



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA Council Meeting Minutes

June 06, 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.

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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## PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor

Councilmember Ron Larson

Councilmember Roman Gaddis

Councilmember Johnny Ariemma

Councilmember Ryan Reagin

Councilmember Ross Shirley

Councilmember Lance Bagley

## CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

## PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Council Member Larson led the prayer.

Council Member Bagley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for approval of the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Shirley, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

No public comments.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

Mayor Taylor asked for a motion to approve all minutes and listed them by title.

- a. City Council Meeting Minutes, May 2, 2022  
Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk
- b. City Council Work Session Minutes, May 16, 2022  
Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk

- c. City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes, May 16, 2022

Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

#### APPOINTMENT/RECOGNITION

1. Appointment to the Cemetery Committee Non-voting Quataunda Armstrong, Mark Buchanan, PW Director

Mayor Taylor invited Quataunda Armstrong to the front. She asked for a vote from Council for the appointment.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

Ms. Armstrong read the oath of office. Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Armstrong for volunteering and everything she does for the community. Mayor Taylor added that she felt Ms. Armstrong would be an excellent asset to the Cemetery Committee. Council and Ms. Armstrong had a photo op.

2. Appointment Interim City Manager,

JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

Mayor Taylor introduced Bill Lewis to the Council and audience.

Mr. Lewis had previously done four terms as City Manager for the City of Dahlonega, twelve years as a city manager, and two terms as an interim city manager. He had also been the City Manager of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, Assistant City Manager in Gainesville for five years, the City Manager for Toccoa for eight years, and the City Manager of St Mary's, GA, for a couple of years. We are very fortunate that he has agreed to unretire and serve the city as an Interim City Manager.

Mayor Taylor asked for a motion to appoint Bill Lewis and authorization of the Mayor to enter into a short-term employment contract on terms consistent with the City's agreement with the prior Manager.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

Councilmembers commented on their appreciation for having him back.

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

Mr. Bill Lewis took the Oath of Office and Council, and Mr. Lewis had a photo op.

The Interim City Manager was at the table with City Attorney Parks.

Mayor Taylor thanked Interim Manager Lewis.

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION: No new ordinance or resolution

## ANNOUNCEMENT/CITY REPORTS:

### 3. Financial Report - April 2022

Allison Martin, Finance Director

Director Martin gave an overview of her report and indicated that numbers look phenomenal now.

Mayor Taylor asked for a motion to accept the report.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Ariemma.

Council and Director Martin additionally discussed specifics in the line items, additions to reporting, delinquent property tax bills, and budgeting. They credited part of the success in the current financials to the previous Mayor and Financial Director's guidance.

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

### 4. FY2021 Annual Audit Presentation - Rushton and Company

Allison Martin, Finance Director

Director Martin introduced Chris Hollifield of Rushton and Company to do the Annual Audit Presentation.

Mr. Hollifield expressed that the annual comprehensive financial report (ACFR) is presented annually to the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) for an award in reporting. Dahlonga has received this award for many years; a small percentage of the state gets this. With this reporting, there will be extra schedules in the report. The added schedules add transparency. He commended the staff for long-standing excellence with GFOA.

Mr. Hollifield began his presentation. He indicated the City is in a healthy place with about four months of reserves.

Mayor Taylor and Council thanked Mr. Hollifield for his presentation and Director Martin and her staff for all the work.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### 5. Municipal Court Judge Service Agreement Renewal

Doug Parks, City Attorney

Mayor Taylor turned the floor over to City Attorney Parks.

City Attorney Parks reminded the Council of this 1-year agreement renewal at a recent Work Session.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion.

Councilmember Larson made a motion to approve the service agreement as presented, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

### 6. Reservoir Restrooms Project 2022-004

Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Mayor Taylor gave the floor to Director Buchanan, who presented the CXT Denali Restroom design to the Council for approval. Director Buchanan indicated he was working with the County to get some participation from them.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion.

Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

Council discussed the design and timing for installation. Councilmember Gaddis inquired if the County would reimburse us or if the County would pay directly, and Director Buchanan indicated he believed we would be reimbursed. Councilmember Bagley asked the total cost and if the 46% was the County share.

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

#### 7. Hydrovac Purchase

Ron Simmons, Distribution/Collection Supervisor

Mayor Taylor offered the floor to Director Buchanan, who reviewed the budget amount of \$55,000 and bid amount of \$59,725 and asked for approval of the equipment.

Mayor Taylor asked for a motion.

Motion made by Councilmember Bagley to approve the purchase of the Hydrovac described from Vermeer Southeast and performed the necessary budget adjustment, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

Council discussed the uses of this equipment. Director Buchanan explained that this piece of equipment was similar to an extremely powerful pressure washer that allows you to blast around pipes, holes, et cetera, and it sucks the debris out simultaneously; this is a smaller version that is on a trailer.

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

#### NEW BUSINESS:

#### 8. Memorandum of Understanding between Dahlonga Police Department and the University of North Georgia Regarding Responses to Emergency or Special Circumstances that Exceeds Immediate Resources, Skill, or Equipment Capacities

Doug Parks, City Attorney

Mayor Taylor turned the floor to City Attorney Parks.

City Attorney Parks explained that UNG negotiates this type of document with each city in which they have a campus. He recommended agreeing. George (Albert, Chief of Police) and Regents worked together to create this MOU, which is a good thing for the city. Plenty of support and a tremendous benefit to the City and UNG.

Chief Albert indicated that historically the university has this arrangement and agreement with each city in which they have a campus.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson to approve acceptance of this understanding. Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

A discussion ensued concerning communities active with UNG and this type of agreement.

Council began a discussion regarding support for the school systems, especially the three schools inside the city limits. Mayor Taylor asked Chief Albert to bring back to Council any action required after the training they receive regarding active shooter scenarios within a school.

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

#### COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk Csukas reminded the Council of the Savannah GMA Conference coming June 23-28, allowing training. Your travel packets will be available on June 20th.

City Manager Lewis stated he was happy to be here.

City Attorney Parks stated that the manager has already commenced his duties.

Councilmember Shirley stated that on Saturday, he went to an event that opened the new section of the trail along the reservoir, which had had terrific community involvement and volunteers. The new trail section is fabulous, and the new restrooms will be a benefit.

Councilmember Ariemma discussed the bathrooms at the Kayak Launch and the Reservoir.

Councilmember Gaddis commented on the new sod around City Hall, which looks good.

Councilmember Larson followed up on the letter he asked for GDOT. City Clerk Csukas indicated it was in the works, and Mayor Taylor planned to meet with the Regional Manager and deliver it in person.

Councilmember Reagin reminded the Council and Audience that today's date, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 78 years ago, was D-Day. Remember those heroes.

Councilmember Bagley stated the First Friday Concert on Friday night was well attended and well done. The landscaping of the Downtown area looks fantastic; well done to our team. Also, the markers were up, and it's very inviting for people who come to Dahlonega. We are putting our best foot forward. Well done.

Mayor Taylor congratulated Quataunda Armstrong for her willingness to serve, and she was thrilled to see Mr. Bill Lewis onboard.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn at 7:12 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Ariemma.

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