CITY OF DAHLONEGA
Council Meeting Minutes
September 08, 2020 6:00 PM
Gary McCullough Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT
Mayor Norton Council Member Mitchell Ridley Council Member Ron Larson Council Member JoAnne Taylor Council Member Helen Hardman Council Member Johnny Ariemma Council Member Roman Gaddis	City Clerk Mary Csukas Director Melody Marlowe City Manager Bill Schmid Director Mark Buchanan	City Attorney Doug Parks President Robb Nichols Tourism Director Sam McDuffie Chairman Chris Worwick

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME
Mayor Norton called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG
City Manager Schmid led the Prayer, and Council Member Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the agenda as written.
Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

- The Staff took responsibility for the lack of diligence in garbage pick-up in downtown on Labor Day weekend.
- The Laurel Heights condominiums are rentals to college students; this was not the property's proposed intent.
- Mayor Norton stated property owners control the use of a property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

a. Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve as written, Public Hearing Short Term Rentals Minutes - August 3, 2020
Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Taylor
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

b. Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve as written, Council Meeting Minutes - August 3, 2020
Motion made by Council Member Taylor, Seconded by Council Member Larson
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

c. Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve as written Public Hearing Budget Minutes - August 17, 2020
Motion made by Council Member Gaddis, Seconded by Council Member Ariemma
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

d. Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve as written, Public Hearing Zoning Minutes - August 17, 2020
Motion made by Council Member Gaddis, Seconded by Council Member Ridley
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

e. Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve as written, Work Session Meeting Minutes - August 17, 2020
Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Gaddis
   - Council Member Ariemma asked the minutes to reflect comments concerning the Mask Ordinance discussion: a mask curfew of 11:00 p.m. and a time limit on the longevity an adult and child wear a mask.

   Mayor Norton called for a motion to accept the minutes as written with the notations to the Work Session Meeting Minutes – August 17, 2020.
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

f. Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve as written, Special Called Meeting Minutes - August 17, 2020.
Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Ariemma
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

RECOGNITION

7. Proclamation - 2020 Constitution Week

   Mayor Norton read the City/County Proclamation - 2020 Constitution Week designated for September 14-23, 2020.

8. Proclamation in Honor of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

   Mayor Norton read the City/County Proclamation – 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment that allows women to vote.

9. Proclamation - Official 2020 City of Dahlonega/ Lumpkin County Collectors Ornament

   2020 Christmas Ornament

   Council Member Ariemma read the City/County Proclamation – Official Collectors Ornament.

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION:

10. Stormwater Ordinance 2020-25 & Dahlonega Credit Manual, Mark Buchanan, Public Works
    - The Public Works Department will review all credit memo discrepancies and update them on a case-by-case basis. No one is exempt from stormwater fees.
    - As requested, the City Clerk will ensure the Stormwater Open House's zoom recording will be posted on the City website.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Stormwater Ordinance 2020-25 & Dahlonega Credit Manual.
Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Taylor
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

11. Resolution 2020-13: Resolution to adopt the Stormwater Utility User Fee Rate, Doug Parks, City Attorney
    - City Attorney Parks informed us that the simple fee is $1.50 per unit per month.

    Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Resolution 2020-13: Resolution to adopt the Stormwater Utility User Fee Rate.
    Motion made by Council Member Ariemma, Seconded by Council Member Taylor
    Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

12. Ordinance 2020-33: 2020 Tax Digest and Millage Rate, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director
    - Ordinance 2020-33 requests the use of the County assessments for Tax Year 2020, allows the County Tax Commissioner to bill for City properties, and set the millage rate; the millage rate is set at 5.776, which is a .008% of a point rollback reduction.
    - The City of Dahlonega can establish a millage reduction and roll back in the middle of a pandemic.

    Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-33: 2020 Tax Digest and Millage Rate.
    Motion made by Council Member Ridley, Seconded by Council Member Taylor
    Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

13. Resolution 2020-14: FY2021 Budget and 5-Year Capital Improvements Program, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director
    Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Resolution 2020-14: FY2021 Budget and 5-Year Capital Improvements.
    Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.
    Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

OLD BUSINESS:

14. Intergovernmental Service Agreement – Downtown Development Authority, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director
    - Director Marlowe informed Council the intergovernmental service agreement between the City of Dahlonega and the Downtown Development Authority is to fund their FY2021 Budget at $285,434, with $255,057 sourced by the General Fund.

    Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the intergovernmental Service Agreement between the City of Dahlonega and the Downtown Development Authority.
    Motion made by Council Member Taylor, Seconded by Council Member Larson
    Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

15. Reallocation of Budget for New Development Standards Manual, Mark Buchanan, City Engineer

    - Public Works requested to reallocate water sewer funds in the FY2020 Budget to the New Standards Manual.
    - Council Member Ariemma asked for a do not enter sign at Wimpy Mill Park entrance during construction.

    Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the reallocation of the Budget for New Development Standards Manuel.
    Motion made by Council Member Taylor, Seconded by Council Member Larson
    Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

NEW BUSINESS:

16. Alcoholic Beverage License Application – Hickory Prime BBQ LLC, Mary Csukas, City Clerk

    - Ms. Csukas recommended the renewal of the Alcoholic Beverage License for Hickory Prime BBQ, LLC

    Mayor Norton called approval of the Alcoholic Beverage License Application – Hickory Prime BBQ LLC.
    Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Ariemma
    Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

17. Dahlonega Walking Tours & More LLC

    - Dahlonega Walking Tours is requesting extended hours for tours in Mt Hope Cemetery. Currently, the Cemetery Ordinance will not allow persons in Mt Hope Cemetery after sunset.
    - Webcam at Mt. Hope Cemetery shows tour groups and other persons currently walk in Mt Hope Cemetery past the Ordinance's time limits.
    - A letter from Ms. Reese, who has members interned in Mt. Hope Cemetery, was read by Mayor Norton. This family is opposed to tours in the cemetery.
    - Council discussed, at length, the pros, and cons of operating walking tours in Mt. Hope Cemetery after hours.

    Mayor Norton asked for approval or denial of this extended hours request.
    Motion made by Council Member Larson to deny the request, Seconded by Council Member Gaddis.

    - City records show Dahlonega Walking Tours did not apply for a 2019 Tour Permit.
    - Council discussed the pros and cons of the commercial value of Mt. Hope Cemetery.

    Voting denial: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.
    Voting Yea: None

18. Financial Reports - June 2020, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director

- Water and sales tax reviews are better than expected in the COVID Budget.
- The Budget reflects five years of projected sales for the upcoming Columbarium.
- The COVID-19 Budget is conservative.

Mayor Norton called for approval of the Financial Reports.
Motion made by Council Member Taylor, Seconded by Council Member Larson.
Voting Yea: Mayor Norton, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma

19. UCBI Banking Services Contract Renewal, Kimberly Stafford, Assistant Finance Director

- Banking service interest rates were not negotiable; currently, the City of Dahlonega has a .10% courtesy rate.
- The City of Dahlonega sent out an RFP for banking service contracts, and the City awarded the contract to United Community Bank.

Mayor Norton called for approval of the UCBI Banking Service Contract Renewal.
Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Gaddis
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments - No comments

City Manager Comments –

- On October 1, 2020, the Finance Department will mail the Solid Waste Rate letters to accounts.
- A letter of denial was sent to the applicant requesting a Halloween Event in Hancock Park on Halloween night.

City Attorney Comments – No comments

City Council Comments:

- Council Member Ariemma praised the Music in the Park event this past weekend but noticed an abundance of garbage in Hancock Park.
- Council Member Gaddis praised the collection of sales taxes.
- Council Member Ridley asked Staff to update Ordinance 91-9 to correct conflicting verbiage in Municode.
- Final approval of the Gold Rush event will be decided on September 11, 2020.
- The City Clerk was thanked for her diligence in creating our meeting minutes.

Mayor Comments - Please remember we are still in the COVID-19 Pandemic. We need to respect each other in these trying times and follow safety precautions outlined by the City; wear a mask, wash, and sanitize your hands and practice social distancing.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Norton adjourned the Meeting at 7:15 p.m.