



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Work Session Minutes

August 21, 2023, 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 - 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.

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor called the Work Session to order on August 21, 2023, at 4:22 P.M.

Mayor Taylor remembered Allen "Buck McCallister" and asked everyone to pray for his family.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

BOARD & COMMITTEES

1. Cemetery Committee—July 2023, Chris Worick, Chair, Dahlonega Cemetery Committee

Mayor Taylor recognized the Cemetery Committee and said they are doing great.

2. Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority/Main Street – July 2023, Ariel Alexander, Downtown Development Director

Director Alexander had no further comments on the department report.

3. Tourism Quarterly Report Sam McDuffie, Director of Tourism

Councilmember Shirley believes more advertising is needed for our bike mountain trails and Iron Mountain.

Councilmember Ariemma stated advertising more than the Atlanta market would bring a large pool of people to Dahlonega.

Councilmember Larson commented on the billboard advertising and how much he liked the design.

Councilmember Bagley asked if there is a place specifically advertising events in the City.

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

APPOINTMENT, PROCLAMATION & RECOGNITION: (Vote at Council Meeting) - None

PRESENTATION – None

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

4. Change to Open Container Footprint for Dahlonega Trail Fest

Doug Parks, City Attorney, Ariel Alexander, DDA Director

City Attorney Parks proposed to suspend the enforcement of open containers in a specific area at the Dahlonega Trail Fest event so that festivalgoers may carry their alcoholic beverages from Hancock Park to the auction and live music tent across the street.

Councilmember Bagley commented on the footprint of the festival.

Councilmember Ariemma asked about the plan for the displaced accessible parking spots. Director Alexander informed the Council that additional parking spots were planned for Handicapped during the festival.

CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS- None

OTHER ITEMS:

5. Strategic Priorities Plan, Allison Martin, City Manager
City Manager Martin reviewed the Strategic Priorities Plan with the Mayor and Council.
Councilmember Ariemma complements City Manager Martin and the staff on the plan. He asks for a better understanding of the population.
Councilmember Gaddis asked for future agendas and packets to reference past agendas and packets.
Mayor Taylor commented on the specific action items. She is proud of the work the staff has done.
6. Consent Agenda Policy, Allison Martin, City Manager
City Manager Martin reviewed the Consent Agenda Policy with the Mayor and Council.
Councilmember Larson asked for some examples.
Councilmember Gaddis says that he entirely agrees with consent agendas.
Councilmember Shirley comments on how this will help out.
Councilmember Ariemma inquired into some aspects of the consent agenda.
7. Councilmember Reports from the GMA Annual Convention, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
Mayor Taylor asked all the Councilmembers to share their best moments from the recent GMA Annual Convention in Savannah, GA.
Mayor JoAnne Taylor's best moment was talking to people giving grants and opportunities in the City.
Councilmember Larson said that building relationships was very beneficial.
Councilmember Gaddis did not attend.
Councilmember Ariemma said he enjoyed polling the members to see what they were doing and getting ideas. He also said he enjoyed touring the Savannah Port with his class members.
Councilmember Reagin said he enjoyed meeting and learning with other Councilmembers and building relationships.
Councilmember Shirley enjoyed meeting people and stated how unique the City of Dahlonoga is and how lucky he feels to be a part of it.
Councilmember Bagley said he enjoyed meeting and learning from other City Councilmembers. He also stated that the taxation breakout session was great for listening to and learning about.
8. Storm drainage easement, Doug Parks, City Attorney
City Attorney Parks introduced the Strom Drainage Easement.
City Engineer Buchanan reviewed this new development and the plan with the council and Mayor. He also states that East Main and N. Grove will be shut down nightly.
9. Herr Services at Achasta, LLC, Mary Csukas, City Clerk & Doug Parks, City Attorney
Ms. Csukas informed the Council that the alcoholic beverage application was complete with no issues.

Councilmember Bagley asks if Achasta already serves beer and wine. Ms. Csukas informed the Council that the current license is under the Achasta Corporation.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments -No comments.

City Manager Martin informed the Council that Mr. Jammie Ricketts will be the new Wastewater Treatment Plant supervisor. She goes on to remind everyone about the listening session at the library concerning the development on 147 N Park Street and the schedule for East Main.

City Council Comments

Councilmember Larson had no comment.

Councilmember Gaddis congratulated Mr. Ricketts on the new job.

Councilmember Ariemma had no comment.

Councilmember Reagin had no comment.

Councilmember Shirley had no comment.

Councilmember Bagley had no comment.

City Attorney - No comments.

Mayor Taylor will be out of town, and the Major Protemp will be Councilmember Gaddis.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 5:01 P.M.