



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## Council Work Session Minutes

August 16, 2021 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

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### PRESENT

Mayor Sam Norton  
Councilmember JoAnne Taylor  
Councilmember Roman Gaddis  
Councilmember Johnny Ariemma  
Councilmember Joel Cordle

### ABSENT

Councilmember Ron Larson

### OPEN MEETING

Mayor Norton opened the Work Session at 4:21 pm

### BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

1. Cemetery Committee—July 2021, Chris Worick, Committee Chairman (Jane Miller presenting)
  - Councilmember Cordle- express appreciate to the committee for researching and trying to reach out to the families trying to gain knowledge of family members in unmarked graves.
2. Main Street/DDA – July 2021, Ariel Alexander, Main Street/DDA Staff
  - Wayfinding signs were discussed for updating and as a great investment.
  - Business Survey responses are open through the 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Announcement of the DDA/Main Street Director Position is imminent.

### TOURISM: Sam McDuffie, Tourism Director

Tourism Report - July 2021, Sam McDuffie, Director of Tourism

- Dahlonega Plateau won #6 in best wine and go on Southern Living and vote for South's best mountain town.
- There have been 91,000 visitors at the end of July.
- Heart of the Georgia Mountains is a new catch phrase representing the heart shape of Lumpkin County.
- Discussion of group rates at the hotels and utilizing the 50-person conference room
- Achasta has approved golf play at reduced rate for visitors coming from the hotels.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Finance and Administration Department – July 2021, Allison Martin, Finance Director
  - Director Martin in process audit to capture additional revenue from Windstream backpay for franchise fees. Revenues are less since the change to Kinetic.

2. Public Works—July 2021, Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer
  - City manager Bill Schmid presenting submitted report for Director Buchanan
3. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report July 2021, John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director
  - Loss of 1/4 million gallons of water in the most recent water main breaks. There are pockets of air still being monitored. Water is safe. It is common to have breaks with extreme heat and cold.
  - Council commended the bottled water distributed to the community and the door-to-door notification. Requested street names on the next map distributed for this type of event.

#### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Appointment - DDA / Main Street Program Board, Sam Norton, Mayor
  - AC Moore appointment to DDA/Main St and swearing in completed in the Special Called Meeting.
2. Authorization for Additional ARPA Application, Bill Schmid, City Manager
  - The application for additional ARPA funding was completed in the Special Called Meeting.
3. FY2021 Third Quarter Budget Amendment, Allison Martin, Finance Director
  - No changes to the submitted document. The budget is an evolving document.
4. Resolution Requesting Sales Tax Information from The Georgia Department of Revenue, Allison Martin, Finance Director
  - Allows the sales tax to be sent to the state. This is part of the change due to change of Directors.
5. Banking Services Contract Renewal 2021 - United Community Bank, Allison Martin, Finance Director
  - Bank was unable to renew with a fixed rate. Recommend renewing at the variable rate with 90 days drop
6. 2021 Tax Digest and Millage Rate, Allison Martin, Finance Director
  - Completed in Special Called Meeting

#### COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments – Election Qualifying is week August 17,18 and 19, 2021. All documents are set up out front and we have a tag on the website to remind people.

City Manager introduced Jameson Kinley who starts with us on the 30th

City Attorney Comments - nothing this evening

City Council Comments – Councilmember Taylor had no comments

Mayor Norton thanked Councilmember Taylor's attendance to allow a quorum. He indicated she and Councilmember Ridley had submitted their resignation and Joanne adjusted hers to support the City Council.

Councilmember Cordle thanked A.C. Moore for serving on the DDA/Main Street Board and let him know of a training opportunity on Friday.

Mayor Norton thanked those that do qualify in upcoming election. The city doesn't run itself and the city needs good people. He asked people to be mindful of COVID, as virus is back with a vengeance. More people are dying who get COVID without the vaccine than with the vaccine.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Norton called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:50 pm