



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Meeting Minutes

February 03, 2020 6:00 PM

<p>PRESENT Mayor Sam Norton Council Member Roman Gaddis Council Member Mitchell Ridley Council Member Ron Larson Council Member JoAnne Taylor Council Member Helen Hardman Council Member Johnny Ariemma</p>	<p>PRESENT City Manager Bill Schmid Director Melody Marlowe Director Mark Buchanan</p>	<p>Present City Attorney Doug Parks</p>
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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

Council Member Hardman led the Prayer and Council Member Ariemma 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 Taylor, Seconded by Council Member Larson.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma

PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES - No Public Comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the two Work Session Minutes as written: Work Session Minutes - November 21, 2019; Work Session Minutes - December 19, 2019

Motion made by Council Member Gaddis, Seconded by Mayor Norton.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson.

Voting Abstaining: Council Member Ariemma-not in attendance in 2019

RECOGNITION

- 1 Arbor Day Proclamation 2020 – Sam Norton, Mayor

City Manager Schmid informed Council that the donated Christmas Tree will be planted at City Hall. The City has plans to replace the dead trees on Park Street with dogwood trees

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Arbor Day Proclamation 2020 on February 24th

Motion made by Council Member Gaddis, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma

- 2 Tony Owens – Appointment to Downtown Development Authority Board – Sam Norton, Mayor
Mayor Sam Norton called for a vote to appoint Tony Owens to the Downtown Development Authority Board.

Motion made by Council Member Ridley, Seconded by Council Member Gaddis.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma

Mayor Norton administered the Oath of Office to Tony Owens.

- 3 Patricia Turner – Appointment as Voting Member of the Cemetery Committee, Chris Worick – Chairman Cemetery Committee – Not in attendance

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION:

- 1 Hotel-Motel Tax Ordinance Revision – Melody Marlowe, Director

Director Marlowe informed Council the Hotel-Motel Tax Ordinance now includes a provision to clarify how the interest is calculated on delinquent taxes.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Hotel-Motel Tax Ordinance Revision

Motion made by Council Member Hardman, Seconded by Council Member Larson.

Director Marlowe informed Council that if a mistake is made on a tax return at any time in past years, the merchant will be responsible for the interest that has incurred.

Council Member Ariemma asked if any leeway is given with the amount of the interest.

Director Marlowe informed Council that the compounded interest provision is required by state law and that Staff tracks delinquent and unfiled reports and makes attempts to collect the tax in a timely manner.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Voting Abstaining: Council Member Ariemma

- 2 FY2019 Budget Amendment – Melody Marlowe, Director

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the FY2019 Budget Amendment

Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Taylor

Director Marlowe informed Council Member Ariemma that \$35,000 was spent on equipment at one event but this equipment is available for further use in the future.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Voting Abstaining: Council Member Ariemma

- 3 Amendment of Personnel Management System Policies – Melody Marlowe, Director

Director Marlowe informed Council this amendment is to reflect the changes to employment policy for healthcare cost percentages paid by the City and Employee.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Amendment of Personnel Management Systems Policies.

Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Taylor

- Council Member Ariemma stated that employee benefit are exceptional.
- Council Member Taylor stated the overall package is superior to the many private sector policies and allows for loyalty and retention of staff.
- Mayor Norton stated the benefit helps to offset lower pay.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma

- 4 Amendment of Flexible Benefits Plan – Melody Marlowe, Director
Mayor Norton informed Council that the Benefit pays medical costs at pretax dollars
Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Amendment of Flexible Benefits Plan, Resolution 2020-09
Motion made by Council Member Taylor, Seconded by Council Member Larson.
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma

OLD BUSINESS:

- 5 Ford F-550 Service Truck with Telescopic Crane – Mark Buchanan, Director
Director Buchanan informed Council that the bid from Nichols Fleet Equipment Co. was accepted in the amount of \$127,769. The budgeted amount is \$135,000, the remaining dollars will be used for reflective lights.
Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the bid for the Ford F-550 Service Truck with Telescopic Crane
Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma

NEW BUSINESS:

- 6 2020 Meeting Dates Public Notice - Mary Csukas, City Clerk
Mayor Norton informed Council that the City Clerk is requesting a change of date for the February Work Session from February 20th to the 18th, as the Council, Mayor and City Manager will be at the Council Retreat on the same day.
City Manager Schmid informed Council that the requested date change for the February Work Session was noted on the 2020 Meeting List that includes Council Meetings, Work Sessions, Downtown Development Authority, Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission.
Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve changing the February Work Session to February 18, 2020
Motion made by Council Member Hardman, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma
Mayor Norton requested a discussion at the next Work Session concerning Work Sessions moving to Monday nights.
- 7 Financial Reports (December 2019) - Melody Marlowe, Finance Director
Director Marlowe informed Council that there is a decrease in the TAVT. Council Member Larson thanked the finance department for the improvements to the report.
Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the December 2019 Financial Reports.
Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Ariemma.
Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma

COMMENTS:

City Manager Schmid noted:

- Council Retreat will take place February 21 and 22nd.
- Parking Meters are installed and activated, code enforcement will issue warnings this week and citations next week.

Council Members:

- Ariemma - Interesting to watch the Senate race and its possible effects on our community.
- Hardman - Unemployment is at 2.5% which is very low.
- Gaddis - Emailed Gooch & Tanner to oppose HB 302 Senate Bill 172 - this takes away local control and takes away all building codes standards. We need to encourage all citizens to communicate concerns. Mayor Norton asked that the Resolution for the House Bill be reviewed again.
- Ridley - The town is looking very good.
- Larson - Good training session in Atlanta last week, to learn more about our jobs.
- Taylor - Represent last year’s Resolution on SB 172 and HB 302 in the next work session. Council Member Ariemma inquired into Historic Districts in these Bills and the response was it was proposed as an exception to last year’s draft of the Bill.

Mayor Norton stated that local control is important, and it is the will of the citizens and we will follow their lead. Mayor Norton asked that the Chamber Membership be displayed in the City Hall Foyer and thanked the Chamber for hosting the State of City & County. There were 100 people in attendance and 6000 views on Facebook.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Ridley motion to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2020.

_____ Sam Norton, Mayor

Attest: _____ Melody Marlowe, Finance Director