

**DAHLONEGA CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
MARCH 3, 2008**

The Dahlonega City Council met at City Hall on March 3, 2008. Council members present were Gerald Lord, Bill Scott, Terry Peters and Michael Clemons. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Rushton and Company Representative Chris Hollifield presented the FY 07 Audit Report. Mr. Hollifield stated that he appreciated the cooperation of city staff. He advised that he was happy to report that the city has a clean opinion letter. City revenues have continued to increase in 2007. The total government revenues increased by \$898,215. Water and sewer revenues were up twenty percent. Mr. Hollifield advised that the city is in good financial condition. The General Fund Balance has a ten month reserve and the Water and Sewerage Unrestricted Net Assets has a three month reserve. He reported total assets for FY 2007 at \$34,574,966 compared to FY 2006 at \$31,497,810. Total Net Assets were reported for FY 2007 at \$20,046,038 compared to FY 2006 at \$17,257,548. Total revenues were reported for FY 2007 at \$8,592,907 compared to FY 2006 at \$7,694,692. Mr. Hollifield presented the MD & A report and a report on Government-Wide Statements. He also presented graphs that compared the fund balance in the General Fund for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 and revenues by source for the General Fund and expenditures by function for the General Fund. He also presented a graph of a five-year revenue comparison for the Water and Sewerage Fund. Mr. Hollifield advised of future reporting changes including new reporting requirements for audit comments and advised that these changes would increase the audit time and documentation. Mr. Hollifield reviewed significant deficiency statements and gave recommendations for changes in operating procedures.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

**DAHLONEGA ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING
MARCH 3, 2008**

The Dahlonega Zoning Board of Appeals met at City Hall on March 3, 2008. Council members present were Michael Clemons, Guy Laboa, Gerald Lord, Sam Norton, Terry Peters and Bill Scott.

A motion was made by Michael Clemons to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Dahlonega Zoning Board of Appeals held December 3, 2007. This motion was seconded by Gerald Lord and approved by all members present.

City Attorney Doug Parks conducted a Public Hearing concerning a variance request submitted by Chuck and Shannon Caldwell. They are requesting a variance of the freestanding sign height requirement for their new business, The Common Thread, located at 598 North Grove Street. The variance would allow the sign to be located on an existing pole and also help improve the visibility for traffic pulling out of Mountain View Drive. The Dahlonega Corridor District Commission recommended approval of the variance to approve an overall height of 12.6 feet for the pole. The sign support could be the existing pole or two posts, but post material would be required to be the same kind. There would also need to be 7 feet of ground clearance to the bottom of the sign and the total sign area would be no more than 32 sq. ft. Mr. Parks asked for comments from the public. There were no comments either for or against the request. A motion was made by Bill Scott to approve the recommendations of the Dahlonega Corridor District Commission to approve the request. This motion was seconded by Terry Peters and approved by all members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

**REGULAR MEETING
DAHLONEGA CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 3, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session on March 3, 2008 at City Hall. Council members present were Michael Clemons, Gerald Lord, Sam Norton, Terry Peters and Bill Scott. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Mayor McCullough opened the meeting with prayer and Sam Norton 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 Bill Scott to approve the minutes of the regular Council Meeting held February 4, 2008. This motion was seconded by Gerald Lord and approved by all members present. A motion was made by Sam Norton to approve the minutes of special Council Meetings held February 12 and February 29. This motion was seconded by Terry Peters and approved by all members present.

FY 07 AUDIT REPORT:

Rushton and Company Representative Chris Hollifield presented a report concerning the FY 07 Audit. Mr. Hollifield advised that he met with the Mayor and Council at a work session held before the regular meeting and distributed copies of the FY 07 Audit Report and also gave a presentation concerning the report. Mr. Hollifield stated that he appreciated the cooperation of city staff and he also advised that he was happy to report that the city has a clean opinion letter. He reported that the General Fund has a ten month reserve balance and the Water and Sewerage Fund has a three month reserve fund balance. Total net assets were reported at \$20,046,038. The mayor and council were given a letter with suggestions for improvements in operating procedures. Mr. Hollifield advised that the city is in good financial health and FY 2007 has been a good year for the city with a healthy fund balance. Mayor McCullough thanked Mr. Hollifield for the report and also expressed appreciation to the council and staff.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor McCullough advised that reports have been received from the Dahlonega Planning and Code Enforcement Departments for the month of February, 2007. A report was also submitted by the Dahlonega Corridor Committee. Dahlonega Historical Preservation Commission Chairman Susan Newell advised that the committee met in February and approved three sign applications and one temporary banner application. A signage plan was also approved for Ruby's Crossing and a residential sidewalk plan was approved. Dahlonega Chamber of Commerce Director Gary Powers advised that the Chamber's first newsletter has been published. The Chamber plans to publish a newsletter each month. Copies of the newsletter were distributed to the mayor and council. The Chamber's annual banquet was held last Saturday. Mr. Powers advised that

three citizens received awards during the banquet. Awards were presented to Jack Anthony, Judy Galvin and Todd and Amy Strickland. Mr. Powers advised that the total number of visitors to the Welcome Center total 17,249 for this year. Over two million people visited the Chamber's Web Site this year. A new Cycling Web Site will be set up this week. Mr. Powers also advised that Dahlonega has been designated as one of the Top 5 Off Beat Locations in the US. Mr. Powers expressed appreciation to Greg Moore and other volunteers who made repairs and repainted the Welcome Center restrooms. They also installed a hot water heater and added gutter guards at no cost to the Chamber. Volunteers are also looking at ways to expand the current facility. Mr. Powers announced that this weekend will be the first annual Celtic Music Festival. Mayor McCullough expressed appreciation to the Chamber for all they do to bring tourists to Dahlonega.

SECOND READING 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. This motion was seconded by Bill Scott and approved by all members present. City Attorney Doug Parks advised that this amendment will create a means for dual enforcement of the ordinance between the city and county. The Lumpkin County Health Department will provide enforcement.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

City Manager Bill Lewis recommended approval of the attached GEFA Loan Contract and Resolution. This loan will fund seven projects related to the construction of the new water plant. A motion was made by Michael Clemons to approve this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Gerald Lord and approved by all members present. In order to qualify for the loan the city was required to set aside \$35,000. Bids were acquired for the Certificate of Deposit. Mr. Lewis recommended that the council approve the attached Investment Report. A motion was made by Terry Peters to approve this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Sam Norton and approved by all members present. Mr. Lewis advised that March 17, 2008 is the final date to award the contract to proceed with construction of the new water treatment plant. March 17 is also the date that the bonds will be validated. A motion was made by Gerald Lord to give authority to City Manager Bill Lewis and City Attorney Doug Parks to award the contract contingent upon validation of the bonds. This motion was seconded by Michael Clemons and approved by all members present. Mayor McCullough advised that this is the largest project in the history of the city. The bonds totaling \$27,470,000 will be used to fund the new water treatment plant.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor McCullough recommended that Gerald Lewy be reappointed to the Dahlonega Planning and Zoning Commission. A motion was made by Gerald Lord to approve this appointment. The motion was seconded by Sam Norton and approved by all members present. Mayor McCullough advised that engineers are to make a recommendation for improvements to Arcadia Street. Council members were asked to make decisions concerning a pavilion for Hancock Park. A Work Session was scheduled for March 19,

2008 at 4:00 p.m. to agree on an architectural design for a new pavilion for Hancock Park.

CITY ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS:

City Attorney Doug Parks advised that he is working on revision to a sidewalk ordinance and other ordinances. Mr. Parks expressed appreciation to the Dahlonga Nugget, Clerk of Court Edward Tucker, Judge David Barrett and District Attorney Stan Gunter for their assistance with the city's bond project. Mayor McCullough also expressed appreciation to City Attorney Doug Parks, City Manager Bill Lewis and City Clerk Janet for their work with the bond project.

CITIZENS:

Emily Lewy urged the city council to cooperate with the county in assessing the impact fee system. Mayor McCullough advised that he would contact county officials concerning this matter.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

APPROVED BY ME THIS DAY OF _____, 2008.

MAYOR

Attest:

CITY CLERK

