



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

City Council Special Called Meeting - Amended Minutes

October 03, 2022, 6:00 PM

Gary McCullough 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.

PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor
Councilmember Roman Gaddis
Councilmember Ron Larson
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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor thanked her colleagues for being flexible.

She called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Shirley, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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

Mayor Taylor commented that the Council would be discussing the LOST tax distribution and what steps they might consider taking in the best interest of our community and relationships. She requested that the Council consider approving the current distribution of 75/25 (75% County/25% City). This distribution has been in place since 1988. It has generated \$10.1 Million in tax revenues for the city over the last ten years. She expressed it was her opinion that further contention over the distribution amounts did relatively little to serve our community and may, in fact, cause more harm than good. She asked for a candid discussion and then took the steps that best served our constituents. She then thanked the Council for their dedication to the public service.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Executive Session- Land Acquisition, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:02 pm

Motion to go into Executive Session made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

The Executive session was closed at 6:37 pm with no action taken.

Mayor Taylor reopened the Special Called Meeting at 6:37 pm.

2. Local Option Sales Tax, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

Mayor Taylor announced she had the document, and it could be signed tonight.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve.

Councilmember Shirley made a motion to approve the 75% County / 25% City LOST proposal. It was seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

Councilmember Ariemma stated that 25% was fair and that it works with the budget. Adding the whole budget is based on it.

Councilmember Larson commented he was concerned with the right way, stating the four rotary rights: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? He added that if we start at the base, there is no question of the City receiving the additional amount. In light of the dialogue, we can think of the option of not accepting the 75/25; therefore, the best we can do is not stir the pot; let's proceed. Councilmember Gaddis expressed his thanks to Councilmember Larson for putting us on this path. This benefits the county more than us, and they are in a situation where they need it, and we need it. We made a run at it. As the area grows, that 25% brings more. Councilmember Shirley added he did not disagree with Councilmember Larson and his concern was that he didn't see that we'd end up where we are.

City Attorney Parks offered that they review their motion as there were two parts, one to sign the agreement and the other to submit to the tax commissioner.

Councilmember Shirley amended his motion to approve the proposal by the County for the 75% County / 25% City split for the LOST distribution and to direct the Mayor to sign the Joint Agreement, approve and the Mayor sign the certificate of distribution, and then send it to the Department of Revenue Commissioner.

Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

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

Councilmember Bagley asked if this ten-year period could have no changes to it during that time. Mayor Taylor responded that it could be opened for renegotiation.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn at 6:47 pm

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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