

# **CITY OF DAHLONEGA**

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES March 4, 2013**

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 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 Gary 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 Johnny Ariemma.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Mayor Gary McCullough asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Norton. 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 minutes of February 4, 2013. A motion to approve the minutes dated February 4<sup>th</sup> was made by Councilman Norton, 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 minutes of February 21, 2013. Councilman Ariemma made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Councilman Norton. 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.

### **AUDIT PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Chris Hollifield informed Council that the audit went well and a clean opinion was given that all numbers were stated correctly. He further informed that the total net assets were all funds combined and this was stated on page 26 of the CAFR. He gave an overview of the General, Water & Sewer and Solid Waste revenue and expenses for the fiscal year. A copy of the CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) of these revenues and expenses can be viewed at City Hall.

### **CITY CLERK COMMENTS:**

Mr. Phil Collins, Director of Alumni Relations for UNG informed Council he was requesting three special event alcohol license for events during Parents Alumni weekend. The licenses are for the Class of 1953 Reunion, Alumni Soccer Game and Picnic and All Greek Alumni Reception. Mayor McCullough asked City Clerk Lou Stewart if all necessary documents were submitted. Ms. Stewart replied yes, that all applications had been submitted with no issues. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to approve all three (3) special event alcohol licenses. A motion to approve all three (3) licenses was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Lord. Mayor McCullough

asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Mayor McCullough informed all departmental reports had been submitted and asked for any discussion. Councilman Ariemma informed that he would like to see prior years on the financial reports for comparison. City Manager Ron Thomas informed that he had met with Finance Director Kimberly Stafford to discuss changing the format of the financial report. He further informed he would like to present different format options at a Work Session for Council to decide which format they preferred.

Councilman Ariemma questioned that his project on North Chestatee Street was listed in the issued building permits but, did not show that he had paid for the permit. Planning Director Chris Head informed she would make the correction to show payment.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

City Manager Ron Thomas requested Council approval to extend the audit contract with Rushton and Company for an additional year. The request to extend is for additional time to prepare an RFP for FY 2013-14 and bring back to Council for approval in October. A motion to approve the request for a one year extension was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Peters. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion. Councilman Prescott stated that Rushton and Company had done a professional job for the past seven (7) years. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

**PLANNING DIRECTOR COMMENTS:**

Planning Director Chris Head informed Council that Trail Fest had requested approval to use a larger size tent at Trail Fest than originally requested on the application. Mayor McCullough asked for motion to approve. Councilman Norton made a motion to approve, 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.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Lord requested that an update be given on all items listed on the project list at the March 21<sup>st</sup> Work Session.

Councilman Lord requested that staff contact GMA to discuss business licenses tax fraud and make sure the City complies.

Councilman Prescott informed that City Clerk Lou Stewart received the Employee of the Year Award.

Councilman Prescott requested that City Clerk Lou Stewart research the cost of different notebooks, I pads and laptops for Council members to use for meetings. This will replace the paper notebooks that are used to distribute the meeting documentation. Research information will be given at the March 21<sup>st</sup> Work Session.

Councilman Ariemma informed Council of his project to expand the McGuire House located on North Chestatee Street. He further informed that Planning Director Chris Head had been very knowledgeable and helpful through the application and approval process.

At this time, Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to move into executive session to discuss potential litigation. A motion was made by Councilman Peters, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously. Council moved into executive session at 6:25 p.m.

Council adjourned the executive session and reconvened the Council meeting at 6:44 p.m. Mayor McCullough informed there was no action taken in executive session.

Mayor McCullough entertained a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:45 p.m. A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Hoffman, seconded by Councilman Peters and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2013

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

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Lou Stewart, City Clerk