

**DAHLONEGA CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MAY 16, 2008**

The Dahlonega City Council met on May 16, 2008 at City Hall. Council members present were Michael Clemons, Gerald Lord and Sam Norton. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Mayor McCullough advised that merchants were informed of the meeting to consider elimination of two trash dumpsters on Warwick Street. Merchants were requested to give options to address trash collection for their individual business. Twenty-six businesses would be directly impacted from the relocation of the dumpsters currently located on Warwick Street. Mayor McCullough advised that several years ago businesses used trash cans and they requested to eliminate the cans and use dumpsters.

City Manager Bill Lewis advised that the city's solid waste ordinance currently prohibits use of roll out containers on the square.

Gayle Jones stated that restaurants generate more garbage than other businesses. She recommended that the entire city parking lot be updated and beautified. The dumpster located within the city parking lot generates a bad odor which creates a bad impression for tourists. She recommended that the dumpsters be relocated behind St. Luke's Catholic Church and that a high wall be constructed around the dumpster.

Lee Creef suggested that all dumpsters be disguised by adding additional shrubbery. City Manager Bill Lewis advised that he plans to plant larger shrubbery around the wall that will be constructed around the dumpster. One problem is that there is not that much public property in this area. Mr. Lewis also advised that the Master Plan is looking at a garbage disposal plan for downtown. Mr. Lewis also recommended that the public grease container be removed to control odor problems.

Dana LaChance advised that used oil can be sold. She stated that her restaurant also recycles oil out of the waste water. Mrs. LaChance recommended that all businesses be required to recycle.

Business owners that are located in upstairs buildings stated that roll out garbage containers are impractical. Lee Creef stated that roll out garbage containers can also be disguised.

Angela Wilson stated that roll out containers will not work. She recommended that two dumpsters be located in Hancock Park and landscaping be planted to disguise the containers. She also recommended that all new merchants be informed concerning recycling. Mrs. Wilson stated that local restaurants do not recycle their boxes.

Sam Norton stated that restaurants should be responsible for their own oil waste and that businesses should be responsible for their own by-products.

Gary Powers stated that visitors to the Welcome Center complain of odors from the dumpster where it is presently located. Festival permit holders should be required to use large dumpsters.

Bill Lewis advised that the Master Plan will resolve a lot of these problems. He also recommended that the city's solid waste ordinance be amended. Mr. Lewis advised that a lot of people working around the square bring their garbage from home and dispose of it in the city's dumpster.

Gerald Lord summarized some of the statements made by business owners: Businesses would recycle if give more opportunity; Roll away containers will not work; Business owners do not object to walking if the dumpster is relocated.

Mayor McCullough recommended that business owners report all illegal garbage dumping.

Michael Clemons recommended looking at the option of relocating the dumpster behind the Catholic Church and locating a recycling bin in another location.

Mayor McCullough thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their suggestions. He requested the City Manager to look at all the options. He also asked that restaurant owners be notified that they will be required to provide their own grease disposal system within the next forty-five days. Other business owners will be notified of options for recycling.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.