

DAHLONEGA CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 4, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session at City Hall on October 4, 2010. Council Members present were Johnny Ariemma, Sam Norton, Terry Peters, Michael Clemons, Gerald Lord and Ralph Prescott. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was opened with prayer by Reverend Buddy Norton and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Gerald Lord.

Mayor Gary McCullough expressed thanks to all of the governmental class students of NGCSU in attendance at the meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Mayor McCullough asked that an amendment be made to add a public hearing concerning James Parks subdivision to the agenda before approval. A motion was made by Ralph Prescott to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Terry Peters and approved by all members present.

JIM PARKS – SUBDIVISION

City Attorney, Doug Parks asked for Mr. Parks or his representative to provide Council with his request. Mrs. Parks was in attendance for her husband, and asked that Planning Director, Chris Head to explain her request. Ms. Head explained that the application for the subdivision located on Moores Drive has already been approved for ten (10) lots. Mr. Parks is requesting to add four (4) new lots to the existing subdivision, with no new roads or extensions of water and sewer lines. Ms. Head advised that the Planning Commission and staff recommended approval. City Manager, Bill Lewis asked Ms. Head, if there were no issues with the roads in the subdivision and if they were paved. Ms. Head stated there was only one road which is paved and currently held under a performance bond. Councilman Peters asked if there were any conditions on the recommendations of staff or the Planning Commission. Ms. Head informed Council that the Planning Commission had no conditions but requested a revised plat, which has been submitted. Ralph Prescott made a motion to approve as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission, seconded by Johnny Ariemma and approved by all members present.

MINUTE APPROVAL:

Mayor McCullough asked Council for approval of the September 7th Council Meeting minutes. Gerald Lord made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Michael Clemons and approved by all members present.

Mayor McCullough asked Council for approval of the September 29th Special Called Meeting minutes. Michael Clemons made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Terry Peters and approved by all members present.

CITIZENS:

Hal Williams spoke on behalf of the Downtown Development Authority and the Main Street Better Hometown Board of Directors to congratulate the City Council for their commitment to the success of Downtown Dahlonega. He stated that the Georgia Hometown Association selects one city honored for overall excellence for downtown development each year, and Dahlonega has been chosen to receive this year's award. Mr. Williams stated that the Downtown Development Authority and City Council have great partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Merchants Association, Historic Preservation Commission, NGCSU, our property and business owners and a lot of local people who take pride and care of our town. He also commended DDA Director, Joel Cordle for all his efforts and for the commitment of our City Council in making this special award possible.

Ms. Regina Harper Odom with We Recycle, a community group addressed the Council concerning promoting the awareness and education of recycling opportunities in our area. Ms. Odom stated that recycling, reusing and saving our natural resources are important for the growth of our city and county. Ms. Odom informed Council that Dawson and Hall Counties take more recycleable products than the City of Dahlonega does. Ms. Odom also distributed a brochure with statistics of how many resources can be saved by recycling certain products. After further discussion, Councilman Norton suggested that City Council visit and talk with Dawson County to examine their recycling process.

Mr. William Dobrydnia, owner of Bobbers Fish House located at 51 Grove Street North made application for a Beer License for consumption on premises. Mayor McCullough asked City Clerk, Lou Stewart for comment on application status. Ms. Stewart informed Council that all paperwork was in order and GCIC report was received with no issues. Councilman Ariemma made a motion to approve license, seconded by Sam Norton and approved by all members present.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor McCullough informed all department reports were submitted and asked for discussion. Stephen Smith with the Chamber of Commerce informed Council the Six Gap Bike Race that was held last weekend had 2,605 registered riders, which were up from 2,350 last year. He stated the Chambers focus at this time is Gold Rush and moving into November with the Capital Christmas Tree Event. This event is really building momentum with a local contractor, Jeff Underwood being the one to bring the Capital Tree through Dahlonega on the way to Washington. The tree should be arriving on Wednesday, November 24th at approximately 4:00-5:30 p.m., will be here Thursday and leaving on Friday morning.

Councilman Prescott stated he felt everyone was enjoying the Music in the Park night and wanted to commend everyone involved. Mayor McCullough agreed and also informed that the Appalachian Jam was on Saturday afternoon from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Mayor McCullough informed that monthly reports were also submitted by the Historic Preservation Commission and the Finance Department.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

City Manager, Bill Lewis stated he wanted to bring the Council up to date on the East Main Sidewalk construction and Wal-Mart intersection improvements. Mr. Lewis informed Council he had received a draft design of the Wal-Mart intersection improvements from DOT. City Engineer, Ricky Stewart has reviewed the design and made some recommendations back to DOT. One of the recommendations was

to replace the solid concrete islands with fixed planters, so plants could be put into them. Mr. Lewis feels this will do a lot to enhance the appearance of the intersection and will tie into our town square. Mr. Lewis also informed that Mr. Stewart should have the sidewalk design finished this week and submit to DOT for a permit to start construction on the right of way. Mayor McCullough informed Mr. Lewis that he had asked DOT to install a turn signal at this intersection when DOT replaces the lights. At this time Councilman Norton stated if it pleased Council, he would like to ask City Manager, Bill Lewis to write letters to the private entities that were going to make donations toward this project. With no objections to this request, Mayor McCullough stated he would sign the letter if Mr. Lewis chose.

City Manager, Bill Lewis also reminded Council that the date of City Work Sessions had been changed to the third Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m. Octobers Work Session will be on October 21. Mr. Lewis stated that one of the items for the October Work Session will be a power point presentation for the design of the new City logo.

MAYORS COMMENTS:

Mayor McCullough informed Council that there were four (4) DDA members for reappointment. Larry Odom who was filling an unexpired term and had only served approximately three months. Others included Chris Welch, Denson Martin and Mac McConnell. Mayor McCullough entertained a motion for reappointment of these members. Gerald Lord made a motion to reappoint all four members, seconded by Michael Clemons and approved by all members present.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Ariemma stated that he had the opportunity to attend the awards ceremony and it was a moving experience to see Joel Cordle receive such a special award for the City of Dahlenega. He stated that to hear others talk about what a wonderful community we have to live in makes you realize even more what a great City we have.

Mayor McCullough informed Council that City Clerk, Lou Stewart had put an application on their desk from the State Ethics Commission. This application is to apply for a personal identification number (PIN) in order for candidates to file their ethic forms after January 1, 2011. The application must be signed, notarized and mailed by October 31, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Councilman Lord made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michael Clemons and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2010

Mayor

Attest:
