

CITY OF DAHLONEGA

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 4, 2013 at City Hall. Members present were Johnny Ariemma, Sam Norton, Terry Peters, Gerald Lord, Ralph Prescott and Bruce Hoffman. Also present were City Manager Ron Thomas and City Attorney Doug Parks. Mayor McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The prayer was led by Ralph Prescott and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Gerald Lord.

MINUTE APPROVAL:

Mayor Gary McCullough called the Zoning Board of Appeals to order and asked for a motion to approve the January 7, 2013 minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Councilman Ariemma, seconded by Councilman Peters. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gary McCullough called the Council meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Council Lord to approve as written, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes of January 7, 2013. A motion to approve as written was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Peters. 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 Special Called Meeting minutes of January 8, 2013. A motion to approve as written was made by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Lord. 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 Council meeting minutes of January 23, 2013. A motion to approve as written was made by Councilman Peters, seconded by Councilman Prescott. 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.

CITIZENS:

Mayor McCullough informed that Don Pollo Country Cooking, Inc. is requesting approval of a Beer/Wine/Distilled spirits license, with Michelle Fisher as the registered agent. Mayor McCullough asked City Clerk Lou Stewart if all paperwork was in order. Ms. Stewart informed that all paperwork was in order however; Ms. Fisher's background check has not come back yet therefore; staff is recommending approval contingent upon the background check. Councilman Peters made a motion to approve contingent upon the background check, seconded by Councilman Prescott. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Peters

questioned if Ms. Stewart knew the timeframe of having the background check returned. Ms. Stewart informed that it should be approximately one more week. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough informed that Chestatee Garden & Tavern is requesting approval of a Distilled Spirits license, with Jeannie Dixon as the registered agent. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. 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 that Trail Fest is requesting approval of a special event alcohol license. A motion to approve the license was made by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Hoffman. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Ariemma questioned if this license was for three (3) days. Trail Fest Chairman Tom Lamb informed Council it will be for a three (3) day event, to be located in their food tent. Mayor McCullough informed that he felt issuing a license for three (3) days takes away from restaurants that have paid a large fee for their alcohol license. Councilman Peters questioned if this was within guidelines. City Attorney Doug Parks informed this will be consistent with past history and once the local licenses are granted, they will be able to obtain a three (3) day permit from the State. Mr. Lamb further informed that the beer will be purchased through Sweetwater, which is one of their sponsors however; the wine will be purchased from local wineries. He further informed that they will have someone at the tent entrance checking ID's and will be issuing wristbands that cannot be reused. Shenanigans will have staff members that will be donating their time to assist and retired officers will be at the tent for security. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to raise their hand, all opposed like sign, motion carried by the following vote: Bruce Hoffman, Ralph Prescott, Terry Peters, Sam Norton and Johnny Ariemma. Voting against the motion: Gerald Lord.

Mayor McCullough informed that Bear on the Square Festival is requesting approval of a special event alcohol license. Representative Glenda Pender informed Council that the tent will be moved this year out of Hancock Park and placed at the corner of Park and Warwick Street. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Peters. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to raise their hand, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor McCullough informed that all department reports had been submitted and asked for any discussion or questions. City Manager Ron Thomas informed Council there was nothing out of the ordinary that had occurred.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor McCullough informed that the FY 2012 Budget Amendments had been submitted for approval. Councilman Norton made a motion to adopt the FY 2012 Budget Amendments, seconded by Councilman Peters. 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 during a previous Work Session that Council had discussed amending the sign ordinance concerning right-of-way signs. The amendment was to Section 14.6,

Item #4 to include “however, this holding period shall not apply to signs which were removed from any public right of way.” A motion to approve was made by Councilman Lord, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Ariemma asked if the 14 day holding period was a state statute. City Attorney Doug Parks informed it was not but, it was sufficient time to allow someone to claim their sign. Mr. Parks further informed that Code Enforcement Officer Tim Martin takes pictures of the non-conforming signs and also notifies the owner prior to destroying the sign. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCullough informed Council of the Wellness Grant participation with City employees. He further informed that City Clerk Lou Stewart and staff applies for the grant and completes an activity plan for the year. This year the plan included a walking contest, a weight loss contest and tobacco cessation. There were several employees who participated and the winner of the walking contest walked 328 miles and the weight loss winner lost 39 lbs. There were three employees who have stopped using tobacco. Mayor and Council congratulated employees for their efforts in the Wellness Program.

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

City Attorney Doug Parks informed Council that we have discussed with GIRMA the need to insure DDA separately. GIRMA has sent a new application and once the application is approved and the cost for the additional coverage is determined, then information will be brought to Council for approval in order to transfer the old water plant property to DDA.

City Attorney Doug Parks informed Council that the Chamber Contract and Cost Allocation Plan have been approved. Mr. Parks further informed he has been working with Chamber President Amy Booker to update the compliance audit schedule to coincide with the City audit fiscal year end of September 30th.

At this time, Amy Booker updated Council on Chamber activity and discussed future events. Mr. Jay Markwalter informed Council that he needs for them to serve as a welcome committee on September 12, 13 and 14th when Lt. Governor Casey Cagle will be giving a speech in Dahlonega.

Mayor McCullough welcomed the students present from the governmental class at The University of North Georgia.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor McCullough informed Council that the DDA Downtown Business Reception and Awards Program have been scheduled for February 28th at the Smith House from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. He further informed if Council planned to attend, please RSVP to Rebecca Shirley.

City Manager Ron Thomas thanked everyone for their warm welcome since he had begun work. Mr. Thomas also informed Council that the Finance Department was in the final stages of the FY 2012 audit and ending with only one audit comment.

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Lord. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2013.

Gary McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

Lou Stewart, City Clerk