

# **CITY OF DAHLONEGA**

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES April 1, 2013**

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 1, 2013 at City Hall. Members present were Bruce Hoffman, Ralph Prescott, Gerald Lord, Terry Peters, Sam Norton and Johnny Ariemma. Also present were City Manager Ron Thomas and City Attorney Doug Parks. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The prayer was led by Ralph Prescott and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Gerald Lord.

Mayor Gary McCullough welcomed the Boy Scouts Troop to the Council meeting.

### **PROCLAMATIONS:**

Mayor Gary McCullough presented a Donate National Life Month proclamation to Ms. Linda Couch, representative of Life Link. Mayor McCullough read the proclamation that expressed the importance of being an organ donor. Ms. Couch informed that she truly knew the importance of being an organ donor because she received a heart transplant thirteen (13) years ago that gave her an opportunity to live and raise a family.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

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

### **MINUTE APPROVAL:**

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2013. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Councilman Lord, 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.

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 21, 2013. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Peters. 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:**

Mayor McCullough informed that an application for a beer license for consumption on premises had been submitted by Rodney Waters as the registered agent for Smiley's Tavern. Mayor McCullough asked City Clerk Lou Stewart if all documentation had been submitted. Ms. Stewart informed that all paperwork had been submitted with no issues. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion of approval. A motion to approve the application was made by Councilman Lord,

seconded by Councilman Prescott. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Peters questioned if the applicant had been made aware of the food and alcohol ratio reporting. Ms. Stewart informed that she had discussed with Mr. Waters and owner, Susan Forrester of the 50/50 ratio of food and alcohol sales that must be submitted in October with application renewal. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough informed that an application for a special event alcohol license had been submitted by the University of North Georgia Alumni Association. City Clerk Lou Stewart informed this application request was the same as prior submittals. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve. A motion to approve the special event alcohol license was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Ariemma. 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:**

Mayor McCullough informed that all department reports have been submitted and asked for any comments. Finance Director Kimberly Stafford informed Council that the request for a new financial statement format has not been submitted to Council, due to yearend reporting deadlines however; a new financial format will be distributed at a later time for Council review. DDA Director Joel Cordle gave an overview of downtown accomplishments which included sixty-seven (67) retail stores in CBD and in the past six (6) years there have been forty-four (44) new businesses, twenty-five existing business expansions and one hundred forty-five (145) new jobs from these businesses.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

City Manager Ron Thomas informed Council the extension of the Banking Contract had been submitted for approval. The original contract will expire on June 30, 2013 and the four (4) month extension has been requested in order for a revised RFP to be drafted and approved. He further informed that City Attorney Doug Parks had reviewed the contract extension. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the extension of the Banking Contract. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Peters, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Ariemma questioned if all the services and fees were the same for the four (4) month extension. Mr. Thomas informed that the extension was under the same terms that were agreed to in the original contract. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

**CITY ATTORNEY:**

City Attorney Doug Parks informed Council that an approval was previously made to transfer the old water plant property to DDA. Since that time, DDA has requested revisions to the deed to include that DDA, if requested by the City shall reconvey the property to the city in consideration of cancellation of the promissory note. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to re-approve the transfer of property. A motion was made by Councilman Prescott, 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.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Mayor McCullough informed that Councilman Sam Norton has been nominated for Chairman of the Board for GMRC.

Councilman Ariemma questioned if the weather conditions hurt the success of Trail Fest. Councilman Norton informed that the merchants seem to be busy and with decent weather conditions and some refining, feels it will be a greater success each year.

Councilman Hoffman questioned how Smiley's Tavern will be monitored for the sale of food and alcohol. City Clerk Lou Stewart informed when the license is renewed in October for 2014; a report must be submitted with a breakdown of food sales and alcohol sales. Alcohol sales must be a 50/50 ratio or less from food sales. Councilman Norton informed that the City also has the authority to have an audit of all sales of any establishment with an alcohol license.

Planning Director Chris Head informed Council on the planning department report in March; Golden Hills Apartment had applied for construction of twenty-five (25) new townhomes and rehab on the existing. Due to the financial grant process, payment of the water and sewer taps had not been collected at the time of the report. Ms. Head further informed that payment of \$300,000.00 had been received and posted to the appropriate report.

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Hoffman and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

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Lou Stewart, City Clerk