



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 01, 2020 4:00 PM

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for Council meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at least 24 hours before the meeting at 706-864-6133.

<p>PRESENT – Zoom          Mayor Sam Norton          Council Member Roman Gaddis          Council Member Mitchell Ridley          Council Member Ron Larson          Council Member JoAnne Taylor          Council Member Helen Hardman          Council Member Johnny Ariemma</p>	<p>PRESENT – Zoom          City Manager Bill Schmid          City Clerk Mary Csukas          Director Melody Marlowe          Director Kevin Herrit          Director Mark Buchanan          Marshal Jeff Branyon</p>	<p>Present – Zoom          City Attorney Doug Parks          Director Shannon Ferguson          DDA Program Assistant Cari McDuffie          Tourism Director Sam McDuffie          Chamber President Robb Nichols</p>
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Mayor Norton called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm via a Zoom Meeting Platform

Mayor Norton informed Council that our goal is public safety; this is the first and foremost obligation to the constituents in the City of Dahlonega.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Ordinance 2020-18 Amendment One

- Amendment to Ordinance 2020-18 to allow establishments with a consumption on-premise license to sell beer and wine in the original sealed container with a food purchase.
- The sunset date is April 9, 2020, with an opportunity to review this Ordinance at the April 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting or extended further.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-18 Amendment One.

*Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Gaddis.*

*Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma.*

### 2. Tourism Funding

- Mayor Norton asked for a continuation of tourism funding at \$20,000 a month to allow for stability to staff. The funding would be reviewed in three-months.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to continue tourism funding for three months.

*Motion made by Council Member Hardman, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.*

- Council Member Gaddis questioned the goal of this funding.
- Mayor Norton stated that Tourism Director McDuffie had communicated his spending plan of only bare essential during this pandemic.

*Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma.*

3. Ordinance 2020-21 Curfew 9:00 p.m. - 5:00 a.m.
  - The Curfew Ordinance requires all individuals to stay home during the curfew hours of 9:00 pm until 5:00 am unless someone is participating in an essential business or service. This Ordinance, while challenging to enforce, is a tool to deter individuals from visiting our community.
  - The passing of Ordinance 2020-20- Stay at Home requires self-curfew.
  
4. Ordinance 2020-22 Essential - Non-Essential Business & Services
  - Ordinance 2020-22 allows essential business & services to operate during this pandemic, while non-essential business & service remain closed.
  - The passing of Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home renders Ordinance 2020-22 Essential – Non-Essential Services obsolete; elements of the Essential – Non-Essential Services are embedded in the Stay at Home Ordinance.
  
5. Amend Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home
  - Mayor Norton informed Council that the Stay at Home Ordinance requires individuals to shelter in place unless someone is participating in an essential business or service.
  - Mayor Norton supports Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home with a 14-day sunset date. He reminds Council that a motion to support this Ordinance would make Ordinance 2020-21 and Ordinance 2020-21 obsolete in terms of a discussion.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home for discussion.

*Motion made by Council Member Gaddis, Seconded by Council Member Larson.*

Mayor Norton asked for views on Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home.

- Mayor Norton informed Council that the Ordinance 2020-22 is redundant with the passage of Ordinance 2020-20.
- Mayor Norton asked for a discussion of a 14-day sunset rule.
- Council Member Taylor asked that short-term lodging be set aside for essential workers only, and Mayor Norton stated that would require an amendment to the Ordinance.
- Council Member Ridley asked for local road restrictions with a shelter at home community signage at the entrance of the City of Dahlonega. This signage would not restrict essential business & services.
- Council Member Ariemma supports Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home.

City Attorney Parks informed the Mayor and Council that Governor Kemp had just signed a shelter in place order that will be in effect statewide on Friday, April 3, 2020. Mayor Norton stated that the Governor's order would exempt our actions at this meeting, so this Council's action could be more restrictive than this in his order.

Mayor Norton discussed a possible variance for the daycare centers in Ordinance 2020-20; only eight participants, parent pick up in the lobby with essential cleaning and medical attention throughout the day. A daycare center is essential to first responders.

- Council Member Ariemma, Larson, Hardman, and Gaddis are in support of closing daycares.
- Council Member Taylor and Council Member Ridley support a daycare exemption for first responders.
- Council Member Gaddis called a point of order; the current motion requires the closing of daycares.
- Mayor Norton stated that most of the Council agreed that daycares would stand as stated in Ordinance 2020-20.

Mayor Norton discussed a possible variance for hair salons in Ordinance 2020-20: restriction of ten persons, essential cleaning, and medical attention throughout the day.

- Council Members Taylor, Hardman, Ariemma, Gaddis, Hardman, Ridley, and Larson support Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home as it stands for Hair Salons.

Mayor Norton discussed a possible variance for a gymnasium and work out center in Ordinance 2020-20; A 10-person limit, medically graded cleaning of equipment, the 25-minute limit for each person, each participant, and staff member wear gloves, and no group participation or cardiovascular equipment usage.

- Council Member Ariemma, Larson, Hardman, Gaddis, Ridley, and Taylor support Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home as it stands for gymnasium and works out centers.

Mayor Norton discussed a possible variance for a Hotel, Airbnb, and a Bed and Breakfast in Ordinance 2020-20; first responders only and more restrictive than the Governor's Order.

- Council Member Taylor and Hardman is asking for a possible variance to allow out of county first responders lodging in our community.
- Ms. Stephanie Furnas believes accommodation should be available for out of town persons visiting family members in medical facilities.

*Council Member Gaddis amended his motion for Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home to be more restrictive with lodging to allow lodging for essential business travel only in our community and seconded by Council Member Larson.*

Mayor Norton informed Council that a final call for a vote on this amended motion would hold until other possible variances to Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home was discussed.

Mayor Norton discussed placing golf courses as essential business in Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home with a 14-day sunset; one person per cart restriction, medical-grade disinfection, and residents of Lumpkin County only.

- Council Member Hardman and Larson support golf as an outdoor activity and essential.
- Council Member Gaddis called a point of order; the current motion shows a golf course as non-essential.
- Council Member Ariemma, Gaddis, Ridley, Taylor do not support golf as an essential business.
- Chris Dockery informed Council that Yahoola Creek Park would remain closed with the City of Dahlonega Shelter in Place order.
- Citizen's remarks were as follows: Opposed to a golf course moving from non-essential to essential business, supports golf courses as an essential business, and Participants in golf activities should shelter in place in Achasta.
- Mayor Norton stated that Council stand at two support and four opposed; Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home stands a stated for golf courses.

6. City Manager Schmid requested the density standard for Ordinance 2020-20.
- o Mayor Norton informed Council that the Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home would have a required density standard of 300 square feet.

*Council Member Gaddis amended his motion for Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home to require a density standard of 300 square feet and seconded by Council Member Larson.*

Mayor Norton called a final vote on Ordinance 2020-20 Stay at Home.  
*Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma*

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Norton called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 pm. Motion made by Council Member Gaddis.  
*Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma*

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Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sam Norton, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Mary Csukas, City Clerk