

CITY OF DAHLONEGA

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES January 7, 2013

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 7, 2013 at City Hall. Members present were Johnny Ariemma, Sam Norton, Terry Peters, Gerald Lord, Ralph Prescott and Bruce Hoffman. Also present was City Attorney Doug Parks. The Prayer was led by Ralph Prescott and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Terry Peters. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Norton with the request that an amendment be made under Council Comments to add the approval of a new Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

City Attorney Doug Parks informed Council the American Legion was requesting a rezoning and plat approval. Mr. Ralph Jones, American Legion representative informed Council that part of the property was zoned OI and other was zoned B2. He further informed the request was for the property to be zoned B2 to be consistent with the adjoining property. Mr. Jones further informed he was also requesting plat approval of five (5) new lots, all accessed by the existing road which would tie into the road behind Chick-Fil-A. City Attorney Doug Parks asked if anyone was present to speak for or against the request. Hearing none, he asked Planning Director Chris Head for staff comments. Ms. Head informed the Planning Commission approved the rezoning to B2 and approved the site plan for the additional five (5) lots. A motion was made by Councilman Prescott to vote for approval as Planning Commission on the rezoning and plat, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Norton questioned if they could amend the plat with improvements such as sidewalks and lights at this point. Ms. Head informed this was DOT right-of-way and approval would be needed from them for those improvements. Mayor McCullough questioned if power lines would be underground. Mr. Jones informed all wiring would be underground. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

MINUTE APPROVAL:

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the December 3, 2012 Council meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked for any corrections or additions, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for minutes. A motion to approve as written was made by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Lord. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION:

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2013-1 for grant funding concerning the Mt. Hope Cemetery inventory and mapping. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Peters, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Peters questioned what the City's matching portion was and did the match have to be cash or could it be in-kind. Ms. Rebecca Shirley, DDA Projects Coordinator responded the match will be \$8,500.00 dollars and she was still working with the Preservation Commission on the in-kind portion. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed, motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor McCullough informed the Chamber of Commerce will be giving a 2012 activity presentation at the next Work Session. Amy Booker Chamber President also informed the Chamber Awards Luncheon will be on January 25, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. at the Smith House.

Councilman Prescott informed that Jay Stone should receive an honorable mention for his downtown construction project of a new building between the Holly Theater and Corkscrew Restaurant.

Councilman Prescott questioned Ricky Stewart Public Works Director concerning the status of the sidewalk project. Mr. Stewart informed this was an on-going project and staff will be working on a continuous maintenance plan of which is the most needed areas. He further informed that Park Street is the main focus however; the maintenance is being done with in-house labor and the maintenance must be scheduled with other priority issues. Councilman Peters asked for an update on the meter replacements. Mr. Stewart informed that staff has been repairing a lot of water leaks however; he still anticipates having the meters replaced in six (6) to eight (8) months.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the Chamber of Commerce contract. A motion to approve 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, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough informed Council that he would be attending the name change ceremony for NGCSU on January 10, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. to be held at Memorial Hall. He further informed that he and Chris Dockery will be presenting a Joint Proclamation and asked Council to please attend if possible.

CLERK COMMENTS:

City Clerk Lou Stewart informed Council with a General Election to be held this year, it is state mandated that the qualifying fees be posted in the local paper prior to February 1. She further informed these fees must be approved by City Council. A motion was made by Councilman Lord

to approve the qualifying fees, seconded by Councilman Ariemma. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Prescott questioned how the fees were calculated. Mayor McCullough informed the calculation of qualifying fees is mandated by the state. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Mayor McCullough informed the City had received approximately seventy (70) resumes for the City Manager position and thanked Ms. Stewart for the additional work she done during this process.

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

City Attorney Doug Parks informed if Council desired to transfer the old water plant property to the DDA jurisdiction, he was prepared to do so with the conditions that Council wishes. A motion was made by Councilman Norton to transfer the old water plant property to the DDA, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Peters questioned if the transfer will be at appraised value with a note back to Council. City Attorney Doug Parks informed that he could prepare a note if Council requests. Councilman Prescott informed the motion should have a condition to transfer at the appraised value, without restrictions. Councilman Norton questioned if when sold from DDA will the Council then act to have the note reimbursed or forgive the debt. Councilman Peters questioned if the property was sold under appraised value, the note could require Council to forgive a portion of the note. City Attorney Doug Parks informed the note can be set up with those terms. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor of the motion with condition to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Norton made a motion for Mayor McCullough to appoint a new Mayor Pro-Tem for 2013, seconded by Councilman Lord. Councilman Norton stated he had enjoyed serving as Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor McCullough informed he would like to appoint Councilman Ralph Prescott as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2013. He asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried by the following vote: Bruce Hoffman, Gerald Lord, Terry Peters, Sam Norton and Johnny Ariemma. Ralph Prescott did not vote. At this time, Mayor McCullough thanked Councilman Norton for his support during his term as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Councilman Lord informed that he felt Council should have Enersphere come back to a Work Session and discuss the wireless network again. City Attorney Doug Parks informed he had received an email with dates that Enersphere will be available. Mayor McCullough asked that the dates be sent to him to consider the best available time for a Work Session. Councilman Prescott informed that he felt Council should bring local skilled individuals with qualifications to this Work Session. Councilman Hoffman informed that the City should be able to pursue in a different matter and we should set a Work Session date and invite contacts.

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Prescott. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2013.

Gary McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

Lou Stewart, City Clerk