

CITY OF DAHLONEGA

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

September 4, 2012

The Dahlonega City Council held the regular monthly Council meeting on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at City Hall. Members present were Johnny Ariemma, Sam Norton, Terry Peters, Gerald Lord, Ralph Prescott and Bruce Hoffman. 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 Ralph Prescott and Bruce Hoffman led the pledge to the American Flag.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Councilman Peters, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Toby Stroefel informed Council that the City looks great however there are some areas that need improvement. He further informed on Choice Street there were approximately nine (9) garbage cans that he feels is an eye soar since they can be seen from Chestatee Street which is a main entrance into our downtown area. Mr. Stroefel informed he had researched and found an easy and inexpensive solution to cover the garbage cans. He stated these covers would slide over the top of the cans and they have a look of a flower bed on top. Mr. Stroefel stated this was not a complaint, just a general observation for Council to consider.

Mr. Alec Carlson, President of Sky Country Home Owners Association informed Council that the Sky Country Board of Directors had met with City Manager Bill Lewis to discuss the list of concerns with the concept for the Wimpy Mill Road Park. After discussion all issues were resolved and Mr. Carlson stated they were in agreement with the City's concept for the Wimpy Mill Park Phase 1. He further informed that they had met with Richard Owens and they were not as far along with their plan for him to give input at this time however; they are still working on it.

MINUTE APPROVAL:

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 6, 2012. A motion was made by Councilman Lord to approve the August 6th minutes as transcribed, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked for any corrections or additions, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes of August 9, 2012. A motion was made by Councilman Norton to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes of August 9, 2012, seconded by Councilman Peters. Mayor McCullough asked for any corrections or additions, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, all apposed like sign, motion carried by the following vote: Bruce Hoffman, Gerald Lord, Terry Peters, Sam Norton and Johnny Ariemma. Ralph Prescott abstained due to being absent from this meeting.

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 23, 2012. A motion was made by Councilman Peters, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any corrections or additions, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS:

Ms. Susan Zealy from Enotah CASA requested Council approval of a Special Event Alcohol License Permit for their annual Masquerade fundraiser. Mayor McCullough asked City Clerk Lou Stewart if all paperwork had been submitted. Ms. Stewart informed Council that all paperwork was in order and the application was the same as submitted last year. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion for approval. A motion to approve the special event alcohol license was made by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously. At this time, Councilman Hoffman requested that Council review, when an organization was having an event on City property, that an off duty officer be hired when alcohol will be sold. Councilman Peters informed that Council had requested this requirement in the past however; this was not a requirement in the Ordinance. After further discussion, City Attorney Doug Parks recommended that this be discussed at the September Work Session.

Mr. Christopher Andrus, Chairman of the Board for the Holly Theater requested approval of a Beer and Wine Consumption on Premises license as the registered agent. Mayor McCullough asked City Clerk Lou Stewart if all paperwork was in order. Ms. Stewart informed that all paperwork was in order with no issues. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the license. A motion for approval of the alcohol license was made by Councilman Ariemma, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

City Attorney Doug Parks informed Council that the documentation in their packets concerning the HPC Ordinance updates was for informational purposes only. He further informed he would like to request the adoption of the HPC Ordinance amendments be postponed until further discussion at the September Work Session.

City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council there would be some budget amendments before FY end however there were no major amendments needed.

Councilman Ariemma questioned if we were still working toward the roof replacement project for City Hall. City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council there are some problems because of the contour of the roof however; staff is still working on the design. City Engineer Ricky Stewart informed Council that instead of re-roofing and putting a second floor system, he felt it would be best to replace the existing roof instead.

Councilman Norton requested an update on the Diving Bell Project. City Engineer Ricky Stewart informed Council that the concrete contractor was scheduled to make the final concrete pour, but was delayed due to the weather. He further informed that he had called Mr. Cottrell concerning the delivery of the bell which was scheduled to be delivered next week but, Mr. Cottrell was out of town therefore, the delivery date could not be verified. Mr. Stewart further informed he had talked with the building contractor Tommy Tritt and he ordered the timbers so that he could do

pre-cuts before bringing the timber on site. He further informed that the completion deadline of October 12th will be close because of the weather delays.

Councilman Ariemma questioned the status of the mausoleum research and if the letter to be sent out to citizens had been revised. City Manager Bill Lewis informed he had completed the research and the letter which will be on the September Work Session for discussion.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council the DDA Intergovernmental Agreement needs to be renewed by Council approval. Councilman Lord informed he would like to have a copy of the DDA Budget. Mr. Lewis informed he would ask DDA Director Joel Cordle to send Councilman Lord a copy of the DDA Budget. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the agreement. A motion was made by Councilman Ariemma, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Norton recommended that a letter of appreciation be sent to Leadership Lumpkin to thank them for donation of the trees that were planted in the West Main Street islands.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor McCullough informed Council that Brooks Pointe Apartments were requesting approval of Resolution 2012-10 and Certificate for the renovations of their apartments. This is the same Resolution and Certificate that was approved last year however; new language "The Act" needed to be included in order for the process to go through the Athens Authority. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the Resolution and Certificate. A motion was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Norton questioned if the City Attorney had reviewed this for verification. City Attorney Doug Parks informed he had and this was needed in order to allow this type of renovations. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

City Attorney Doug Parks informed Council that the emergency management ordinance needs to be discussed at the September Work Session before adoption. Councilman Prescott questioned if this ordinance had already been adopted earlier in the year. Mr. Parks informed that the Resolution had been approved but, not an ordinance.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Norton informed that he would like to request Council approval to authorize the City Manager to consider hiring a part-time code enforcement officer to help with the duties of the current code enforcement officer. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough informed Council this would be added to the September Work Session agenda.

Councilman Norton questioned if there was an update on the research for the feasibility of contracting the labor of the Water Treatment Plant. City Manager Bill Lewis informed that he had completed the research however; he was putting all the information in a format that would be easily understood. Councilman Lord informed that he wanted to invite an engineer to talk with Council and give a presentation on the process of how to make the contracting of the Water

Treatment Plant work. He further informed this would be at no cost to the City and requested that this be added to the October Work Session. City Attorney Doug Parks informed Council that if the consultant wished to bid on the labor contracting, it could be a potential problem. Councilman Lord informed that he was not a contractor and would not bid. Mayor McCullough informed that he would add this to the agenda if he could also bring in someone to speak against the process of contracting the Water Treatment Plant. Councilman Prescott informed that he thought both sides should be heard. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough recommended that the discussion of contracting the Water Treatment Plant be the only item on the October 18th Work Session agenda.

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Norton and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2012.

Gary McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

Lou Stewart, City Clerk