



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Work Session Minutes

January 21, 2025, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

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.

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor called the Work Session to order at 4:11 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was a motion by Councilmember Gaddis and a second by Councilmember Brown to adopt the Agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD & COMMITTEES

1. Cemetery Committee - December 2024
Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer

There were no questions regarding the Cemetery Committee Report.

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

2. Community Development Report - December 2024
Allison Martin, City Manager

There were no questions regarding the Community Development Report.

3. Finance and Administration Department - December 2024
Kimberly Stafford, Finance Manager

There were no questions regarding the Finance and Administration Department Report.

4. Police Department - December 2024
George Albert, Chief of Police

There were questions from Councilmembers regarding where accidents are occurring as well as increases in reported code violations.

Allison Martin, City Manager, addressed the questions regarding accidents and their specific places by stating that the Police Department has the capability of obtaining data points from 911 in addition to reviewing the State's accident reporting system.

Chief George Albert stated the code violations are on a rising trend due to the Department of Code Compliance being more aggressive with addressing violations to better clean up the community.

5. Public Works - December 2024
Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer

There were no questions regarding the Public Works Report.

6. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report - December 2024
John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director

There was a question regarding the upcoming water audit and what the auditing process entails.

John Jarrard, Jarrard Water Services (JWS), stated that various departments will be involved as it is a very detailed report. Mr. Jarrard confirmed that the report will be available on March 1, 2025.

APPOINTMENT, PROCLAMATION & RECOGNITION: (Vote at Council Meeting)

None

PRESENTATION

None

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

7. Ordinance 2025-02 Amendment to Adopt the National Electrical Code 2023 Edition
Doug Parks, City Attorney

Mayor Taylor introduced this Item by sharing that the proposed amendment is coming from the State level.

Doug Parks, City Attorney, addressed the Council and reiterated the Mayor's introduction of the Item. Mr. Parks confirmed that the amendment is a general modification of the document's date, which will be incorporated in the City's Code of Ordinances, in lieu of 2020.

Without exception, the Council agreed to place this Item under the next Consent Agenda. No formal action of the Council was taken.

[Clerk's note: this Item will appear under the Consent Agenda on February 3, 2025.]

AGREEMENTS & CONTRACTS:

None

OTHER ITEMS:

8. Upgrades to Council Chamber Technology Systems
Allison Martin, City Manager

Allison Martin, City Manager, addressed the Council and stated that, based upon previous recommendation, a consultant was hired to observe and prepare a quote regarding technology upgrades to the Council Chambers.

Manager Martin confirmed that the quote was separated into what is considered as essential and what can be addressed in the future. She stated that portions of the system are at the end of life, and hosting a teleconference with the current system is not an option.

The Council held a discussion to include questions regarding funding of upgrades, addition of monitors at Councilmembers' stations, audio equipment and upgrades for the gallery and Councilmembers (earpieces and microphones), live streaming of meetings, and monitors for the gallery.

Manager Martin clarified that the recommendations provided in the quote are the framework for a Request For Proposal (RFP) and that upgrades can be considered and implemented on a phase-by-phase basis. She informed the Council that today's presentation was for informational purposes only and the intent was to provide notification that funding requests for upgrades will be included in the proposed 2026 Budget.

No Council action was taken.

9. Reservoir Management Plan Revision
Allison Martin, City Manager

Allison Martin, City Manager, addressed the Council and confirmed that the EPD did not approve the submitted Reservoir Management Plan Revision. Manager Martin advised that, while swimming is not allowed in the Reservoir, events that do not necessitate full water testing can still be offered; this will allow flexibility with the park land.

The Council held a discussion. Manager Martin and John Jarrard, Jarrard Water Services (JWS), advised that EPD requires testing when waters are heavily concentrated with swimmers, testing is not required when people are quickly in and out of the water during events.

Manager Martin stated that a draft will be completed and resubmitted to the EPD for review once feedback is obtained by the Council. Manager Martin requested that comments for the draft be sent to her within the next two weeks.

No Council action was taken.

10. Discussion of a 2nd Liquor Store
Allison Martin, City Manager

Allison Martin, City Manager, addressed the Council and stated that today's presentation is in response to three of the multiple tasks that came from the Council's Mini-Retreat. Manager Martin recommended that the Council continue with inventory requirements as wholesale rather than resale.

The Council held a discussion and, without exception, agreed to place this Item on the Agenda of the upcoming Retreat (date to be determined).

Doug Parks, City Attorney, addressed the Council and confirmed that the State mandates a distance requirement between two liquor stores - the positioning of the first store determines placement of the second.

No formal action of the Council was taken.

COMMENTS - PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments

There were no Comments from the City Clerk.

City Manager Comments

There were no comments from the City Manager.

City Attorney Comments

There were no comments from the City Attorney.

City Council Comments

Council member Reagin apologized for his tardiness to the Public Hearing that was previously held.

Council member Ariemma stated that he was looking forward to attending the 2025 GMA Cities United Summit.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor announced that she along with all members of the Council, Allison Martin, and Rhonda Hansard will be in Atlanta beginning Thursday evening through the weekend attending the 2025 GMA Cities United Summit.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a motion by Councilmember Bagley and a second by Councilmember Reagin to adjourn the Work Session.

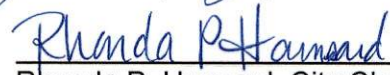
Motion carried unanimously, and the Work Session was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Guideline Principles - The City of Dahlenega 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, Dahlenega commits to Transparency and Honesty, Dedication and Responsibility, Preservation and Sustainability, Safety and Welfare ... for ALL!

Approved this 3rd day of February, 2025.



JoAnne Taylor, Mayor



Rhonda P. Hansard, City Clerk