

# **CITY OF DAHLONEGA**

## **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES AUGUST 1, 2011**

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session at City Hall on August 1, 2011. Members present were Ralph Prescott, Gerald Lord, Michael Clemons, Terry Peters, Sam Norton and Johnny Ariemma. Also present were City Manager Bill Lewis and City Attorney Doug Parks. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Prayer was led by Ralph Prescott and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Michael Clemons.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Mayor Gary McCullough asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Terry Peters. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor say aye, all opposed, motion carried unanimously.

### **APPEAL FROM HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:**

Mayor Gary McCullough requested Historic Preservation Commission Chairman Jimmy Anderson to come forward and give his presentation. Mr. Anderson addressed the Council stating in regard to the appeal to Council from the Back Porch Oyster Bar, he had polled all Commission members concerning the changes to the building. He further stated the Commission was willing to accept the changes that Mr. Lee Creef is willing to make. Mr. Anderson informed Council the drawing he had given them showed the changes which include the following: install a new first floor window on the left side of the building, replace the current sign, replace the shakes on the second floor with lap siding, remove the pirate sign underneath gable and change the nautical lights to a more historical light design. Mr. Anderson informed Council it was a unanimous vote for ratification and will be made official at their next HPC meeting. At this time, Mayor McCullough asked for a motion from Council. A motion was made by Councilman Clemons to accept the HPC recommendations of all changes that were stated, seconded by Councilman Prescott. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none he asked for all in favor to raise your hand, all opposed, motion carried unanimously.

### **MINUTE APPROVAL:**

Mayor McCullough requested a motion for approval of the minutes of July 11, 2011. A motion was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any corrections or additions, hearing none, he asked for all in favor say aye, all opposed, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough requested a motion for approval of the minutes of July 21, 2011. A motion was made by Councilman Norton, seconded by Terry Peters. Mayor McCullough asked for any corrections or additions, hearing none, he asked for all in favor say aye, all opposed, motion carried unanimously.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Mayor McCullough informed that Chamber President Amy Booker had sent a memo stating she would have two (2) reports, July and August for review next month. She also requested to introduce the new Tourism Director Jay Markwalter who has an excellent background in the tourism industry. Mr. Markwalter stated he had visited Dahlenega through the Southeast Tourism College since 2004 and always enjoyed our beautiful town. He further stated he would be moving from Athens to Dahlenega and looked forward to working with everyone. Mayor McCullough stated the he and the Council was looking forward to working with him and seeing our tourism increase even more.

Finance Director Christopher Austin informed Council everything was in line on the budget however he was hoping for an increase on LOST and SPLOST. At this time City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council to keep in mind that Water and Sewer sales are billed a month behind however, we anticipate to still meet budget.

## **ORDINANCES:**

Mayor McCullough asked if there were needed comment on the Environmental Ordinance, since it was not offered for adoption. City Attorney Doug Parks responded there were no real necessity at this time for discussion however, he felt there should be a minute entry that at this point in time the Ordinance would not be adopted. At this time, Councilman Norton questioned if David Wright with the County Health Department decides to pursue this option, who would he need to contact to correct or remove the problems. City Attorney Doug Parks informed Council Attorney Ken Jarrard was the draftsman of this Ordinance and had indicated he would contact Mr. Parks if he were able to adjust the Ordinance to be more consistent with what he felt would be more suitable for municipalities. At this time, Mayor McCullough informed Council that an e-mail had been sent stating Mr. Jarrard agreed that it should not be adopted at this time. Mr. Parks further informed Council the Ordinance should not be adopted in its present form due to incorporating many sets of regulations and rules of Municipal Court and his question was how do we jurisdictionally, be able to hear these items.

## **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council the property line between NGCSU Dining Hall Parking Lot and Mt. Hope Cemetery could not be defined therefore, NGCSU has proposed the property line be established eight feet behind the dining hall parking lot curb line. This will clarify property boundaries in the future. A motion was made by Councilman Prescott to accept the new proposed property line, seconded by Councilman Norton. At this time, Mayor McCullough asked for any questions or comments, hearing none, he asked for all in favor raise your hand, all opposed, motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Bill Lewis requested approval to begin the disposal process of the Water Plant property on Wimpy Mill Road. This issue was discussed at a prior Work Session, and Mr. Lewis requested approval to prepare an RFP for Council approval to dispose of the property. The RFP will provide Council with all the control needed, which will include limited use of property and to have any of those uses compatible with the surrounding properties. The RFP will not commit Council to any project or concept. Mayor McCullough questioned if this would only consist of the property where the Water Plant was located. Mr. Lewis informed Council that was correct, the RFP would only include the property where the building was located. A motion was made by

Councilman Lord to approve the submittal of an RFP, seconded by Councilman Norton. At this time, Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Peters stated as he understood the RFP will be drawn in the broadest possible way to give the most options available and will not be set up for any particular use. Also Council will have control to evaluate all the RFP responses. City Manager Bill Lewis informed Councilman Peters his statement was correct. Councilman Ariemma questioned if all the property behind the Water Plant was to be included and what was the total acreage of this property. Mr. Lewis stated he assumed it would be the entire lot and it was approximately six (6) acres however, approximately only one (1) acre is useable property. At this time Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor say aye, all opposed, motion carried unanimously.

**CITY CLERK COMMENTS:**

City Clerk Lou Stewart informed Council the State mandates the Governing Authority appoint specific positions for the General Election on November 8, 2011. These positions are Lou Stewart Election Superintendent, Marisa Pierce Assistant Election Superintendent, Lou Stewart Absentee Ballot Clerk, Frankie Caldwell Poll Manager, Karen Redimarker Assistant Poll Manager and Doris Sutton Assistant Poll Manager. A motion was made by Councilman Lord to approve the Election appointments, seconded by Michael Clemons. At this time Mayor McCullough asked for any questions or comments, hearing none, he asked for all in favor say aye, all opposed, motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Bill Lewis requested City Clerk Lou Stewart to announce the dates for qualifying for the purpose of the Council and general public. Ms. Stewart informed the dates for qualifying begin on Monday, August 29, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. and ends on Friday, September 2, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

City Clerk Lou Stewart informed Council the Safety Grant that was applied for through GIRMA has been reviewed and two additional items were needed to complete the application process. These items consisted of amendments to the Safety Policy to include the safety procedures of the items requested to be purchased with the grant. A motion was made by Councilman Peters to accept the amendments to the Safety Policy, seconded by Gerald Lord. At this time, Mayor McCullough asked for any questions or comment, hearing none, he asked for all in favor say aye, all opposed, motion carried unanimously.

**MAYORS COMMENTS:**

Mayor McCullough informed everyone the City will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, August 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. concerning the communication tower. He stated if anyone wanted to express their comments, everyone was welcomed to attend the meeting at City Hall.

Mayor McCullough informed Council and citizens that Wal-Mart is having a grand re-opening on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. The Mayor will be there to speak and welcomed everyone to drop by and join the ceremony.

Mayor McCullough informed the City had also received a \$50,000.00 matching grant for the diving bell.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Norton informed that he is Vice Chairman of the GMRDC and they have become aware of a federally sponsored program that has started a work force board. This is approximately a five and a half million dollar budgeted program which consist of twenty five (25) board members. This program is used to train and educate people in order to get them back into the work force. Out of this twenty five (25) member board there is no representative for Dahlonge. Within the thirteen counties there are four, which include Dahlonge that have no representatives for their area which means we are not receiving any of these funds. He expressed his concern and hope that we will gain representation on this board so Dahlonge will also be able to receive funding.

**CITIZENS:**

Jerry Butler informed he had received a letter from the City and it appears that the Dahlonge Jaycees have been allowed to sell booths in front of his parking lot which is private property. He questioned if North Grove Street was going to be closed and if the Jaycees were going to be allowed to sell booths on the street in front of his parking lot. City Manager Bill Lewis informed this does not affect private property; it will be only in the ROW areas. Mr. Lewis further informed that North Grove Street will be closed at Hawkins, and traffic will be routed down Wimpy Mill Road. Mr. Butler stated that his parking lot area was given to a NGCSU Sorority to collect parking fees for their scholarship fundraiser. Planning Director Chris Head informed Mr. Butler that he will be able to use his parking lot as always. The Jaycees will not be selling booths on the street in front of his parking lot. The line on the drawing Mr. Butler received is not to indicate where booths will be, but only to indicate the street location. City Manager Bill Lewis informed there is a liability issue associated with the use of public right-of-way with no one being responsible. The City has expanded East Main Street also for the Jaycees to sell booths on the ROW. The streets must be closed in order for the Jaycees to be able to sell booths, but in no way will they be able to restrict anyone from using their own private property.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Lord and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk