



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## Appeals Minutes

June 17, 2024, 3:00 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 – Dahlonega will be the most welcoming, thriving, and inspiring community in North Georgia

Mission Statement - Dahlonega, a City of Excellence, will provide quality services through ethical leadership and fiscal stability, in full partnership with the people who choose to live, work, and visit. Through this commitment, we respect and uphold our rural Appalachian setting to honor our thriving community of historical significance, academic excellence, and military renown.

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### CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 3:19 P.M.

### PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor  
Councilmember Johnny Ariemma  
Councilmember Ryan Reagin  
Councilmember Ross Shirley  
Councilmember Lance Bagley  
Councilmember Daniel Brown

Councilmember Gaddis arrived at 3:26 P.M.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

### OTHER ITEMS:

1. (SGN-24-7) Dustin Kennedy, on behalf of 27 on Park, LLC, has appealed the denial of a sign application by the Zoning Administrator. The applicant has appealed the determination to the City Council for a hearing and decision regarding the sign application at 27 Park Street South, Dahlonega GA, 30533 (D11 090).

Mayor Taylor stated that Mr. Kennedy, on behalf of 27 on Park, LLC, has appealed the denial of a sign application by the Zoning Administrator.

The applicant has appealed the determination to the City Council for a hearing and decision regarding the sign application at 27 Park Street South, Dahlonega GA.

Mayor Taylor turned the floor over to City Attorney Parks

City Attorney Parks stated that he would facilitate the meeting this evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy started by mentioning their recent property purchase. Mr. Kennedy spoke about their sign being installed by their chosen company, despite the city no application completed or permit obtained, citing unpreparedness. He showed pictures of the sign and explained that it also serves as an event structure extending

from the visitor's center to the office front. Mr. Kennedy pointed out that reducing the sign's size would limit their ability to use the structure effectively, referring to the rules. He addressed concerns about the nature of the property, which requires a fence for insurance reasons. He argued that the previous small sign didn't adequately show visitors how to access their property. Mr. Kennedy emphasized the uniqueness of their property in Dahlenega and how granting their request would benefit the area, mentioning that other nearby stores don't meet today's standards. He thanked the council for letting them speak.

Councilmember Ariemma stated that the previous owner would pay fines other than comply with the city ordinance. He stated that Mr. Kennedy was a victim of a sign company that did not do the correct job. He stated that he went out to look at the sign and was confused about some things. He stated that the sign would be a blank wall if he moved it. It is a unique property, and he agrees with that.

Councilmember Gaddis asked if they applied for the signed permit or did it without a license.

Councilmember Reagin asked about the conversation with the sign people after not getting the permit.

Councilmember Bagley stated that there is no excuse for not having a permit, and he wanted to applaud Tim for enforcing the city rules. It looked very professional and classy. Again, we have ordinances, and the struggle is to make people follow them.

Councilmember Brown asked whether the monument or the sign itself was the issue.

City Attorney Parks asked Residential Building Inspector Martin to answer some of the Councilmember's questions.

Residential Building Inspector Martin explained the difference between a monument and a sign according to the ordinance. He then discussed the applicant's case with the Mayor and Councilmembers.

Mayor Taylor asked if the Historic Preservation Commission ever got involved with the sign. She also asked if they would have had any input on the sign.

City Manager Martin stated that HPC would have examined the material if they had submitted an application.

Mr. Kennedy asked why this did not go through HPC and questioned the structure height according to the ordinance.

City Manager Martin said it did not because the sign had already been put up without a permit.

Residential Building Inspector Martin explained stated the base accounts for five feet.

Mayor Taylor stated that one of the questions that the council has to answer is what happens when this happens again. She reminded the Council that they have 30 days to write a written response about whether they want to grant a variance or not.

City Attorney Parks suggested to bring this to the July Council Meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the Appeals meeting at 3:55 P.M.

Motion made by Councilmember Bagley, Seconded by Councilmember Reagin.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley,  
Councilmember Bagley, Councilmember Brown

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Guideline Principles - The City of Dahlonaga will be an open, honest, and responsive city that balances preservation and growth and delivers quality services fairly and equitably by being good stewards of its resources. To ensure the vibrancy of our community, Dahlonaga commits to Transparency and Honesty, Dedication and Responsibility, Preservation and Sustainability, Safety and Welfare ...for ALL!

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