

# **City of Dahlonaga**

## **Work Session Minutes August 15, 2013**

The Dahlonaga City Council held a Work Session on Thursday, August 15, 2013 at City Hall. Members present were Terry Peters, Johnny Ariemma, Bruce Hoffman, Ralph Prescott and Sam Norton. Gerald Lord was not present. Also present were City Manager Ron Thomas and City Attorney Doug Parks. Mayor Gary McCullough called the Work Session to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EVENT ALCOHOL PERMITS:**

Mayor Gary McCullough informed that some of the special event alcohol permits were the same request each year with no application changes. He further informed that if staff were given the authority to approve administratively, an ordinance amendment would still be needed. Mayor McCullough asked City Clerk Lou Stewart if she was comfortable with approving the permits administratively. Ms. Stewart informed that she did not have a problem with approval, unless there was a significant change from prior year and if so, would then want to bring before Council for approval. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council for Ms. Stewart to approve the special event alcohol permits administratively, unless changes were made from prior year. Council also requested that they be notified of each approval and documentation be submitted monthly as a department report from the City Clerk.

### **OUTDOOR DISPLAY OF MERCHANDISE:**

Councilman Ralph Prescott informed that the Committee had two (2) meetings with merchants concerning outdoor display of merchandise and had made no definite decisions. During these discussions the area of control and enforcement was the main issue along with being able to prohibit anything from being placed in the main thoroughfare of pedestrians. Councilman Ariemma informed that these provisions will only apply to certain merchants and it is the ones that are not directly located on the square. Councilman Prescott further informed that our ordinance does not allow the placement of outdoor merchandise however; the City has allowed it as a courtesy for plants and other decorative items. Planning Director Chris Head questioned if Council allows merchants to place merchandise outside, will they require them to take the merchandise back inside after closing. Councilman Prescott informed that guidelines must be in place to let merchants know what is allowed to be put outside. Councilman Norton suggested a certain number of pieces be allowed and a five (5) feet minimum must be allowed for the sidewalk clearance for pedestrians. Councilman Hoffman informed that he does see the benefit for the merchants to be able to put out their merchandise, to attract shoppers to stop and look. Mayor McCullough informed that he would like to see all merchandise taken inside at night and not to be extending over to someone else's property.

Councilman Peters informed that the merchandise being put outside should be the same merchandise that is being sold in the business. He further informed that Council needs to look at specific recommendations, such as number of items allowed, distance and specified areas. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough requested that staff contact DOT and Jerry Butler for clarification to consider a sidewalk. Mayor McCullough requested that the Committee meet again with merchants and have an amendment to the ordinance by the September Work Session.

**SIGN ORDINANCE:**

Mayor McCullough informed with this being an election year, he wanted everyone to remember that if signs are placed in the right-of-way they will be picked up and destroyed. City Attorney Doug Parks informed that this applied for all types of signs. Councilman Norton informed that the County does not allow for campaign signs to be placed before the candidate actually qualifies and feels the City should require the same.

**TERM LIMITS:**

Councilman Prescott informed after term limit discussions for appointed commission and board members there was a concern with finding citizens who wanted to serve. He further informed however; that they would like for the Mayor to set the term limits in a more staggered effect. Also, if someone is appointed to fill an unexpired term this person should not be allowed to fill a complete four (4) year term but, only the remainder of the unexpired term. Mayor McCullough requested that Council send him names of individuals they would like to see serve and he will keep these for future appointments.

**SKYLINE WATER LINE:**

Public Works Director Ricky Stewart informed there have been complaints from three (3) residents on Skyline Drive for dingy water. One of the reasons for this issue is cast iron lines which develop pockets of rust. This line is looped and when the buildup occurs and the water flow moves quickly it will break loose and causes the dirty water. The first solution would be to replace the line with a new one from one intersection to the other. The estimated cost to replace the line is approximately \$204,500.00 dollars. The second alternative is to set a fire hydrant in the general area and flush periodically to clean out the line. The cost of installation will be approximately \$3,000.00 dollars. An automatic flushing valve can be installed on the hydrant for an additional \$3,000.00 dollars. Mayor McCullough questioned the frequency of flushing the hydrants. Mr. Stewart informed about every two (2) months but, would depend mainly on the responses from the homeowners. He further informed if this does not work, the hydrant can be used on line if it must be replaced.

**YARD TRIMMINGS:**

Public Works Director Ricky Stewart distributed recommendations made by the appointed committee concerning changes to the Yard Debris Ordinance. He further informed that the recommendations still needed to be reviewed by the City Attorney. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough requested that this item be added to the September Work Session.

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 5:05 p.m.