

**CITY OF DAHLONEGA
WORK SESSION
MARCH 7, 2011
3:30 P.M.**

The Dahlonega City Council met at City Hall on Monday, March 7, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. Members present were Gerald Lord, Terry Peters, Johnny Ariemma, Ralph Prescott and Sam Norton. Michael Clemons was not present. Also present were City Manager Bill Lewis, City Attorney Doug Parks, City Engineer Ricky Stewart and Water Distribution Superintendent C. L. Grizzle.

LEADERSHIP LUMPKIN COUNTY 2011:

Mr. Warren Martin and Ms. Dora Ditchfield from NGCSU are class members of Leadership Lumpkin County 2011. They informed Council of a project the class would like put into place at the City Park on Riley Road. Their proposed project is the Born Learning Trail signs. The project would consist of installing ten (10) signs for children to read and do activities instructed by the signage that would promote early childhood learning. This has become a National Project with many local communities that are now participating. Mr. Warren explained that the project would be completed by May. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough requested agreement from Council to amend the March Council Meeting Agenda to add the Leadership Lumpkin County 2011 sign project for approval.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Chamber President, Amy Booker and Tony Owens, owner of the Fudge Factory informed Council of the need for contributions to fund the July 4th celebration event. Ms. Booker informed Council the Chamber's budget for this event was \$16,500.00 and the fireworks alone cost \$10,000.00. Mr. Owens informed that it takes approximately three months of his time to conduct fundraisers for this event. He explained there was still community sponsorship and the Merchant Association contributes however, the donations were still not enough to cover all the expenses. Ms. Booker stated that a sustainable source for funding is needed therefore; she has submitted a letter of request for a contract from the City and the County for a specific amount to help with the funding of the event. After further discussion, Council was in agreement to match the amount Lumpkin County contributed up to the amount of \$5,000.00.

SANITATION TRUCK PURCHASE:

City Engineer Ricky Stewart gave a slide presentation to explain the need of purchasing two (2) garbage trucks. Mr. Stewart informed Council the City now has three (3) trucks to cover garbage routes. One truck is dedicated for residential pick up only and the other two are for residential and commercial. Mr. Stewart informed Council of customer data and route specifics for the residential and commercial garbage pickup. He also stated that by purchasing two trucks this allows for rotation of trucks if one requires maintenance, cleaning, breakdowns and holiday schedules. Mr. Stewart further explained the study also demonstrates the residential route should not expand beyond three days and also verifies the most cost effective and efficient method of delivering sanitation services in the City is through the use of rear-load trucks. After further discussion, Council was in agreement to amend March Council Meeting Agenda to grant permission to write the specifications and allow for bids of two new garbage trucks.

WATER TANK REMOVAL:

City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council the City water tank located off North Grove Street on Mountain View Drive, adjacent Lumpkin County Middle School property needs to be removed. He stated the water tank is out of service and no longer needed. Mr. Lewis informed Council he had received proposals to remove the tank, and would like to award Pittsburg Tank and Tower Maintenance Co., Inc. with the bid of \$7,500.00 for tank removal. After further discussion, Council was in agreement with Mayor McCullough request to amend March Council Meeting Agenda to add the approval of awarding the contract for the removal of the water tank.

FORMER WATER PLANT PROPERTY:

City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council the former Water Plant property the City owns located on Wimpy Mill Road is approximately ten (10) acres. The City must retain property buffer for the reservoir which is 150 feet therefore, leaving approximately 6 acres the City could sale. He explained the lot was very steep, being flat only where the water plant is located. Mr. Lewis advised Council to set a date and time for everyone to tour the plant and property to discuss options for a potential sale.