

# **CITY OF DAHLONEGA**

## **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES July 2, 2012**

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 2, 2012 at City Hall. Members present were Bruce Hoffman, Ralph Prescott, Gerald Lord, Terry Peters and Sam Norton. Johnny Ariemma was not present. Also present were City Manager Bill Lewis and City Attorney Doug Parks. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Prayer was led by Ralph Prescott and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Sam Norton.

### **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MEMBER RECOGNITION:**

Mayor Gary McCullough presented a plaque to Mrs. Shelia Richardson for serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission for twenty-six (26) years. Mayor McCullough thanked Ms. Richardson for her dedicated service to the citizens of Dahlonega.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the revised agenda. A motion was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

City Attorney Doug Parks requested Planning Director Chris Head to present an overview of this variance request. Ms. Head informed Council the City had contracted with GMRDC to look at the outlying districts of the CBD and Historic District to see what properties would now qualify for CBD designation. These property rezoning requests are part of the Phase 1 recommendations and there will be other areas proposed for rezoning. City Attorney Doug Parks asked if anyone wished to speak for or against these rezonings at this time. Hearing none, Ms. Head further informed Council that all properties are zoned B2 and would be going to CBD, which is also business. Councilman Prescott questioned if adjoining property owners were in favor of the rezoning. Ms. Head stated yes, they were in agreement. Councilman Norton stated he felt this would help expand the downtown area in another direction and thanked Mr. Owens for agreeing to the existing sidewalk rehab in his renovation process. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the rezoning request with conditions. A motion was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTE APPROVAL:**

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the minutes of June 4, 2012. A motion was made by Councilman Prescott to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Councilman Lord. Mayor McCullough asked for any corrections or additions, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the minutes of June 21, 2012. A motion was made by Councilman Lord to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Councilman Peters. Mayor McCullough asked for any corrections or additions, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

**MR. WOODROW PARKS:**

At this time, Councilman Prescott asked for a moment of silence to be given in respect to the passing of Mr. Woodrow Parks. Mr. Parks is remembered for his great contribution as a cornerstone to the City of Dahlonega. He opened his business, now known as Parks Clothing in 1928.

**CITIZENS:**

Mayor McCullough asked City Clerk Lou Stewart if all paperwork was in order to approve the change of the registered agent, on the beer and wine package sale license for Golden Pantry. Ms. Stewart replied that all paperwork was in order with no issues. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the registered agent change. A motion was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Norton questioned is adequate documentation was still being received for verification of residency. Ms. Stewart stated yes, the applicant must submit a utility bill, lease or some form of documentation that proves they are a resident. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

**CHAMBER REPORT:**

Chamber President, Amy Booker informed Council the Mayor will be the Master of Ceremonies for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and Ms. Debbie Owens will be the Grand Marshall this year, which is greatly deserved. Also, the community committee worked to secure funding through sponsorship this year to help cover the expenses for the fireworks. Tourism Director Mr. Jay Markwalter informed Council that Achasta will host a professional golf game in July with approximately one hundred fifty-seven (157) participants and is hoping to make this an annual event. He also thanked Council for the Diving Bell project in which he feels will be a first class attraction for our City. Ms. Booker also thanked Council for their partnership and cooperation with the Chamber to make all these wonderful events happen.

**ORDINANCES:**

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the second reading and adoption of the HPC Ordinance 98-3 Amendment #1. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Prescott. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION:**

City Attorney Doug Parks informed Council this Resolution was the follow up on GMRC recommendations for uses and proper rezoning of the old water plant property on Wimpy Mill Road. If Council desires to move forward, this is the process in which the Council initiates the rezoning and then it will go to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a hearing. Once their recommendation is made then it will go back to City Council for final approval. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2012-6. A motion was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Peters questioned moving forward with rezoning prior to pursuing a potential sale. Mr. Parks stated this method would define the proper zoning in which, will then generate the final appraisal as well. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

**MAYOR COMMENTS:**

Mayor McCullough informed Council that the friends organization for the Gold Museum has been successful in raising enough funds to completely cover the cost needed for employees through FY 2013. Therefore, they have no request for additional funding from the City at this time and asked Council to thank Mr. Randy Rick for all his efforts.

**CITY COUNCIL:**

Councilman Lord questioned the status of the property on Golden Avenue. City Engineer Ricky Stewart informed he had spoke with Doug Sherrill of the City's concern on their proposal. Mr. Sherrill is working on a new proposal to relocate the easement inside the buffer. The relocated City lot would not be in the buffer. Councilman Lord asked when their new proposal would be brought back to staff. Mr. Stewart further informed this process should not take long but, was in Dover Realty and Mr. Sherrill hands at this time.

Councilman Lord questioned the status of the old City Hall signs. He stated the sale of the signs had been discussed prior but, no decision had been made. City Manager Bill Lewis informed that some Council members had expressed their concern about the sale of the signs and felt they did not want them to be sold. Councilman Lord informed that a county resident wanted one of the signs to go in her home and felt Council should make a decision. After further discussion, Council agreed to dispose of the signs. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to dispose of the signs. A motion was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Norton questioned the status of the trees that were funded by Leadership Lumpkin for East Main Street. City Engineer Ricky Stewart informed Council that he had planned to purchase those trees at the same time he purchased trees for West Main Street islands, with hopes of getting a better price.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Peters. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, 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