



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## Amended Council Meeting Minutes

April 04, 2022, 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.

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### PRESENT

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

### ABSENT

Councilmember Roman Gaddis

### CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone noting special guests Della Lago, Executive Director of CASA, and Robb Nichols, President of Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce.

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

Mayor Taylor asked Councilmember Larson to lead the Prayer and Councilmember Bagley to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor announced amendments to the Agenda. She requested item #5, Fourth Quarter Budget Amendment, to be removed and added to Old Business item #12, Morrison Moore Pedestrian Bridge & Sidewalk Supplemental Agreement for Preliminary Engineering.

Mayor Taylor asked if there was a motion.

Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma for approval based on the announced changes, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Larson chose to abstain based on the late notice of the changes.

### PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Della Lago spoke on behalf of CASA, the Department of Family and Children Services, South Enota CAC, and the Lumpkin County Family Connections and thanked Council for the support in the work that they do. She shared that her agency serves abused and neglected children and sees sad things, but the rewarding part is when we get to change the story. Thank you for your continued support and for recognizing the work done by the volunteers in this community.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- a. City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes February 17, 2022  
Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk
- b. City Council Meeting Minutes March 7, 2022  
Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk
- c. Council Work Session Minutes, March 21, 2022  
Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Taylor requested a motion of approval for the meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson for all minutes to be approved as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

Councilmember Ariemma noted a grammar issue in the Council Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2022.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

#### APPOINTMENT/RECOGNITION

Mayor Taylor announced the fun part of the meeting with Joint Proclamations with the Lumpkin County.

1. Joint Proclamation by Lumpkin County and the City of Dahlonega - Child Abuse Prevention Month, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

Mayor Taylor read and signed the Proclamation.

Mayor Taylor and Council posed for a group photo holding blue and silver pinwheels supporting Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Mayor Taylor spoke of her experience as a mentor in the school system and the needs of children who suffer and stated there are good programs available and an ongoing need for mentors and mental health professionals.

2. Joint Proclamation by Lumpkin County and The City of Dahlonega -Lumpkin County High School - Lady Indians Basketball Team AAA Girls State Champions, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

Mayor Taylor announced the Lady Indians Basketball Team AAA Girls State Champions, followed by loud applause. She went on to say the joint Proclamation will be delivered on April 15 at the Assembly at the High School after the parade. She read the joint Proclamation with Lumpkin County. All coaches and team members will receive the Proclamation.

Mayor Taylor and Councilmembers took a group photo with the Proclamation.

Mayor Taylor commented that it was exciting to have a State Championship and an Academic Championship win.

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION:

3. Resolution 2022-07 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, David Wimpy, Director/Fire Chief  
Mayor Taylor asked for a motion regarding Resolution 2022-07 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

Councilmember Larson motioned to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update by Resolution. Seconded by Councilmember Bagley

Councilmember Bagley commented on such a thorough document and the partnership between the entities to bring it together.

Mayor Taylor added that one of the things the city does with our partners is a simulation of a type of disaster, and when they discover there are issues, they then take immediate steps to remediate those. This document is in place and qualifies us for assistance from the Federal Government. It is an ongoing process.

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

4. Resolution 2022-06 Amendment of Personnel Management System Policies  
Allison Martin, Finance Director

Mayor Taylor announced the item and asked for a motion regarding the Resolution 2022-06 Amendment of Personnel Management Systems Policies.

Motion made by Councilmember Shirley to adopt Resolution 2022-06 approving the Amendment of Dahunega's Personnel Management System Policies. Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

5. Resolution 2022-02 FY2021 Fourth Quarter Budget Amendment, Allison Martin, Finance Director

This item was removed as part of the Amended Agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENT/CITY REPORTS:

6. Financial Report - February 2022, Allison Martin, Finance Director  
Director Martin highlighted features of her report.

Mayor Taylor asked for a motion to accept the Financial Report.

Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma, Seconded by Councilmember Reagin.

Councilmember Bagley commented on an article he read in the AJC where the City of Atlanta shows only 3% of those should pay the tax, do. Director Martin indicated that the change to the online booking law captures that revenue for Dahunega. Councilmember Ariemma and Director Martin discussed the revenues, enterprise funds, and remaining expenditures. Director Martin reiterated that the staff is very mindful of the expenses.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

7. ServLine Leak Protection for Utility Customers, Allison Martin, Finance Director

Mayor Taylor announced there was a conference call with ServLine Leak Protection to discuss additional questions and concerns, and the need for follow-up pamphlets for review by councilmembers. Mayor Taylor requested moving this topic to a future work session.

Director Martin asked to inform her when the council was ready for the topic for review at a future work session. She would follow up with the organization for the items requested.

8. Request to increase the allocation of funds for pay adjustments for employees.

Bill Schmid, City Manager

Mayor Taylor announced the request from City Manager Schmid to allocate funds for pay adjustments for employees. City Manager Schmid presented updated information regarding the consumer price index and explained there was no adjustment last year. He noted we had three unfilled positions and an increase in the pay scale would avoid compression later. Mayor Taylor called for a motion.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson to increase the allocation in the budget by 4% to 7% to cover the cost-of-living adjustments for City Employees. Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

Mayor Taylor thanked Council as this means a lot to our hard-working staff members.

City Manager Schmid thanked Council on behalf of the staff.

9. Barlow Lift Station Rehabilitation Project

John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director

Mayor Taylor asked Director Jarrard to speak on this item. Director Jarrard announced this topic is presented as a first-time item to Council due to time constraints and a lack of other funding, and he requests the Council to accept the bid offered for the project. Only one company, W L Griffin Company, LLC, sent in a bid proposal and Turnipseed Engineering recommends awarding the contract of \$872,897.92; this is part of a Capital Project.

Director Jarrard apologized for the lack of standard protocol with something as costly as this project. Due to the cost of this expensive generator, he also requests funds from ARPA to cover any extra charges. He explained that we have been taking precautions, but it is an old station in dire need; it is the generator on Barlow Road by the College Softball Fields. City Manager Schmid added that this is mission critical.

Councilmember Bagley made a motion to approve W.L. Griffin Company, LLC as a contractor and approved the transfer of \$320,000 from the ARPA Investment Fund to this project. Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

Mayor Taylor called for additional discussion.

Councilmember Shirley asked about the increase in the cost. Director Jarrard stated the increase was due to the cost of a pump that has doubled in price and the labor cost as people are not working; this is part of a 5-year plan that replaces all the items and piping.

Councilmember Larson asked about the timeframe, and Director Jarrad stated there is a 270-day timeframe except for the generator, which is 13 months out. Councilmember Larson confirmed with staff that the project would use ARPA funds.

After a detailed discussion with Director Jarrard and City Manager Schmid, Councilmember Ariemma stated he was more in favor. Councilmember Ariemma said his motion was to suspend until he had an opportunity for questions before spending one million dollars. He wants to see it before making a vote for approval.

Councilmember Larson responded by asking Council to trust the staff and their knowledge and hoped the council would vote in favor.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Ariemma

#### 10. 2022-007 Storm Drain Repair - Mechanicsville Road

Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Mayor Taylor introduced the Storm Drain Repair on Mechanicsville Road and asked Manager Hunsinger to approach for questions.

After questions were discussed Mayor Taylor called for a motion regarding the 2022-07 Storm Water Repair project.

Councilmember Larson made a motion for the lowest bid of \$141,000 that was submitted by Townley Construction and is recommended for the Council to approve Townley Construction as the contractor for this project. Upon discussion, he restated the motion to approve Townley Construction as the contractor for 2022-007 Storm Drain Repair – Mechanicsville Road. Motion to transfer funds from the Storm Water Projects TBD budget in the amount of \$25,000 for this project and this project contingency. Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

#### 11. 2022-009 Parking Lot Overlay for City Hall

Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Mayor Taylor requested a motion.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin to assign the lowest bidder as the contractor to the asphalt leveling and resurfacing project Parking lot around City Hall, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

Manager Hunsinger reminded the Council of the need for extra funds for this project. The Budgeted amount was \$45,000, and the accepted bid was \$53,350. The additional \$8350 is from the Facilities and Properties Budget. The initial lowest bidder was disqualified for not meeting bid package requirements.

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

#### 12. Morrison Moore Pedestrian Bridge & Sidewalk Supplemental Agreement

Mark Buchanan, City Engineer

Mayor Taylor reminded the Council of the presentation on this topic at our last Work Session, where Director Buchanan walked us through changing the bridge design from one section to three sections. Mayor Taylor called for a motion regarding the Morrison Moore Pedestrian Bridge & Sidewalk Supplemental Agreement.

Motion made by Councilmember Shirley, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

Councilmember Bagley asked for clarification on the purpose of this request. City Manager Schmid apologized for the need to amend the Agenda and clarified this authorization increases \$32,000 for only bridge design. The changes to the design will bring a lower cost for the bridge, with GDOT assuming the bulk of the costs.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Larson

Councilmember Larson voted nay. He asked Councilmembers to stay firm on the requirements to receive items on time.

Councilmember Bagley added that it was important for Council to understand the added costs in these approvals. He appreciated the counsel of Councilmember Larson.

Mayor Taylor noted the rise in the cost of doing business in this global environment is causing stress on the city budgets. She also appreciates the council comments and staff learning and using the Municode system.

NEW BUSINESS: no new business

#### COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk Csukas reminded the Council of the Mayor and Council Retreat at Glisson Camp and Retreat on Friday and Saturday, April 8, and April 9, 2022.

City Manager Schmid commended Arial Alexander, Vince Hunsinger, and Mark Buchanan, who put together a respectable application for a Congressionally directed spending grant. The proposed project is for \$2.6 Million to connect Wimpy Mill Park and the swim beach. It will be an ADA-accessible boardwalk along the water's edge if approved.

The City Attorney had no additional comments this evening.

Councilmember Shirley commended those involved with the project on Morrison Moore Parkway for the planning and spending a little more on the planning and saving several hundred thousand on the bridge's construction. It is going to be an excellent addition to the Reservoir.

Councilmember Ariemma encouraged all the newly elected councilmembers to attend their training.

Councilmember Larson asked for clarification on the sidewalk from the Convocation Center to Moe's, commending that it has progressed amazingly well, and inquired if it was a City-paid project. City Manager Schmid responded it was joint with the University, with each side paying half of the cost. Manager Hunsinger estimated the completion of the project within the next two weeks. He also invited people out to see the Enota Street project which is almost complete; this road previously had many flooding problems.

Councilmember Reagin stated how proud he was of the Lumpkin County Lady Indians, job well done.

Councilmember Bagley also added a job well done (for the Lumpkin County Girls Basketball), and he said he could not be prouder of the LCHS. Sadly, we must have organizations such as CASA

to support child abuse prevention, but how fortunate we are as a city to have such great non-profits doing so.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and called for a motion to adjourn at 6:57 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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