Mr. Stewart informed Council the sod had been ordered for Hancock Park. He further informed of notification that a local sod farmer will donate enough sod for the entire park instead of just repairing certain areas. Also, there will be volunteers to share in the cost of labor. Mr. Stewart stated due to these large contributions, it has allowed the City to buy an irrigation system. Once the irrigation has been installed, the sod will be replaced. Councilman Lord questioned if staff would be doing any grading to level the low spots. Mr. Stewart informed that staff had worked on leveling in hopes to correct some of the flooding. At this time, City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council with the Park being closed for this construction; this would be a good time to re-evaluate the uses for the Park. Mr. Lewis further informed he had concerns because with the current uses it is very hard to maintain.

Councilman Prescott asked Mr. Stewart if the Choice Street project was completed. Mr. Stewart informed Council it was finished however, there were some additional things such as adding additional landscaping. City Manager Bill Lewis informed at this time there were no more funds for this project.

City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council since all of our signage had been changed; he had been asked what we were doing with the old signs. Mr. Lewis further informed if Council agreed to sell them, he would advertise for sealed bids. After further discussion, he asked Council to let him know of any recommendations they might have, to dispose of the signs.

Mr. Stewart informed Council the water source/supply Committee had selected a qualified low bid. The bid price was not unveiled until qualifications were met. The selected bidder was W. K. Dickson. They have been asked to break down their proposals in phases and show the cost for each phase because this project does not need to go through a continuous process. This should be received soon and will be sent to the Committee members.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor McCullough informed Council he was requesting approval to appoint Mr. Danny Goss to the Dahlonga Housing Authority Board to replace Jewel Hood who has resigned. Councilman Lord made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Councilman Prescott. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough informed Council he was requesting approval to re-appoint Mr. Cal McGraw and Mr. Jimmy Faulkner to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilman Peters made a motion to re-appoint both members, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough informed Council a committee was needed to discuss refinancing of the City water and sewer debt. Mayor McCullough further informed he was requesting Council approval to appoint himself, Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Norton and Councilman Terry Peters to this committee. The Committee members will negotiate with the local banks for refinancing and bring back findings and recommendations to Council for their approval. Councilman Prescott made a motion to approve the Committee member appointments, seconded by Councilman Ariemma. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Ariemma questioned if the General Fund Property Tax Revenue included interest and FIFA taxes. City Manager Bill Lewis informed they were included.

Councilman Prescott informed he thought City Council should consider a mini-retreat in order to discuss items that were to be implemented and be brought up-to-date on these items.

Councilman Hoffman informed he would like to suggest the alcohol referendum be placed on the agenda for a vote from City Council. City Attorney Doug Parks informed Council he will need to work on the language necessary to go before Council for approval. He further informed after Council approval then the language would need to be submitted to the Department of Justice for approval before placing on the ballot.

Councilman Prescott suggested that the City invite our NGCSU Softball Team to a meeting and present them with a proclamation for their winning success.

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Councilman Lord made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Norton and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2012.

Gary McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

Lou Stewart, City Clerk