



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Meeting Minutes

April 05, 2021 6:00 PM

Gary McCullough Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

PRESENT:

Mayor Sam Norton

Council Member Joel Cordle

Council Member JoAnne Taylor

Council Member Mitchell Ridley

Council Member Ron Larson

Council Member Johnny Ariemma

ABSENT:

Council Member Roman Gaddis

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Norton called the Council Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

City Manager Schmid led the Prayer, and Council Member Ridley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the agenda, with the proclamation for Lumpkin County High School moved to the next meeting.

Motion made by Council Member Taylor, Seconded by Council Member Ridley.

Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle

PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

- Tyler Barnes, the owner of Accent Cellars, advocates a change of the existing alcohol ordinance to allow consumption on-premises at his winery.
- Mr. and Mrs. Schermerhorn discussed the donation of a parcel of a 35-acre property near or adjacent to the Yahoola Creek Park, with the idea of bike trails, walking paths, and small cabins on a campsite in the remaining land. In exchange, the City would supply water and sewer to total land lots.
 - ❖ Mayor Norton reiterated that Dahlonega's Master Plan commits the City to increase walking paths and bike trails, and this idea is in keeping with the Council's commitment to this objective.
 - ❖ Mayor, Council, and Staff discussed ideas surrounding water and sewer to this site which may require annexation of the property into the City of Dahlonega.:
 - ❖ Mayor Norton requested Staff to discuss this project with the Schermerhorn's and continue to recommend the Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

- a. Public Hearing Meeting Minutes - February 15, 2021
- b. Work Session Meeting Minutes - February 15, 2021
- c. Council Meeting Minutes - March 1, 2021

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes, February 15, 2021, Work Session Minutes, February 15, 2021, and the Council Meeting Minutes, March 1, 2021.

Motion made by Council Member Taylor, Seconded by Council Member Cordle.
Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle

APPOINTMENT/RECOGNITION

1. Joint Proclamation - Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Joint Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Ridley.
Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle

2. Joint Proclamation - Lumpkin County High School One Act Play Team

Mayor Norton tabled the Joint Proclamation for Lumpkin High School One Act Play Team until the Work Session on April 19, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENT/CITY REPORTS:

3. Financial Reports - February 2021, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Financial Reports as written.

Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Taylor

- Mayor and Council discussed water and sewer revenues down in the past five years due to water-saving measures at homes and businesses.
- City Attorney Parks will produce the requested report of law enforcement revenues by agencies.

Mayor called all those in favor of this motion.

Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Solid Waste Exemption Requests, January-March 2021, Bill Schmid, City Manager

- City Manager Schmid outlined the request by Mr. Mike Miller, who operates three businesses in one location, each paying for solid waste. The proposal is to allow one solid waste bill for the location as a whole.
- City Manager Schmid stated as outlined in the current Solid Waste Ordinance moves for denial of this requested exemption.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to discuss solid waste exemptions requests.

Motion made by Council Member Ridley, Seconded by Council Member Larson

- The Mayor and Council discussed Solid Waste requirements to establish multiple businesses charged by the Occupancy Tax license. Mayor Norton requested Staff to bring this topic to a work session for an open dialogue.

Mayor called for all those in favor to deny the solid waste exemption request.

Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Cordle

Opposed: Council Member Ariemma,

2. 147 North Park Street Update, Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

- City Manager Schmid presents two proposals for redeveloping this property at the work session on April 19, 2021.
- We accepted bids for the demolition of the school building on this property this past Friday, April 2, 2021. This data was not available for insertion in the agenda packet for today, but an irregularity of one bid keeps this process in motion. So, at this time staff is not ready to award this bid.
- City Manager Schmid asked Council approval to allow Staff to move forward with the demolition of the kindergarten building at 147 North Park Street with the agreement that the accepted bid is at or under the budget of \$130,000.

Council Member Larson called for a motion to allow Staff to move forward with demolition with bids at or under \$130,000, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.

Mayor Norton stated a motion and second are on the table to authorize Staff to accept bids for the school property's demolition if the bids are at or under budget.

- City Manager Schmid stated the bid in question arrived after the close of the bid process.
- Council questioned the \$130,000 budget amount. City Manager Schmid reminded Council that the original bid process last year produced a \$60,000 bid, which is not achievable at this time, but possibly in the range of \$100,000.

Mayor called for all those in favor or opposed of this motion.

Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle

3. Oliver Drive Storm Drain Project, Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

- Staff requests reallocation from stormwater funds to the Capital Project Oliver Drive Storm Drain of \$137,500.

Motion made by Council Member Taylor, Seconded by Council Member Larson.

Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle

4. Park Street Utilities Funding, Mark Buchanan, PE, Public Works Director and City Engineer

- At this time, the Staff is seeking funding for initial engineering, permitting, and consultant fees, expected to be less than \$60,000; \$40,000 from the Water and Sewer Line Replacement budgets; and \$20,000 from the Stormwater Funds.

- Council, Mayor, and Staff discussed the ability of the City to refund the Stormwater fund of \$20,000 if stormwater is not the focus. Staff direction is reviewing the budget for the \$20,000 outside out of the Stormwater Funds.

Mayor Norton directed Staff to bring this topic for discussion at the next work session.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Part-Time Assistant City Clerk, Bill Schmid, City Manager

- City Manager Schmid requests funds for a part-time assistant city clerk for the balance of FY2021 and a continuation in FY2022. Currently, the City Clerks' additional responsibilities are under Human Resources and the Main Street Program.

Motion made by Council Member Larson to amend the 2021 Budget to reflect an additional authorized expense of \$12,000 to fund a part-time assistant city clerk, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.

Mayor called for all those in favor or opposed of this motion.

Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle

2. Yahoola Creek Reservoir Management Plan, John Jarrard, Director of Water/Wastewater Treatment

- Director Jarrard requests the updated Reservoir Plan (RMP) to allow specific recreational use in and around the Yahoola Creek Reservoir. This Plan incorporates environmental testing and safety measures to ensure that the planned activities will not hamper the water treatment facility's ability to treat the water for human consumption according to EPD Regulations and ensure safe recreational use.
- Council, Mayor, and Staff discussed the approved Plan of a swim beach at the Reservoir and the legal requirements for water safety. Under the State's Drinking Water Regulations, a reservoir used as part of a community's water source must have an approved Reservoir Management Plan

Motion made by Council Member Taylor, Seconded by Council Member Ridley.

Mayor called for all those in favor or opposed of this motion.

Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments - No comments

City Manager Comments - No comments

City Attorney Comments - Commendation to all assisted with the Reservoir Management Plan

City Council Comments -

Council Member Ariemma thanked the City Clerk for all her efforts and agrees she is very deserving of an assistant city clerk.

Council Member Ridley informed Council of a citizen's praise of All Abilities Kayak Launch; it is the greatest thing he had ever seen. Council Member Ridley is proud of the excellent Staff throughout the City, and he expects great things in the future.

Council Member Larson gave kudos to the water department staff for their excellent handling of the recent flood of the Chestatee river during the worst storm in twenty-five years and its impact on our water system.

Council Member Taylor also praised the water and sewer department for their investment and planning to survive such a flood.

Council Member Taylor reminded the Council of the upcoming nominations for GMA regional election for District 2.

Council Member Taylor is part of the GMA committee for youth and children to assist local agencies in providing services during these unprecedented times. This GMA committee will be surveying High School upper-level students with two testing sites, one in Dahlongega and East Point, to produce a road map for local agencies and partners to understand the student's concerns. The survey will be open until the school year ends. If a student is having a challenging time and participates in the survey, website information is available at the end of the surveys to assist with their issue.

Please inform any interested person that the survey is available to assists students with transportation, food, clothing, and hygiene.

Council Member Larson informed Council that Council Member Taylor would be moving from First Vice President to President of District 2 at GMA.

Mayor Norton highlighted the achievement of Council Member Taylor as President of District 2 and her ability to bring positive exposure to Dahlongega.

Mayor Norton reminded everyone of the upcoming Dahlongega Downtown Business Authority Zoom Meeting in the morning and the low COVID numbers in our area.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Norton called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Council Member Taylor motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Norton adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2021.

_____ Sam Norton, Mayor

Attest: _____ Mary Csukas, City Clerk