

**REGULAR MEETING
DAHLONEGA CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session on February 4, 2008 at City Hall. Council members present were Michael Clemons, Guy Laboa, Gerald Lord, Sam Norton, Terry Peters and Bill Scott. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Gary Powers opened the meeting with prayer and Bill Scott lead all present in the Pledge to the American Flag. Mayor McCullough welcomed students representing the NGCSU Governmental Classes.

MINUTE APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Gerald Lord to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held January 7, 2008. This motion was seconded by Michael Clemons and approved by all members present.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor McCullough advised that reports have been received from the Dahlonega Planning Department, Dahlonega Historic Preservation Commission, and Corridor Committee for activities during the month of January, 2008. Guy Laboa commented that the Dahlonega Historical Commission report advised that another sign was installed in the downtown area without approval. This is the third incident in which sign regulations have been disregarded. City Manager Bill Lewis was requested to follow up on this and to report back to the council. Chamber of Commerce Director Gary Powers presented the Chamber Report. He advised that Christmas lights were taken down today. The Chamber Board held a retreat and developed a business plan for 2008. The annual Chamber Banquet is planned for March 1. The Celtic Festival is planned for March 8 and 9. A cycling website has been developed. This website will feature the cycling activities planned including the 6 Gap and Tour de Georgia. All cycling trails in this area will also be included. A City Membership Plaque was presented to Mayor McCullough. Hal Williams gave the highlights of 2007. He reported that the chamber's website had approximately 11,000,000 hits since January from 104 countries, all 50 states and 2 territories. There were 261,000 visitors to the Welcome Center during 2007. Marketing by the Chamber resulted in Dahlonega being selected by US News and Word Report as one of America's Ten Best Retirement Communities. Dahlonega has also been featured in over 150 articles by national, regional and state magazines. The Chamber received the Governor's award for Best Marketing in Georgia Tourism. Gayle Jones and Joel Cordle presented the quarterly DDA and Better Hometown Report. Mr. Cordle advised that Mission and Vision Statements have been developed. A five-year work plan has been on-going for two years. A financial report was also presented. Mr. Cordle advised that an annual DDA/Better Hometown Economic impact summary showed that during 2007 seventeen buildings were rehabbed, forty new jobs were created and the total dollar amount of property investments was \$7,322,162. Gayle Jones invited the Mayor and Council to attend a reception and awards program to honor special downtown achievements for 2007. Special awards will be presented to downtown's current business

owners who have operated continuously in the historic central business district for 25 or more years. This event will be held March 22 at the Smith House.

FIRST READING OF AMENDMENT 1-ORDINANCE 2000-6:

A motion was made by Michael Clemons to approve the first reading of Amendment 1 to Ordinance 2000-6-Tattoo Studio/Artist Regulations. This motion was seconded by Bill Scott and approved by all members present.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

City Manager Bill Lewis presented an Addendum to Contract B. This change to Contract B will replace the sewer line currently located under the reservoir and replace it with a sewer line attached to the reservoir bridge. Mr. Lewis recommended that the old sewer line be capped and left in the reservoir. JJ & G Engineer Frank Rombardo advised that the estimated cost of this change with a 30 percent contingency is \$187,500. Mr. Lewis also requested that an estimate be given for other contract changes that were presented at the January 31 Work Session. The estimated cost presented by JJ & G Engineering with a 30 percent contingency is \$2,633,000. Mr. Lewis advised that the city may not be able to afford this project at this time. He requested that another work session be held to look at all alternatives and to also give time to explore all revenue sources. Mayor Gary McCullough advised that a work session would be held next week concerning this matter. Mr. Lewis recommended that the Addendum to Contract B be approved at this time. The bid opening date is set for February 7 and the contractors would need to be advised that the bid opening date would change to allow for this addendum. A motion was made by Terry Peters to approve the Addendum to Contract B to remove the existing sewer force main from under the reservoir and to replace it with a sewer force main across the reservoir pipe bridge. This sewer force main will be designed for the raw water and distribution lines from the new water treatment plant and also the installation of a 12 inch sewer force main for future development. The motion was seconded by Sam Norton and approved by all members present.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Gary McCullough recommended that a six percent salary increase be approved for City Manager Bill Lewis. A motion was made by Sam Norton to approve the six percent salary increase retroactive to October 1, 2007. This motion was seconded by Guy Laboa and approved by the following vote count: Voting for the motion were Laboa, Scott, Norton, Lord and Peters. Michael Clemons voted against the motion.

Mayor McCullough recommended that Claudine Earls be reappointed to the Dahlonga Housing Authority and Jewell Hood be appointed to replace Louise Riddle. Ms. Riddle has decided to retire after many years of service. A motion was made by Bill Scott to approve these appointments. The motion was seconded by Gerald Lord and approved by all members present.

Mayor McCullough recommended that Cal McGraw be appointed to the Dahlonga Planning and Zoning Commission to serve the remaining term of Glenn Conner. A

motion was made by Guy Laboa to approve this appointment. The motion was seconded by Michael Clemons and approved by all members present.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Gerald Lord to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. This motion was seconded by Sam Norton and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2008.

MAYOR

Attest:

CITY CLERK