

CITY OF DAHLONEGA

WORK SESSION MINUTES

January 16, 2014

The Dahlonega City Council held a Work Session on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at City Hall. Members present were Mitchell Ridley, Roman Gaddis, Sam Norton, Michael Clemons, Terry Peters and Bruce Hoffman. Also present were City Manager Bruce Georgia and City Attorney Doug Parks. Mayor Gary McCullough called the Work Session to order at 4:00 p.m.

CAMPING AT OLD KINDERGARTEN PROPERTY DURING TRAIL FEST:

Mr. Robert Fuller requested that camping be allowed at the old Kindergarten property that is now owned by the City. He informed that during the time the property was rented to NGC, camping was allowed during the Trail Fest weekend. Mr. Fuller further informed that the area will have security and porta john's available. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to allow camping with the conditions that the campground will be in the lower section, leaving the upper section for parking, no stakes be driven in asphalt and no alcohol permitted.

MEMORIAL WALL AT HANCOCK PARK:

Mr. Bogie Patton requested that the rock wall at Hancock Park pavilion be used to place bronze plaques called "Heartstrings". This would be a memorial for individuals who have passed that was instrumental in music and the community. Mr. Patton informed there would be no cost to the City and there will be contributions to the City for maintenance. Mayor McCullough asked if there will be written specifications for the names that would be allowed. Mr. Patton informed yes, there would be and once the committee has a narrative, he will bring the criteria to be considered by Council to another work session. Councilman Peters also informed that it would be helpful in the presentation to know how many can be placed on the wall.

REVISED PERSONNEL POLICY:

City Attorney Doug Parks informed that updates such as FMLA and EEOC had been added to the personnel policy revisions. Councilman Clemons requested a copy with all revisions highlighted before Council approval. City Attorney Doug Parks distributed copies with all revisions noted. City Manager Bruce Georgia informed this was a base line document and changes will continue to evolve. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough informed Council if they had any questions to contact the City Manager and if everyone is comfortable with the document, it will be added to the February 3rd Council Meeting agenda.

DISABILITY POLICY:

Mayor Gary McCullough informed Council of the disability policy quotes and the decision was if Council was willing to pay for this additional benefit or if the employee's should cover the cost if they wanted disability coverage. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that

the City not pay for a disability policy for all employees because the City was paying for Workers Compensation.

ORDINANCE 2014-1 FOR THE SALE OF NON-TRADITIONAL TOBACCO PARAPHERNALIA:

City Attorney Doug Parks informed that he had sent an ordinance concerning this issue because other counties are going in this direction but, will be Council decision whether they want to move in this direction or not. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough requested that Mr. Parks draft an ordinance to discuss at the February 20th Work Session.

SPEED TABLE ON NORTH HALL ROAD:

Public Works Director Ricky Stewart informed that Ms. Celeste White had submitted a petition requested by City Council in which residents had signed in agreement for a speed table to be placed on North Hall Road. Councilman Ridley asked about installing rumble strips instead of a speed table. Councilman Hoffman informed that we could not install rumble strips and stop signs are dangerous therefore; a speed table should be installed in front of Ms. White's home. Council Norton agreed that Ms. White had done what Council asked of her and felt the speed table should be installed. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough requested this item be placed on the February 3rd Council Meeting agenda for approval.

PARKING SIGNS AND LOADING ZONES IN DOWNTOWN AREA:

Councilman Clemons informed that he felt the fifteen (15) minute parking should be Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and not enforced on weekends. Councilman Norton informed that the City had placed only four (4) fifteen (15) minute signs and did not feel this was a problem however; it was agreed upon to revisit to discuss if it was working. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council for signs to be as follows: Fifteen (15) minute parking signs will be from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., seven (7) days a week. Twenty (20) minute loading zones will be from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

NEW HIRE FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT:

Public Works Director Ricky Stewart informed Council that during the budget process, it was discussed to revisit hiring a new employee for the Wastewater Treatment Plant after January. He further informed that due to the age of the plant and mechanical failures, a lot of additional work and hours have been place on the existing three employees. Councilman Peters asked if this was one of the approved positions. Mr. Stewart informed that is was not approved at that time due to unknown issue with hauling sludge. He further informed a second shift had also been implemented two months ago because of the restricted limit of flow due to being in the Chattahoochee basin therefore; overtime is being paid each week. Mayor McCullough informed that we will be receiving SPLOST in March 2014 to enlarge the plant to be more efficient. After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to give City Manager Bruce Georgia the authority to hire a new employee.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Kimberly Stafford requested approval of three (3) budget amendments that resulted in a reduction to the DDA's FY 2014 Expense Budget by \$6,909.00 dollars. Ms. Stafford also informed Council that the auditors will be meeting with the City Manager, herself and Sabrina Cape to give an overview of the audit. City Manager Bruce Georgia informed a summary of minor audit findings will be

provided to Council. Mayor Gary McCullough informed in order to receive a CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) award certain goals and standards must be met. He further informed that this was a prestigious award to receive and the City had received four (4) CAFR awards. Mayor McCullough requested that this item be placed on the February 3rd Council Meeting agenda for approval.

CODE ENFORCEMENT HOURS:

Planning Director Chris Head informed when downtown code enforcement for parking was created, the hours was discussed for that time frame to be approximately 20 hours. Staff was asked to discuss the hours of this position after January. The Code Enforcement position is now working approximately twenty-eight (28) hours a week. Ms. Head asked if this position should be cut back to twenty (20) hours during the slower time of year. Councilman Norton stated he felt the position should stay at twenty-eight (28) hours. Ms. Head informed this would require a budget amendment because only twenty (20) hours a week was budgeted. Councilman Norton informed he felt this position had brought a lot of order to the square and would also like to see some code enforcement from the position also. Councilman Ridley asked what the job description for this position was. Ms. Head informed it was created to enforce parking, loading zones, sidewalks, yellow curb, handicap.....and also to be an ambassador for information for the downtown area. City Manager Bruce Georgia informed he felt this position was working with good intent and a job description will be wrote for this position with evaluations to make the process better. Councilman Hoffman informed he felt there needs to be communication with the College and the County because they should be a part of how this position evolves.

STARTING A STREET REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT FUND:

Mayor McCullough informed with DOT changes we would not be receiving funds as before for resurfacing. We received \$49,000.00 dollars this year from LMIG for paving but, this needs to be held for a larger project. He further informed that we have restricted funds to build a new City Hall and asked for Council discussion on using a portion of these funds for paving or setting aside a certain percentage of budgets each year to put into a street resurfacing fund. Councilman Clemons questioned what level of importance is street repair compared to water/sewer and asked that Council discuss at the Council retreat to prioritize.

CITY COUNCIL RETREAT:

City Manager Bruce Georgia informed Council that the Council Retreat has been scheduled for Thursday, February 13th and Friday, February 14th. He further informed that he would like for the theme to be to identify strategic plans, goals and then build budget and guidance for that. Mr. Georgia requested Council to send their two (2) main topics to him by January 21st. Once topics have been received he will then send out the agenda for review and looks forward to this opportunity.

FACT - FULL ACCOUNTABILITY IN COLLECTION OF TAXES ACT:

Mayor McCullough informed that FACT will show the point of sale in the City and the County separately. Councilman Hoffman questioned if this would show the breakdown between each individual business. City Attorney Doug Parks informed that it will give the total for each district of Dahlonega but, not for individual businesses. Mayor McCullough asked that Mr. Parks write a Resolution in support for Council to sign and send to Kevin Tanner and Steve Gooch. Mr. Parks

informed due to legislation moving very quickly, he felt it would be better to compose a letter from the Mayor with Council support.

TROUTMAN SANDERS AGREEMENT:

Mayor McCullough informed the City had received 1.2 million dollars since 2007 by having the agreement with Troutman Sanders for a lobbyist. He further informed the City should continue the agreement for another two (2) or three (3) years and see how much money is received and discuss renewal at that time. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to renew for another year.

PECAN TREE AT THE HOLLY THEATER:

Public Works Director Ricky Stewart informed Council that Hal Williams had brought to his attention that the pecan tree in front of the Holly Theater was dying. Mr. Stewart further informed that he had called Arborist Brett Hulseley to look at the tree to defend the City's decision of cutting it down. Mr. Hulseley also wrote a letter that the tree should be taken down due to safety because of the trunk cracking. Councilman Hoffman questioned if the tree will be replaced. Mr. Stewart informed that it will be replaced with the Streetscape design. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to cut down the dying tree. Mayor McCullough informed that he will announce at the February 3rd Council Meeting that the tree must be taken down and the tree will be replanted according to the Streetscape plans.

Mayor McCullough adjourned the Work Session at 7:02 p.m.