

CITY OF DAHLONEGA

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES August 5, 2013

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 5, 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 6:00 p.m. Prayer was led by Ralph Prescott and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Terry Peters.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A Lumpkin County resident gave information concerning the County firing range such as training classes and additional information could be viewed on the County website.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

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

CITIZENS:

Mayor McCullough informed that Mr. Dennis Hoover had submitted an application for a wine tasting room for Folkway's Craft Gallery located on East Main Street. Mayor McCullough asked City Clerk Lou Stewart if all paperwork was in order. Ms. Stewart informed that all paperwork was in order with no issues. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the wine tasting room application. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Norton, 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.

Mayor McCullough informed that NGCSU had applied for two special event alcohol permits for the Class of 1963 and 1983 Dinner Receptions. Mayor McCullough asked City Clerk Lou Stewart if all paperwork was in order. Ms. Stewart informed that all paperwork was in order with no issues. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the permits. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Lord. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he 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 July 1, 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.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Councilman Ariemma questioned if cemetery sales included citizens prior planning or on as needed basis. Planning Director Chris Head informed that sales increased before the rate increase last year but, all other sales were as needed.

Councilman Hoffman questioned the DDA report concerning the location of the three properties listed for sale/lease in the City. City Manager Ron Thomas informed that he would follow up with DDA Director Joel Cordle and get back with Council concerning these properties.

Councilman Prescott questioned whose responsibility was it to keep the grass mowed on North Grove Street and on the left side of Highway 60 going south. Public Works Director Ricky Stewart informed that even though the City cut the grass on the right side of highway 60 because of the sidewalk, that both of these streets were State and should be maintained by DOT. Councilman Prescott questioned if it was possible to get State prisoners to help with the maintenance. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough requested that Mr. Stewart research the cost for labor from the State.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

City Manager Ron Thomas informed Council that the proposed budget should be completed by next week. Mr. Thomas also informed that he had contacted three (3) different firms concerning part time personnel for code enforcement on the square area however; the cost was very high. An ad will be in the Nugget next week to fill the position however; the position may be filled contractually for a short time.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor McCullough requested approval to re-appoint Mr. Roman Gaddis to the Historic Preservation Commission for another term. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Lord. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Hoffman stated he was in favor of the reappointment but, questioned if the Committee was going to meet to further discuss the term limits of board members. City Attorney Doug Parks informed that he will research the term limit process and report back to Council. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor of the motion to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

CITY CLERK COMMENTS:

City Clerk Lou Stewart informed Council with this being an election year that it is State mandated that the Governing Authority appoint an Election Superintendent and an Absentee Ballot Clerk. Ms. Stewart further informed that she was also asking Council approval for her recommendation to appoint Ms. Frankie Caldwell as Poll Manager, Karen Redimarker and Doris Sutton as Assistant Poll Managers for Election day. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion of approval. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Peters. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

City Attorney Doug Parks requested approval of the Indigent Defense Contract which is the same contract that has been approved in previous years, with no changes. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Lord. 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:

Councilman Norton stated he wanted to remind the public that this is an election year and would like to encourage citizens to get interested in our government and qualify to run for these offices. He further stated that qualifying starts on Monday, August 26, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. and goes through Friday, August 30, 2013 ending at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Peters and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2013.

Gary McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

Lou Stewart, City Clerk