

CITY OF DAHLONEGA

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 6, 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 Councilman Lord and Boy Scout Ben Gould.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Mayor Gary McCullough asked for a motion to amend the agenda to move the City Manager Comments to be first on the agenda. A motion to amend the agenda was made by Councilman Prescott, seconded by Councilman Lord. 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 amended agenda. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Lord, 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 April 1, 2013. 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.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

City Manager Ron Thomas requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$21,360.00 to fund the Mount Hope Cemetery project, which is not in the current budget. A motion to approve the budget amendment was made by Councilman Ariemma, seconded by Councilman Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for any discussion, hearing none, he asked for all in favor to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Ron Thomas requested approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$15,900.00 to fund the landscaping for the downtown square area. This amendment is to cover the purchase of the fall and spring flowers which was not included in the current budget. A motion to approve the amendment was made by Councilman Prescott, 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.

City Manager Ron Thomas informed everyone that DDA Project Coordinator Rebecca Shirley will be taking a leave of absence to complete Army Reserve Training. He further informed that this was her last day and the City wishes her well and looked forward to her return.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor McCullough informed Council that Chamber President Amy Booker had prepared and distributed a 2012 Annual Report for the Chamber of Commerce for Council review. He further informed if anyone had questions concerning the reporting to contact Ms. Booker and she would be glad to answer them.

Councilman Ariemma questioned if new financial report formats for Council review had been completed. City Manager Ron Thomas informed that the Finance Department had extra financial duties this month however; at least three (3) options to review will be submitted at the June Work Session. At this time, City Attorney Doug Parks informed the Finance Department had been required to do a considerable amount of work with the efforts of the LOST negotiations.

CITIZENS:

Mr. Toby Stroeyer thanked Mayor and Council for all their efforts. Mr. Stroeyer then asked what are the two (2) most critical financial issues that the City is facing other than LOST. Mayor McCullough responded Water and Sewer. He further responded that the City's General Fund finances were good and the City Manager was working on how to gain more revenue for the Water and Sewer fund.

2013 LUMPKIN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CLASS PROJECTS PRESENTATION:

DDA Project Coordinator Rebecca Shirley informed Council that Lumpkin Youth Leadership had held their Local Government Day class at City Hall. Ms. Shirley further informed in that class the students were divided into four (4) groups to complete a government project and they are present to present their findings.

The first group presented their topic which was "Speeding". Their ideas to help control speeding issues were adding traffic lights in the school districts, speed bumps in more heavily congested areas, stop and yield signs in residential areas, post more speed zone signs and implement higher speeding fines. They also felt more sidewalks would protect pedestrian's safety.

The second group topic was "Keeping Originality". Their ideas were to keep Dahlonega small with the same buildings and to keep traditions going, such as all the festivals. They also want to continue to keep Dahlonega clean and suggested that recycle bins be placed at each trash can, no littering signs be placed and have Adopt a Road Program.

The third group discussed our City being more "Youth Friendly". They felt more stores for young people to purchase things and more recreational parks. They also encouraged Council to find more job opportunities in order for young people to be able to stay in Dahlonega and work.

The fourth group topic was "Business Startups". The students suggested more advertising for new businesses and allow more classes to be taught at school on business and finance. Also, students would like to see the City donate funds to help businesses get started and also encourage the banks to work with them to help make new businesses successful.

Councilman Norton thanked Lumpkin County teacher Ms. Hitt for her efforts with the students. Mayor McCullough also thanked Ms. Hitt and all the students for their projects and ideas. He further informed that he was working with Commission Chairman Chris Dockery and DDA Director Joel Cordle to bring more jobs to Dahlonega.

PLANNING DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

Planning Director Chris Head informed Council that a request was made for a non-profit fundraiser with five different organizations to be able to use a larger tent than our ordinance allows. The established size is a 10x10 and they have requested the use of a larger tent for a time period of four (4) hours for one day only. Ms. Head further informed that the tent will be weighted down with water barrels or sand bags. Mayor McCullough asked for a motion of approval. Councilman Norton made a motion to approve with the condition that no stakes are used to hold the tent, seconded by Councilman Ariemma. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor to raise their hand, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS PLANNING UPDATE:

Mr. Adam Hazell with GMRC informed Council that he will be working with the City for project support on updating multiple documents to be consistent with others such as the Downtown Master Plan and the Streetscape Plan. He further informed that he will be working with Planning Director Chris Head and City Attorney Doug Parks to identify these inconsistencies and bring them up-to-date and then revisions will be brought back to Council for review. A Memorandum of Agreement will be signed for Mr. Hazell to be an extension of staff however; there will be no additional fee for this support due to being covered under the 2014 contract with the Department of Community Affairs. Councilman Ariemma questioned at what point will the public be involved? Mr. Hazell informed there will be a public hearing process in which will be advertised and give the public the opportunity to comment. Councilman Ariemma also questioned if there was a deadline date for the Comprehensive Plan to be completed. Mr. Hazell informed that he will research and email Council the answer.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor McCullough informed Council that DDA Director Joel Cordle will be applying for the Tiger 3 grant. He further informed that a memorandum had been emailed to them and a hard copy was on their desk to review. If Council has any questions, please contact Mr. Cordle for information.

Mayor McCullough informed Council that the annual Wellness Awards Break was held on May 3, 2013. He further informed that the winners were Freddie Bryan who walked 598.4 miles, Skipper Bryant who lost 49 lbs. and John Tolbert who stopped smoking after 50 years. Tee Shirts and water bottles with the wellness logo were also distributed to all employees.

Mayor McCullough reminded Council that the GMA Listening Session is on Wednesday in Dawsonville, Georgia from 11:30 to 1:30p.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Norton informed Council that the temporary parking signs for pick-up or drop-off have been well received and would like to request that another one be placed on the side of the

square where Norman Adams Insurance Agency is located. Mayor McCullough requested that since this item was not on the agenda that it be deferred to a Work Session for discussion and then be added on the following Council meeting agenda for approval.

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 and approved by all members present.

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2013.

Gary McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

Lou Stewart, City Clerk