

DAHLONEGA CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 2, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session at City Hall on August 2, 2010. Council members present were Johnny Ariemma, Gerald Lord, Sam Norton, Terry Peters and Ralph Prescott. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was opened with prayer by Ralph Prescott and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Terry Peters.

MINUTE APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Gerald Lord to approve the minutes of the regular Council Meeting held on July 13, 2010. This motion was seconded by Sam Norton and approved by all members present.

CITIZENS:

Mrs. Bill Hardman gave an update concerning the Diving Bell Project. Mrs. Hardman reported a record attendance at a recent fund-raiser held at Cottrell Ranch. She advised that there was a total of \$17,000 for ticket sales and \$17,000 in pledges for contributions for the Diving Bell Project. Also a silent auction resulted in sales totaling \$4,500. Mrs. Hardman stated that they plan other fund raising activities including the possibility of selling brick pavers.

City Attorney Doug Parks called a Public Hearing to order concerning an application submitted by Ronald Daniel for the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Country Cab & Transportation. Mr. Daniel advised that he is the owner of the Country Cab and Transportation and he has been operating in Forsyth County, Dawson County and Gwinnett County for over forty years. He also advised that 80 percent of his business is transports for Medicare and Medicaid patients and he would like to extend this service into Lumpkin County. Mr. Parks asked for comments either for or against the application. Hearing no comments, Mr. Parks asked if all paperwork has been completed. Planning Director Chris Head advised that all paperwork has been completed. Mr. Daniel was asked if any drivers have been hired for this area and he advised that they have not yet been hired. The Council was informed that background checks and medical checks will be performed if the application is approved and as drivers are hired. Mr. Daniel advised that he would operate the business from 7:00 a.m. until midnight. Sam Norton stated that he was concerned with cabs being parked on the square awaiting business as this might be a problem in the future. Mr. Daniel advised that his cabs would be moved around in different locations. A motion was made by Gerald Lord to approve the application. This motion was seconded by Ralph Prescott and approved by all members present.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor McCullough advised that reports have been received from the Dahlonga Planning and Code Enforcement Departments concerning activities of those departments during the month of July, 2010. Chamber of Commerce Activities Director Steven Smith advised that a report was also submitted to the Council concerning activities of the Chamber during the month of July. Mr. Smith also advised that the Southeast Tourism Society held their annual Tourism Conference in Dahlonga during July. A reception was held on the square for approximately 250 students. Mr. Smith reported that the July 4th Celebration was a great success. He also advised that the Chamber is working on Fall Events. Johnny Ariemma asked about projections for hotel/motel tax for 2011. Mr. Smith advised that Dahlonga is doing well compared to other communities and he projected that revenues will be as good as or better than 2010. Sam Norton expressed his appreciation for the Chamber's hard work on the Diving Bell Fund Raising Project. Mayor McCullough advised that the Dahlonga Historical Preservation Commission submitted a report to the Council concerning their July Meeting. Planning Director Chris Head advised that the Council will be given more detailed information concerning the South Park Street Historic District Designation. The next step in this process is a Public Hearing for property owners. They will have the opportunity to express their opinions and to change this designation for their individual properties. Gerald Lord asked if the Historic District Designation will have any affect concerning zoning regulations for property owners. Mrs. Head advised that if the property is designated as a Historic Zoning Designation the property owner will be required to submit applications for any changes to the property to the Historical Preservation Commission.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Finance Director Christopher Austin presented Budget Amendment # 1 & 2 for the FY 2010 Budget. He advised that these amendments were required primarily for capital items that were not originally budgeted and for grants that were acquired. Council members were informed that grant funds will not be spent this fiscal year but will stay in place until the project is completed. A motion was made by Gerald Lord to approve the attached amendments to the FY 2010 Budget. This motion was seconded by Terry Peters and approved by all members present.

City Manager Bill Lewis advised that City Clerk Janet Jarrard announced her plans to retire September 1, 2010. Mrs. Jarrard also served as GMEBS Pension Secretary. GMA requires that someone be appointed in that position in order for Mrs. Jarrard to apply for retirement benefits. Mr. Lewis recommended that Finance Director Christopher Austin be appointed. A motion was made by Sam Norton to approve this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ralph Prescott and approved by all members present.

Mr. Lewis advised that he plans to submit a schedule for meetings concerning the FY 2011 Budget. Terry Peters recommended that meetings be held during a variety of times in order that more citizens could attend the meetings.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor McCullough advised that the September Council Meeting date needs to be changed due to the fact that the September Meeting will fall on Labor Day Holiday. A motion was made by Gerald Lord to hold the regular meeting on Tuesday, September 7 at 6:00 p.m. This motion was seconded by Ralph Prescott and approved by all members present.

Mayor McCullough recommended approval of an ARC Grant in the amount of \$100,000 to be used for the Diving Bell Project. This is a matching grant which requires the city's commitment of \$50,000. Mayor McCullough pointed out that around \$43,000 has already been secured by fund raising activities and the other \$7,000 could be in-kind funding. A motion was made by Ralph Prescott to approve this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Johnny Ariemma and approved by all members present. Council members advised that they would like to see the final plans before the project begins.

Mayor McCullough announced that this would be City Clerk Janet Jarrard's last Council Meeting before her retirement. He expressed his appreciation for thirty years of dedicated service. Council members also expressed their appreciation.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS:

Sam Norton requested that the monthly Financial Report be submitted with the council packets each month.

Johnny Ariemma asked about the investment options that were listed in the city's Banking Contract. Finance Director Christopher Austin advised that the city is very limited in the types of investments that are legally permitted but he plans to work with United Community Bank personnel to invest all surplus city funds in ways to legally gain more interest.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Gerald Lord to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. This motion was seconded by Johnny Ariemma and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2010.

MAYOR

Attest:

CITY CLERK