



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## Council Meeting Minutes

February 06, 2023, 6:00 PM

Gary McCullough 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 - To be an open, honest, and responsive city, balancing preservation, and growth, and delivering quality services fairly and equitably by being good stewards of Dahlonega's resources.

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### CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Taylor welcomed everyone who came to the City Council Meeting.

Mayor Taylor called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

### PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor  
Councilmember Ron Larson  
Councilmember Roman Gaddis  
Councilmember Johnny Ariemma  
Councilmember Ryan Reagin  
Councilmember Ross Shirley  
Councilmember Lance Bagley

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

### PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mayor Taylor asked Councilmember Gaddis to lead the Prayer, and Ms. Harleigh Mullis and Hayleigh Woodruff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Mayor Taylor called for Public Comments.

No comments were made.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

- a. City Council Meeting Minutes - January 3, 2023  
Mary Csukas, City Clerk
- b. City Council Work Session Minutes - January 17, 2023  
Mary Csukas, City Clerk

- c. City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes - January 17, 2023  
Mary Csukas, City Clerk

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve January 3, 2023, City Council Meeting Minutes, January 17, 2023, City Council Work Session Minutes, and January 17, 2023, City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

## APPOINTMENT/RECOGNITION

- 1. Employee of the Year Nominations

Allison Martin, City Manager

Mayor Taylor recognized Mr. Garrett Harris for his hard work and dedication to the City of Dahlongega. In addition to his leadership and mentoring of younger employees, Mr. Harris goes above and beyond his job task. He was recommended for nomination as the City of Dahlongega's Employee of the Year. He has been presented with a certificate of recognition from the City of Dahlongega for Outstanding Achievement in serving the citizens of Dahlongega.

Mayor Taylor recognized Ms. Miki Mullis's dedication to the Community Development Department and the City Police Department. Ms. Mullis spent much time and effort to bring the Occupational Tax Program and the Police Department Records into compliance. She was recommended for nomination as the City of Dahlongega's Employee of the Year. She has been presented with a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Dahlongega for Outstanding Achievement in serving the citizens of Dahlongega.

Mayor Taylor recognized Ms. Brittany Lee for all her hard work and dedication to the City of Dahlongega. Everyone who works for the city relies on Brittany day out to handle purchasing needs. Brittany's job touches every department, and her dedication makes each department feel like she is a part of their team. She was nominated by a group of her peers and chosen by the selection committee to be the City of Dahlongega's 2022 Employee of the Year.

Mayor Taylor recognized Ms. Mary Csukas for all her hard work and dedication to the City of Dahlongega. She oversees keeping track of each piece of paper entering City Hall. Recently, Mary was bouncing between her original title as City Clerk and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Director. While the DDA Director, she spent her time mentoring two of her employees, in which she recommended both for their new job titles. She has been presented with a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Dahlongega for Outstanding Achievement in serving the citizens of Dahlongega.

- 2. Applications for appointment to the DDA

Ariel Alexander, DDA Director

Mayor Taylor informed Council that the Downtown Dahlongega Authority has two

available seats on the Board, and a third seat would be open in June. We will discuss the three candidates who applied for the Downtown Development Authority Board seats tonight. The three candidates are all qualified to serve

A discussion was had by City Council Members on which applicants they should appoint for the DDA Board.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to appoint Ms. Deb Roe and Mr. Autrey Moore for the immediate vacancies and for the third candidate to be voted on in June.

Motion made by Councilmember Shirley, Seconded by Councilmember Reagin.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

#### ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION:

No information was discussed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT/CITY REPORTS:

##### 3. Finance Report December 2022

Allison Martin, City Manager

City Manager Martin discussed financial reports for December 2022.

The tax commissioner mailed annual property tax bills on October 1, 2022, with a December 1, 2022, due date. 94.7% of the budgeted taxes have been collected as of the sent-out date. City Manager Martin stated that this is one of the most effective collection rates they have seen in a long time.

Sales tax receipts are still strong and 12.6% higher than in FY 2022. The insurance premium tax generated just over \$545,000 in annual revenue tax, causing a 24% increase.

Alcohol Beverage Tax and License Revenue have exceeded the prior year, and all renewals are complete.

Private Revenues are more remarkable than last year's collections, and department expenditures align with budget expectations.

Downtown Development Authority is stable.

Hotel/Motel Tax Fund FY 2023 is 0.78% more than FY 2022 and 67.32% higher than pre-pandemic collections.

Water Sales and Sewer Charges are 12.16% more than the previous year and 10.58% greater than pre-pandemic numbers.

Solid Waste funds refuse collection charges are 1.7% less than the prior year.

Stormwater charges are meeting budget expectations.

After City Manager Martin presented Financial Reports, a discussion was had on the percentages between city councilmembers.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

No information was discussed.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

##### 4. Enota Street, Allison Martin, City Manager

City Manager Martin states the City received several complaints from property and business owners along Enota Street when turning in a specific direction. She requests that the City Council explore options in reconstructing Enota Street or if the road should remain unchanged.

Mayor Taylor opened the item to be discussed by City Council Members.

City Council Members discussed the options that could be done along Enota Street.

#### COMMENTS –

Mayor Taylor requested Council comments before moving into the Executive Session.

#### Clerk Comments

City Clerk Csukas reminded the council of the Utility Retreat on Friday, February 10, 2023, and Saturday, February 11, 2023, at Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa in Young Harris, Georgia. No strategic planning will take place.

#### City Manager Comments

City Manager Martin states that the council passed an ordinance for cross-connection and backflow in October 2022. The first round of letters has been sent to businesses listed in this ordinance. EBD will be here July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> to conduct this interior survey and view our actions regarding that ordinance.

#### City Attorney Comments

No comments were made.

#### City Council Comments

Councilmember Shirley stated that the DDA Retreat had a lot of positive outcomes and thanked the DDA for inviting him.

Councilmember Ariemma attended the GMRC Meeting in Gainesville, and the building he visited was astonishing.

Councilmember Gaddis states that employee recognition has not been done in a long time, so he was glad to see it happen.

Councilmember Larson agreed with Councilmember Shirley and believed the DDA had a positive outcome.

A discussion was had on the different guidelines and provisions in the other boards and commissions.

Councilmember Reagin noticed all the hard work on the new retaining wall at Madeline and Anthony Park.

Councilmember Bagley is looking forward to attending the retreat Friday, February 10, 2023, and Saturday, February 11, 2023.

#### Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor thanked Mary for her leadership and dedication to mentoring employees. She congratulated Ariel Alexander and Skyler Alexander on their new job titles.

5. Executive Session - Litigation

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to move into the Executive Session at 6:50 P.M.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Ariemma.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

Mayor Taylor resumed the council meeting at 7:18 P.M.

No Action was taken at the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 7:20 P.M.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley