

**CITY OF DAHLONEGA**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**June 4, 2012**

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 4, 2012 at City Hall. Members present were Bruce Hoffman, Ralph Prescott, Gerald Lord, 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 Bruce Hoffman.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Toby Stroefel informed Council of his appreciation in their response to add a referendum on the ballot for Sunday package sales of beer and wine. He further stated City Council made the right decision in giving the people the right to vote on this issue. Mr. Stroefel also thanked Council for adding public comments at the beginning of the agenda to hear the public before decisions were made.

Mr. Joel Cordle, DDA Director introduced Ms. Cindy Eidson Program Manager for the Main Street and Better Hometown Programs with DCA. Ms. Eidson presented the City with an accreditation as a 2012 National Main Street City. Ms. Eidson informed City Council the most important part of making a City prosper was their leadership. Ms. Gibson further informed that Dahlonega's five year history showed a total of \$44,504,000.00 dollars from public/private investments, 84 new businesses and 115 jobs were created.

**MINUTES:**

Mayor Gary McCullough asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 7, 2012. A motion was made by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Lord. Mayor McCullough asked for any additions or corrections, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

**CITIZENS:**

Ms. Nicole Alvarez requested a special event license for the annual NOA Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser. Ms. Alvarez informed Council all proceeds will go back into the shelter and outreach programs for NOA. Mayor McCullough questioned if their security is provided by off duty officers. Ms. Alvarez stated they did not have an off duty officer but, had volunteers and board members present to check id's. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough asked Planning Director Chris Head if it was a requirement for them to have an off duty officer for security. Ms. Head informed Council it was not a requirement for security to be an off duty officer. Councilman Lord stated he felt this should be a requirement. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the special event license. A motion was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Ariemma. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor of the motion to raise their hand, all opposed, motion carried by the following vote: Voting for the motion: Bruce Hoffman, Ralph Prescott, Terry Peters, Sam Norton, Johnny Ariemma. Voting against the motion: Gerald Lord

Mr. Phil Collins, Director of Alumni Relations requested four (4) special event alcohol permits for the Chamber Music Festival to be held on June 15, 17, 22 and 24<sup>th</sup> at the Nix Center on campus. Councilman Prescott made a motion to approve all four (4) special event permits, seconded by Councilman Peters. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

DDA Director Joel Cordle informed Council in accordance with their annual service agreement between the DDA and City Council they will be presenting their quarterly report. Mr. Cordle further informed Ms. Rebecca Shirley DDA Projects Coordinator will be presenting the highlights in the promotion and design category of the report. Ms. Shirley informed Council the Comcast commercial had been completed and was on the Home and Garden network in Atlanta. The video was then put on Facebook, U-tube and other local websites. DDA is also continuing their efforts with parent's alumni weekend, Chamber and merchant collation, shopping campaign, July 4<sup>th</sup> committee, farmers markets and Appalachian Jams. She further informed information sheets and brochures would be distributed and placed on interior displays in twenty-two (22) restaurants and lodging. Also new banners were installed on Main Street and part of Warwick Street.

DDA Board Chairman Denson Martin thanked Council for their continued support and informed that the business owner of the former Gee's Furniture Store has done a great job on the remodel in order to have several spaces for antique booths.

Director Joel Cordle gave a summary of highlights in the organization category which included awarded grants, diving bell project, Tiger II, designation as a tree city and the downtown master plan implementation. Mr. Cordle also introduced an intern, Sarah Edwards that will be helping for several months with publicity and marketing.

Councilman Prescott stated DDA was doing a great job with the concerts in the park. He further informed this brought additional revenue for our restaurants and hotels.

Mayor McCullough commended staff on the Hancock Park maintenance and also acknowledge the contribution of the sod from Smith Sod Company in Dawsonville.

#### **ORDINANCES:**

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-1 for the annexation of Camp Glisson property. A motion for approval was made by Councilman Peters, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Lord questioned if annexations were coordinated with the County. City Attorney Doug Parks informed the annexations were coordinated with the County. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Doug Parks informed Council the statute authorizing the sale of package beer and wine on Sundays, states an ordinance must be adopted to amend all other ordinances. Mr. Parks further informed this will only become effective if the referendum is passed with a majority vote. The ordinance will become effective immediately after the election certification process. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-2. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Ariemma. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to adopt the first reading of Ordinance 98-3 Amendment #1 for Historic Preservation Commission updates. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Prescott. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

City Manager Bill Lewis informed Council the adoption of Resolution 2012-4 was not needed at this time, due to Mr. Jimmy Anderson's request that it be delayed to a later date.

Mr. Lewis informed Council that approval was needed for the audit extension with Rushton and Company for one more year, with no fee increase. A motion for approval was made by Councilman Peters, seconded by Councilman Prescott. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

**MAYORS COMMENTS:**

Mayor McCullough informed everyone of the County debate at the Park and Recreation building. He further informed that City Manager Bill Lewis, City Attorney Doug Parks, NGCSU Vice President of Business and Finance Mr. Frank (Mac) McConnell and himself went to Washington, DC and were able to meet with four (4) Congressmen. The City's Washington lobbyist helped them meet with as many Congressmen as possible. In these meetings they were informed that there was no money available at this time however, there was a possibility of some funding after the Presidential election. At this time, City Manager Bill Lewis informed it was important for them to have had Mac McConnell from the University with them. It proved to be a positive impact for them to understand the connection between the City and the University. City Attorney Doug Parks also informed there were no earmarked monies however; there were possible opportunities thru agencies in the form of grants and with the interactions of the University, there is potential military funds.

Mayor McCullough informed Council he had planned to recognize the NGCSU Lady Saints Softball Team with a proclamation for their success over the past year. He spoke with Coach Davenport and he asked that the proclamation be given during the fall quarter when they return.

Mayor McCullough informed that Shelia Richardson will not be seeking reappointment to the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Richardson has served for twenty-six (26) years. Mayor McCullough requested Council consideration to appoint Mr. Roger Braunstein. A motion for approval was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Ariemma. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to raise their hand, motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Lord questioned the status of the old City signs. At a prior meeting, there was discussion concerning the sale of the signs. City Manager Bill Lewis informed he was not aware that Council wanted to proceed with the sale of the signs. Councilman Prescott stated he was not in favor of the signs being sold.

Councilman Ariemma thanked his fellow Councilmen for making the decision to add the Sunday sale of package beer and wine on the ballot to give the people the right to decide.

Councilman Norton informed he was proud to see students present to observe the meeting.

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Norton. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED BY ME THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2012.

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Gary McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

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Lou Stewart, City Clerk