

CITY OF DAHLONEGA

WORK SESSION MINUTES August 16, 2012

The Dahlonega City Council held a Work Session on Thursday, August 16, 2012 at City Hall. Members present were Gerald Lord, Johnny Ariemma, Terry Peters and Bruce Hoffman. Sam Norton and Ralph Prescott were not present. Also present were City Manager Bill Lewis and City Attorney Doug Parks. Mayor Gary McCullough called the Work Session to order at 4:00 p.m.

City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council before the final budget presentation there were a couple of items that he wanted to discuss with Council. He further informed that he wanted Council to be aware the City was having a problem with vandalism of our fire hydrants. They are being fully opened and leaving water running however; there has been no damage to the hydrants. The location of the hydrants being opened, have been in the Crown Mountain area.

The first item Mr. Lewis mentioned dealt with funds remaining in the law enforcement budget unspent this year. As background, City Attorney Doug Parks had informed that he had been approached by a Georgia State Patrol officer regarding a logistical issue that the City might be able to solve to assist Georgia State Patrol in their work here in Lumpkin County and the City of Dahlonega to provide more efficient coverage to the City. The matter was referred to City Manager Bill Lewis and then a meeting was scheduled with the Officer and his Supervisor to better understand the logistical issue. The officer informed if the City could agree to cover the cost of some laser equipment for their use, it could help provide better, more efficient coverage for our area by creating efficiencies in time utilization. Apparently some of the GSP officers live here in Lumpkin County and could avoid the commute to their post in Cumming to check out equipment before starting their patrol duties in Lumpkin County and the City of Dahlonega if they were provided some additional equipment. This would provide overall better coverage and satisfy a perceived reduction in coverage and visibility by Georgia State Patrol in Dahlonega. There have been some problems with logistics, in which if the officer lives here, he has to go to Cumming and check out the laser equipment and then come back here to start his patrol. This isn't fuel or time efficient for them to have to go to Cumming and back up here. The City Attorney indicated that this in no way reflects upon the Sheriff's coverage of the area, but only assists Georgia State Patrol to do their job more efficiently. City Manager Bill Lewis said this is a bargain for the City. City Manager Bill Lewis informed the Council at this time, we have funds that have not been spent in the law enforcement budget that could be used for the purchase of the equipment with Council approval. Bill Lewis informed that the equipment cost ranged from \$1,500.00 dollars to \$5,000.00 dollars and he would do further research. Councilman Lord stated he did not feel this was equitable, but would be good for enforcement in the City. Councilman Hoffman advised there should be a contract stating that the equipment belongs to the City and if

there is a manpower shortage, then the equipment comes back to the City. Councilman Ariemma (possibly Councilman Lord or both) informed he did not like this idea because he felt this would make us look like a speed trap and would rather ask for more officers to be put in the downtown area. Councilman Hoffman informed that their presence alone will slow people down. City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council the cost was within his purchasing limit and he would consider authorizing the purchase if Council gave approval.

MAUSOLEUMS:

City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council that he had made several calls and researched for information on mausoleums. He further informed he found the best process was to write a letter and mail to all residents and see what type of interest that we receive. Mr. Lewis has emailed a letter to be proofed for correct wording to insure good understanding of what the City is offering. Mr. Lewis informed that the estimated cost of a burial is \$7,000.00 dollars and for a mausoleum it is \$5,000.00 dollars. He informed if there is a good response from the letter, the City should pre-build the mausoleums and then sale them. He will prepare a RFP if Council decides to go in this direction. Councilman Peters stated this could impact future sales of cemetery lots and opening/closing because cremations are less expensive. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough requested that Mr. Lewis follow up with his contacts concerning sending a letter for interest and wait to see how many responses are received.

FINAL BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Financial Consultant Sabrina Cape informed Council the budget that was being distributed was a final budget that must be submitted formally before adoption. There were only two changes since the last budget work session and this consisted of \$163,445.00 to be transferred to the Streetscape budget from the General Fund and \$2,500.00 revenue posting from the sale recycled materials in the Enterprise Fund.

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 4:40 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Peters, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. Motion carried unanimously.