

**REGULAR MEETING
DAHLONEGA CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 1, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session at City Hall on December 1, 2008. Council members present were Michael Clemons, Terry Peters, Guy Laboa, Sam Norton, Gerald Lord and Ralph Prescott. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed new Council Member Ralph Prescott. Mayor McCullough opened the meeting with prayer and Michael Clemons led all present in the Pledge to the American Flag.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A Public Hearing was held by City Attorney Doug Parks concerning a request for preliminary plat approval for Achasta Bear Paw Phase 9B. Rick McAllister presented the request for lot configuration. Mr. McAllister advised that Achasta is proposing to relocate five lots to Phase 9B. These lots will replace one lot that was previously removed from phase 9A and lots 1010, 1009, 1114 and 1115 which will also be removed. The total of both areas, removal and relocation, is approximately three acres each. Mr. McAllister advised that there will be no net reduction of open space and the new lots will replace the lots to be removed. Mr. Parks asked for comments from the public. Hearing no comments, Mr. Parks asked for staff recommendation. Planning Director Chris Head advised that the Dahlonega Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval and staff also recommends approval. A motion was made by Michael Clemons to approve these recommendations for preliminary plat approval for Achasta Bear Paw 9B. The motion was seconded by Terry Peters and approved by all members present.

MINUTE APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Sam Norton to approve the minutes of council meetings held in November, 2008. The motion was seconded by Guy Laboa. Gerald Lord asked for a correction on page 2 of the regular council minutes of November 3 to change sq. ft. to cubit yards and also a change in spelling of decel lane. The motion was then approved by all members present.

CITIZENS:

Jordan, Jones and Goulding Engineer Ben Williams presented a Status Report for the city's current projects. He advised that the Yahoola Creek Water Treatment Plant is within budget and on schedule for completion. The final completion date is February 4, 2010 and there are now 429 calendar days remaining to completion. The project continues on schedule even though there has been a delay in the delivery of ductile iron pipe and valve materials. To compensate for the delay the contractor moved the concrete slab pours starting point from the southwest to the northeast corner of the filter building. The filter building concrete slab and the pipe material underneath the slab are the critical path schedule items. The majority of the filter building concrete will be poured in the months of December, January, February and March. The contractor already has blankets that will be used to cover the slabs if they are required to keep the concrete warm while

curing in the winter months. Approximately two miles of pipe and conduit will be installed under the concrete slab. The Yahoola Creek Water Treatment Plant Contract B for installation of 24 inch diameter raw and finished transmission mains is also on schedule and within budget. JJ & G has completed the design and bid phases of the project and city staff is providing the construction phase services. Contract C is for the East side relief sewer and force main. This project is also on schedule and within budget. JJ & G completed and submitted the design drawings to city staff for the 18 inch gravity sewer section of the project. This is to be used by city staff to obtain pricing. The 12 inch force main section design is approximately 60 percent complete. This section will be used to convey flow from the backwash/reject pump station at the water treatment plant directly to the wastewater treatment plant. The Timken Sewer Project was designed and bid by JJ & G. City staff is working on the project and JJ & G is responding to request for information during the construction phase of the project.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor McCullough advised that reports were submitted by the Dahlonga Planning and Code Enforcement Departments and Dahlonga Historical Preservation Commission concerning activities during the month of November, 2008. Tim Martin was commended for an outstanding job of code enforcement for the city.

SECOND READING AMENDMENT 1-ORDINANCE 92-6-SPEED LIMITS:

City Manager Bill Lewis advised that the Speed Limits Ordinance will require to be reformatted by the city attorney. One change will be the speed limit for Laurel Heights from 35 mph to 25 mph. A new sign will be installed on Laurel Heights. A motion was made by Gerald Lord to approve the second reading of Amendment 1 to Ordinance 92-6. This motion was seconded by Sam Norton and approved by all members present.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Lewis advised that Amendment 6 to Building Permit Ordinance 94-4 and Ordinance 2008-4-Sign Regulations are not ready for council action.

Mr. Lewis advised that he is preparing the agenda for the council's annual planning retreat to be held January 15 and 16. He asked for input from the mayor and council.

Mr. Lewis reported that some of the projects associated with the new water plant construction have been completed including the new water lines for Moores Drive and North Grove Street. The water line construction for Hamp Mill will begin soon.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor McCullough recommended that Donna Gessell be appointed to the Dahlonga Historical Preservation Commission. Ms. Gessell is a professor at NGCSU and she has agreed to serve. Mayor McCullough advised that she was deeply involved in getting the nurses clinic at the college started. A motion was made by Terry Peters to approve this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Gerald Lord and approved by all members present. Mayor McCullough recommended that Claudine Earls be reappointed

to the Dahlonga Housing Authority. A motion was made by Sam Norton to approve this recommendation. The motion was approved by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

George Clegg requested that the minutes of the November 3, 2008 Council Meeting be changed concerning approval of the rezoning request for the Mountain View Drive area. Mr. Clegg interpretation of the City Charter is that a majority of the council is required for adoption of an ordinance and three affirmative votes do not constitute a majority. Mr. Clegg stated that it appears to him that the City Charter concludes that the motion failed due to the lack of an affirmative vote from a majority of the council members present. Mayor McCullough advised that the City Attorney will be consulted concerning this request.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor McCullough announced that a Work Session will be held December 10 at 3:00 p.m. concerning the proposed changes to the Sign Ordinance. A Special Council Meeting will be held on December 15 at 5:00 p.m. for adoption of the Sign Ordinance and a Work Session will be held on December 17 at 4:00 p.m. if the council desires to hold another Work Session this month.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Guy Laboa to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Terry Peters and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2009.

MAYOR

Attest:

CITY CLERK