

CITY OF DAHLONEGA

WORK SESSION MINUTES

The Dahlonega City Council held a Work Session on Monday, February 4, 2013 at City Hall. Members present were Ralph Prescott, Sam Norton, Terry Peters, Gerald Lord, Bruce Hoffman and Johnny Ariemma. Also present were City Manager Ron Thomas and City Attorney Doug Parks. Mayor Gary McCullough called the Work Session to order at 2:00 p.m.

ENERSPHERE DISCUSSION:

Mayor Gary McCullough informed that representatives from Enersphere were present again to further discuss the City's involvement in the fiber/wireless broadband communication for Dahlonega. Mr. Bruce Abraham introduced Mr. David Lasier, CEO and Mr. Mike Cleveland Director of Operations of Enersphere. Mr. Lasier informed Council that Enersphere was founded in 2010 and they were a company who offered faster broadband using fiber with wireless extension. Their largest margin is internet, which they sell internet and voice at the same time. He further informed that utility and municipal investments will stimulate economic development, new revenue sources and customer engagement. Councilman Ariemma questioned if they had looked at the top of the City. Mr. Lasier informed that they had looked at most of Dahlonega however; they had concentrated more on the downtown area as requested from the last City Work Session. He further informed they had also looked at the density of the apartments near the college. Councilman Prescott questioned if the college would be a potential customer. Mr. Lasier informed that the college dorms already have wifi at no additional cost. Councilman Hoffman questioned what would be the monthly cost for a small business. Mr. Lasier informed the cost will be approximately \$84.00 monthly, which includes the \$7.00 monthly charge for the initial box. City Manager Ron Thomas questioned what their bandwidth was. Mr. Lasier informed it was 150 Megs with either a 6/6 or a 12/12. Mr. Lasier further informed that tourist or festival visitors would be able to go to a landing page on their cellular phone and login to use the internet for two (2) hours free and then pay a fee if they want to keep it longer. Councilman Hoffman questioned how many people in a household could access at one time. Mr. Lasier informed the system will allow up to five (5) different devices concurrently. Councilman Lord informed he did not want the City to lose any money and asked how much would be the City's contribution. Mr. Lasier informed the City will need to contribute \$65,000.00 dollars. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough informed the Council will hold another Work Session after City Manager Ron Thomas reviews the financials from Enersphere.

The Work Session was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.