



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## Council Work Session - Meeting Summary

February 17, 2025, 4:00 PM  
Gary McCullough Council Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

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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 prior to the meeting at 706-864-6133.

Vision - Dahlonega will be the most welcoming, thriving, and inspiring community in North Georgia

Mission Statement - Dahlonega, a City of Excellence, will provide quality services through ethical leadership and fiscal stability, in full partnership with the people who choose to live, work, and visit. Through this commitment, we respect and uphold our rural Appalachian setting to honor our thriving community of historical significance, academic excellence, and military renown.

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### OPEN MEETING

**Mayor Taylor called the Work Session to order at 4:01 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Ariemma, Brown, Gaddis, Reagin, and Shirley; Councilman Bagley was absent.**

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**The Council voted 5-0-1 (Councilmembers Ariemma, Brown, Gaddis, Reagin, and Shirley in favor; Councilman Bagley absent) to approve the Agenda as presented.**

### BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

1. Tourism Report - Q4 2024

Sam McDuffie, Executive Director

**Sam McDuffie, Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Visitors Bureau Executive Director, addressed and provided a presentation to the Council.**

**No Council action was taken.**

**Mayor Taylor acknowledged and thanked County Commissioner Dr. Bobby Mayfield for his attendance at the Work Session.**

2. Cemetery Committee - January 2025

Mark Buchanan, City Engineer

**Mark Buchanan, City Engineer, addressed the Council; an image of the broken Lawrence Monument was displayed.**

**No Council action was taken.**

3. Downtown Development Authority/Main Street Program - January 2025

Ariel Alexander, DDA Director

**Ariel Alexander, Downtown Development Authority Director, addressed the Council.**

**No Council action was taken.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AVAILABLE AT: <https://dahlonega.gov/category/department-reports/>

**The Council held discussions regarding Items 4. and 7. under Department Reports (*Community Development Report - January 2025 and Public Works - January 2025*). Mark Buchanan, City Engineer, responded to the Council's questions.**

4. Community Development Report - January 2025  
Allison Martin, City Manager
5. Finance and Administration Department - January 2025  
Kimberly Stafford, Finance Manager
6. Police Department - January 2025  
George Albert, Chief of Police
7. Public Works - January 2025  
Mark Buchanan, City Engineer
8. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report - January 2025  
John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director

**No Council action was taken.**

**APPOINTMENT, PROCLAMATION, AND RECOGNITION:**

**Mayor Taylor read aloud Items 9., 10., 11., 13., 14., and 15. under Appointment, Proclamation, and Recognition. Then, the Mayor read aloud Item 12. (*Appointment of Ethan Norton to the Planning Commission*).**

**The Mayor stated that a Special Called Meeting would occur immediately following the Work Session for ratification of all reappointments (Items 9., 10., 11., 13., 14., and 15.), and the vote for appointment would be deferred to the next Regular Meeting of the Council (Item 12.).**

9. Reappointment of Janet Barger to the Historic Preservation Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
10. Reappointment of Jim Bergen to the Historic Preservation Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
11. Reappointment of Ivana Pelnar-Zaiko to the Historic Preservation Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
12. Appointment of Ethan Norton to the Planning Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
13. Reappointment of Robert Conaway to the Planning Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
14. Reappointment of Michael Feagin to the Planning Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
15. Reappointment of James Spivey to the Planning Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

**No Council action was taken.**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**None**

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:**

**Doug Parks, City Attorney, addressed the Council and stated that a proposed Deannexation will soon be coming before the Council for consideration.**

**No Council action was taken.**

**AGREEMENTS & CONTRACTS:**

16. RFQ 2025-003 Annual Asphalt/Leveling  
Vince Hunsinger, Projects Manager

**Vince Hunsinger, Projects Manager, addressed the Council.**

**Without exception, the Council agreed to place this Item under the next Consent Agenda (March 3). No formal Council action was taken.**

**OTHER ITEMS:**

17. Equipment Purchase Kubota M4D-071 Utility Cab  
Troy Armstrong, Streets/Cemetery/Parks Supervisor

**Troy Armstrong, Streets/Cemetery/Parks Supervisor, addressed the Council.**

**Without exception, the Council agreed to place this Item under the next Consent Agenda (March 3). No formal Council action was taken.**

18. Reservoir Management Plan Update 2025  
Allison Martin, City Manager  
Strategic Priority - Infrastructure

**Mayor Taylor addressed the Council.**

**No Council action was taken.**

19. Morrison Moore Pedestrian Bridge and Sidewalk Construction Engineering and  
Inspection Vendor Selection  
Mark Buchanan, City Engineer

**Mark Buchanan, City Engineer, addressed the Council.**

**No Council action was taken.**

20. Cyber Security Plan Update  
Allison Martin, City Manager  
Strategic Priority - Infrastructure

**Mayor Taylor addressed the Council and a discussion was held. It was determined that, depending on the detail of this Item's presentation, this Item may be better suited for an Executive Session rather than presentation during an Open Meeting.**

**Without exception, the Council agreed to wait until the City Manager returns to work prior to placing this Item on an Executive Session Agenda. No formal Council action was taken.**

21. Change to Open Container Footprint for the Bear on the Square Mountain Festival  
Doug Parks, City Attorney / Sarah Waters, Assistant City Clerk

**Doug Parks, City Attorney, addressed the Council.**

**No Council action was taken.**

**COMMENTS - PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES**

Clerk Comments

**None**

City Manager Comments

**Mayor Taylor requested that everyone keep Allison Martin, City Manager, and her family in their thoughts and prayers.**

City Attorney Comments

**Doug Parks, City Attorney, requested that the Council closely view the proposed Deannexation Package that will be forthcoming in the near future.**

City Council Comments

**Councilman Shirley announced that there was a great participation in the Wimpy Mile, and he thanked everyone on Councilman's Bagley behalf for supporting this event; he announced the fastest recorded time was four minutes and eight seconds.**

Mayor Comments

**None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The Council voted 5-0-1 (Councilmembers Ariemma, Brown, Gaddis, Reagin, and Shirley in favor; Councilman Bagley absent) to adjourn the Work Session at 4:47 p.m.**

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Guideline Principles - The City of Dahlonega will be an open, honest, and responsive city that balances preservation and growth and delivers quality services fairly and equitably by being good stewards of its resources. To ensure the vibrancy of our community, Dahlonega commits to Transparency and Honesty, Dedication and Responsibility, Preservation and Sustainability, Safety and Welfare ...for ALL!

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