

**DAHLONEGA CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2010**

The Dahlonega City Council met at City Hall on September 15, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. Members present were Mayor Gary McCullough, Terry Peters, Ralph Prescott, Johnny Ariemma, Sam Norton, Gerald Lord and Michael Clemons. Also present were City Manager, Bill Lewis, Finance Director, Christopher Austin and City Attorney, Doug Parks.

**WORK SESSION DATE CHANGE:**

Mayor Gary McCullough informed the Council that he felt their scheduled Work Session on the third Wednesday of each month should be changed. He stated that at times, this was a conflict with the Historical Commission who had always held their meetings on this same date. After further discussion, Council agreed to change their Work Session to the third Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m. This will become effective in the month of October.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

City Manager, Bill Lewis informed Council that he had spoke with Brent Cook with Department of Transportation concerning the crosswalk at the intersection of Rite Aid and Wal-Mart. He was told that DOT was working in surrounding counties and it could be approximately two years before they could commit to construction of the crosswalk. Mr. Lewis stated he was told the City could proceed with construction however, to stop ten (10) feet from the intersection. Mr. Lewis asked Council for approval to spend the amount necessary or the full amount of the \$35,000.00 budget that was approved at the September 7<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. After further discussion Council stated this amount had already been approved and he could proceed with construction.

Mr. Lewis informed Council that a joint of the recently installed storm water pipe from Park Street to the Unitarian Church needed to be repaired and construction would be starting next week.

Mr. Lewis stated that he, the Mayor, Finance Director and City Attorney were planning to meet with the City of Valdosta staff on October 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss and develop a strategy for LOST negotiations. He wanted to extend the opportunity for Council to also attend this meeting. Councilman Clemons stated that this would be in conflict with the GEFA Board fall meeting which the City would be hosting on October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Smith House. After further discussion, Mr. Lewis stated that he would reschedule the meeting with the City of Valdosta and will let Council know of the new date.

Mr. Lewis informed Council the draft for the parking study should be ready for review by Monday, September 20.

**CITIZENS:**

Ryan Scott addressed the Council on the issue of the placement of his booth as a vendor at Gold Rush. The area where Mr. Scott's booth has been placed each year is not in the

Jaycee boundaries. His booth has been on the City right of way. He explained to Council that he felt that it would be unfair to make him move his booth, since others were in the same violation. City Manager, Bill Lewis informed Council that this became an issue during a meeting with the Dahlonga Jaycees. He explained to Council that no one has ever been given authority to set up on the right of way and as City Manager it was his responsibility to correct this issue because of the liability to the City. City Attorney, Doug Parks stated that the City should not create a consensual environment that is dangerous and perhaps the City needed to look at an expansion of the traffic and management plan against litigation. Mayor McCullough asked that Code Enforcement Officer, Tim Martin to do a survey and report of how many vendors are set up on City right of way at Gold Rush. He stated the Council could then review this report and make a decision at that time. After further discussion, Council was in agreement with Gold Rush being next month that they would make no changes for this year.

#### **DISCUSSION OF AGENDA MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE:**

Finance Director, Christopher Austin informed Council that he had attended a seminar in Morrow, Georgia concerning an organizational tool for meeting management. IQM2 is software designed for processing agendas and supporting documentation for meetings. This information would be compiled by the City Clerk and would be downloaded through the vendor's website. Council would then have to retrieve this data from the website to load onto their personal computers. Mr. Austin stated the cost of implementation and training would be \$6,280.00 with a monthly service fee of \$540.00. After further discussion, Council agreed we are still a small organization, and a product of this type is not valuable enough at this time for the cost, however at some point we need to move toward this in the future.

#### **PARK STREET HISTORICAL DISTRICT REPORT:**

DDA Director, Joel Cordle gave the Council an overview of items that was discussed at the DDA Retreat in 2006. He stated that he was asked to work on the Downtown Master Plan and ten priority items to work on were developed. One of the ten items was to formalize the Park Street Historic District and expand the Downtown Commercial Historical District. Mr. Cordle also informed he had applied for a grant from the Department of Natural Resources for preservation research and documentation for Park Street. Also RFP's were issued and Piedmont Preservation received the contract. At this time, Mr. Cordle introduced Mr. Ken Kocher, Consultant with Piedmont Preservation and Historic Planner for the cities of Madison and Monticello. He stated Mr. Kocher had worked and put a study together to report on data collection and partnership of the Historic Preservation Commission and the Downtown Development Authority.

Mr. Kocher gave a slide presentation and explanations of the beginning process for getting the district designated as historical, the advantages, the drawbacks, and the ending process for final approval. He also advised that the current Preservation Manual guidelines would need to be revised. Mr. Kocher stated that all residents would be required to be in the designated district and would have to go by guidelines administered by the existing Historic Preservation Commission. He informed Council there would be public meetings held to get a consensus from the citizens.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

