



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## Council Meeting Minutes

August 02, 2021, 6:00 PM

Gary McCullough Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

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### PRESENT

Mayor Sam Norton  
Councilmember JoAnne Taylor  
Councilmember Mitchel Ridley  
Councilmember Roman Gaddis  
Councilmember Ron Larson  
Councilmember Johnny Ariemma  
Councilmember Joel Cordle

### CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Norton called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Mayor Norton welcomed everyone in attendance to the meeting and invited them to punch and cookies in the foyer. Mayor Norton announced this would be the last meeting for Councilmember Mitchell Ridley and JoAnne Taylor.

### PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mayor Norton led the prayer, and Councilmember Gaddis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Taylor, Seconded by Councilmember Cordle.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember Taylor, Councilmember Ridley, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Cordle.

### PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

A representative from the Summit Board of Directors requested to have a seat at the table when there are talks about Land Lots 1077 and 1078 as they are zoned PUD

A concerned citizen requested the Council to consider modifying Ordinance 2020-09 Short Term Rentals. Mayor Norton indicated he would review and respond within 7 days.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

- a. Council Work Session Budget Minutes - July 6, 2021

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Council Work Session Budget Minutes - July 6, 2021

Motion made by Councilmember Cordle, Seconded by Councilmember Ridley.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember Taylor, Councilmember Ridley, Councilmember Gaddis,  
Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Cordle

Councilmember Larson inquired to approve the meeting minutes listed as b, c, d, e, and f as one motion. Mayor Norton asked if Councilmember Larson is asking for a motion to approve all minutes as they are listed.

- b. Council Work Session Budget Minutes - July 7, 2021
- c. Council Meeting Minutes - July 6, 2021
- d. Council Work Session Meeting Minutes - July 19, 2021
- e. Council Special Called Meeting Minutes - July 19, 2021
- f. Council Public Hearing Minutes - July 19, 2021

Councilmember Larson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes listed as Council Work Session Budget Minutes - July 6, 2021, Council Meeting Minutes - July 6, 2021, Council Work Session Meeting Minutes - July 19, 2021, Council Special Called Meeting Minutes - July 19, 2021, Council Public Hearing Minutes - July 19, 2021, as one motion.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to accept all minutes documented as b-f on the Agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Cordle.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember Taylor, Councilmember Ridley, Councilmember Gaddis,  
Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Cordle

#### APPOINTMENT/RECOGNITION

Mayor Norton extended recognition to Councilmember JoAnne Taylor and Councilmember Mitchell Ridley for their time in service to the Council, as Mayor ProTempre and the City of Dahlenega. Mayor Norton thanked them for their loyal and dedicated service through the years. We got a lot accomplished and thank you for your willingness to serve. It has been an honor and privilege to serve with you all.

#### ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION:

1. Ordinances to allow and provide regulations for tasting events (B/C), to allow licensees to open original retail containers of alcoholic beverages on the licensed premises for tasting events, to allow licensees to offer alcoholic beverages for less than \$1.00 at tasting events, and to allow for the delivery of alcoholic beverages by a package goods retailer within the City, Doug Parks, City Attorney
  - Ordinance 2021-02 allows and provides regulations for tasting events on the premises of Class B or C licensees.
  - Ordinance 2021-03 allows licensees to open original retail containers of alcoholic beverages on the licensed premises for the purpose of tasting events.
  - Ordinance 2021-04 allows licensees to offer alcoholic beverages for less than \$1.00 during tasting events.
  - Ordinance 2021-05 is marking Section 4-32 of Chapter 4, Article II, as "Reserved."
  - Ordinance 2021-06 allows for the delivery of alcoholic beverages by a package goods retailer a/k/a retail package stores within the City of Dahlenega.

Mayor Norton clarified these topics were discussed at length at the Work Session on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Changes and requirements in the Ordinances are mainly required due to changes at the State level.

Mayor Norton called for a Motion to accept the Ordinances as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Cordle.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember Taylor, Councilmember Ridley, Councilmember Gaddis,  
Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Cordle

2. Ordinance 2021-10: Zoning Map Amendment Peacock Partnership – Morrison Moore (Parcel No. D12-036), Doug Parks, City Attorney

This Ordinance is derived from the recommendations of the Planning Commission and the Public Hearing with 1 change, requirement 5 has been deleted. Otherwise, it is as presented in the packet. Councilmember Ridley thanked the developers for taking suggestions from their neighbors.

Mayor Norton asked for a Motion to accept as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Ridley, Seconded by Councilmember Cordle.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember Taylor, Councilmember Ridley, Councilmember Gaddis,  
Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Cordle

#### ANNOUNCEMENT/CITY REPORTS:

3. Financial Report - June 2021, Allison Martin, Finance Director

Director Martin presented the highlights indicating the Sales Tax Income was 23% higher than last year as a result of the Internet Sales Bill that passed.

Hotel Motel is 18% greater than pre-pandemic levels. Water/Sewer is 4.7% greater than last FY year. Solid Waste is stable. Stormwater- meets budget.

Council discussed with Director Martin the possibility to opt-out of paper billing and an update to the Utility Bills to change the terminology garbage to reflect garbage and recycling.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

#### COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk had no comments

City Attorney had no comments

Mayor Norton informed attendees that Council will be in quorum in Savannah at a conference and no official City business will transpire

City Manager Schmid commented that the Downtown Development Authority/Main St meets August 5th, and there should be an announcement this week for the new Planning Zoning Manager.

Councilmember Cordle added the DDA/Main St. Survey had launched and had a tremendous response. The survey closed yesterday and will help going forward. The Survey for business owners is available and as soon as it closes it will give additional information to DDA/Main St.

Councilmember Ariemma discussed a local Cemetery upkeep which was clarified as private.

Councilmember Gaddis extended to Councilmember Taylor that it was wonderful to serve with her and he wished best of luck to her. He commented to Councilmember Ridley that it has been a long 8 years, and since Mitchell is not running, he will.

Councilmember Ridley thanked everybody that has come to the meetings and put their input in. He insisted the city does listen. We really do care. We've had a great Mayor. I've been able to serve for 8 years, and it's been really special. We've all had some issues. It's been tough. Some said we tore main street up. Our sales are up, our room tax is up. People didn't understand in 1970 the college kids designed what you saw and put clapboard over the brick and mortar. People think that's what Dahlongega was but was that drawn by the college students at UGA. What's in Dahlongega is in your heart and soul.

Councilmember Larson stated he has served with Mitchell 5- 5.5 years, and I have looked up to him for his leadership and his history and leadership. We are very blessed here; we respect each other and get things done in the best interest of our citizens.

Councilmember Taylor stated this is a bittersweet moment I thoroughly enjoy and value serving our community as Councilmember. I have learned a tremendous amount. I am looking forward to continuing to serve our community. I am passionately about preserving the sense of place in Dahlongega even though we are facing a lot of growth. I look forward to serving all that are left. Thank you for letting me serve you in this capacity.

Councilmember Ridley added- Nov 2nd check yes for Mitchell Ridley

Mayor Norton reminded the community there are empty seats on the Council- we look forward to seeing what our citizens bring forward. I would like to broadcast there are always a need for members for our Committees and Authorities. There is an application on our website. They are open and available for anybody to apply for. From the constituents come leadership. Qualifying is 17th, 18th, and 19th

Councilmember Ridley commended two citizens who have stepped up to run for City Council - Ross Shirley, and Ryan Reagin.

Councilmember Larson advised the community to remember the qualifying has been adjusted to 3 days from 5 days. It's very important people understand that if you are interested in a position there are only 3 days to put in application to run for these positions.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Norton called for a motion to adjourn, Motion by Councilmember Taylor, second by Councilmember Ridley.

Motion made by Councilmember Taylor, Seconded by Councilmember Ridley.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Taylor, Councilmember Ridley, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Cordle

Adjourned at 6:42 pm