



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Gary McCullough Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

<p>PRESENT Mayor Norton Council Member Mitchell Ridley Council Member Ron Larson Council Member JoAnne Taylor Council Member Helen Hardman Council Member Johnny Ariemma Council Member Roman Gaddis -absent</p>	<p>PRESENT City Clerk Mary Csukas Director Melody Marlowe City Manager Bill Schmid Director Kevin Herrit</p>	<p>PRESENT City Attorney Doug Parks President Robb Nichols Tourism Director Sam McDuffie</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 Ariemma led the Prayer, and Council Member Hardman 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 Larson, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.

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

Mayor Norton spoke of Captain Henry “Tony” Carlton King, Jr, a former Council Member and Mayor of Dahlonega, who died on July 1, 2020. Mayor Norton read words of praise and celebration from Captain Henry “Tony” Carlton King, Jr obituary.

Mayor Norton informed Citizens and Council that Mrs. Jacque Hoffman, wife of former Council Member Bruce Hoffman, died this past weekend.

PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Lumpkin County Chamber President Robb Nichols praised Tourism Director Sam McDuffie and asked the City Council to allow the full 8% of the Hotel/Motel tax to the Tourism Committee of the Lumpkin County Chamber this 2021 Budget season.

Mrs. Catherine Ariemma presented the idea of a Freedom Trail to highlight historic sites in Dahlonega.

- The Freedom Trail would be painted footprints on the sidewalks that lead throughout Dahlonega towards historical sites and monuments in town.
- Mayor Norton informed Mrs. Ariemma that a presentation to the Lumpkin County Tourism Board and the Dahlonega Development Authority would assist with spearheading the idea of a Freedom Trail in Dahlonega.
- City Manager Schmid informed Council that a Gold Trail has been implemented into the Parks Master Trails Plan at the previous direction of Council Member Taylor.

Mr. Fagin asked for consideration of asphalt sidewalks during renovation projects and moved away from concrete use. He believes persons in wheelchairs and on bicycles encounter bumpy areas throughout concrete sidewalks, and asphalt trail sidewalks would be a significant improvement.

Cemetery Chairman Chris Worwick informed Council that an individual intentionally drove over two children graves in Mt Hope, causing some headstone damage. He repaired these children's graves' tombstones and a few other graves in the Mt. Hope Cemetery.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the minutes from Work Session -May 18, 2020, Council Meeting – June 1, 2020, Work Session – June 15, 2020, and Special Called Meeting – June 15, 2020.

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

- Council Member Ariemma asked for changes to the minutes of Special Called Meeting June 15, 2020. Ms. Csukas will supply Council Member Ariemma a copy of the recording for the June 15 meeting.

Council Member Taylor modified her motion to include changes to the Special Called Meeting Minutes June 15, 2020, Seconded by Council Member Hardman.

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

RECOGNITION

1. Council Member JoAnne Taylor has been voted in as First Vice President, Georgia Municipal Association, District 2 Office, and will be a sitting member of the GMA Board of Directors. Mayor Norton praised Council Member Taylor for her achievement in this prestigious position and saw this position as an avenue for exposure to the City of Dahlonega's successes.

2/3. Appointment to The Historic Preservation Commission

Mayor Norton called for a motion to appoint to the Historic Preservation Commission, Ellen Mirakovits as a voting member and Doby McCluskey as a member at large.

Motion made by Council Member Ariemma, Second by Council Member Larson.

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

Mayor Norton then swore Ms. Mirakovits and Mr. McCluskey into office as members of the Historic Preservation Commission. The Mayor, Ms. Csukas, and the newly appointed members signed the required oath of office documents; the ceremony was complete.

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION:

4. Modification of GEFA Promissory Notes, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director

Finance Director Marlowe informed Council and Mayor that Governor Kemp recently told local governments impacted by COVID-19, that the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority provides its borrowers a six-month payment deferral period with no accrual of interest. No payments are required for the months July 2020 through December 2020, and a six-month extension on the current maturity dates six months.

The City of Dahlonega currently has three outstanding GEFA loans.

Mayor Norton Called for a motion of approval to discuss modification of GEFA Promissory Notes.

Motion made by Council Member Ridley, Second by Council Member Larson

- Council understood that under the current amended budget GEFA payments are expected to be maintained, the cash savings of \$180,000 from this deferment would earn interest and help offset the financial crisis expected by the COVID -19 Pandemic within the utility fund.
- Currently, under this deferment to the GEFA loans, payments could go to the principal balance with no interest.
- The COVID-19 Pandemic directly affected the water and sewer fund by reducing revenues by 20% and the capital project funds by the reduction in SPLOST.
- Director Marlowe approves modification of our GEFA Promissory Notes.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

5. Award Recommendation-Wimpy Mill Pedestrian Bridge and Kayak Launch Construction Tasks

City Manager Schmid asked to defer the Award Recommendation – Wimpy Mill Pedestrian Bridge and Kayak Launch Construction Task until July 20, 2020, Special Called Meeting.

6. Binding Letter of Intent between the University of North Georgia (UNG) and the The City of Dahlonega.

City Attorney Parks informed Council and Mayor the Binding Letter of Intent between the UNG and the City of Dahlonega is for signage on city property located at the University of North Georgia Athletic Complex Barlow Road.

The UNG Board of Regents requests an easement for signage on this tiny piece of city-owned property. The University would construct a much-needed sidewalk along Morrison Moore Parkway from Alumni Drive to South Chestatee; this will be in conjunction with a city utility project in this same zone. The exchange does not contemplate any monetary payment to be made by the City.

Mayor Norton called for a vote of approval of the Binding Letter of Intent between UNG and City of Dahlonega.

Motion made by Council Member Hardman, Second by Council Member Ariemma.

- This project's timeline will allow for immediate placement of signage on Barlow Road's proposed property once the Letter of Intent is approved.
- The utility project is a water supply line for the Crown Mountain water tank; it is currently only in the design phase. The proposed sidewalk would be constructed over this water supply line and begin once the water line is in place.
- While this is a high priority project, it is at least two years out for completion; it is not an emergency project.
- This sidewalk project will create a complete sidewalk loop around UNG.

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

7. Stormwater Management Schedule, Bill Schmid, City Manager

City Manager Schmid supplied the Mayor and Council with the Stormwater Utility Management Schedule as information only.

- There is one proposal change to the Credit Manual, which would allow possible stormwater credits for the public use of private parking lots. If feasible, the proposed Stormwater Ordinance would include this update to the Credit Manual.

- The updated current full-size utility bill allows for visual information, scan capability for staff, and information to pay online. The utility bill will include the stormwater utility fee as a separate line item.
- The stormwater credit program will be discussed soon with the citizens of Dahlonega at a Public Meeting.
- The recycling program, along with stormwater fees, will be on the August Work Session Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

8. Alcoholic Beverage License Application – Hamilton Meat Market, Mary Csukas, City Clerk Ms. Csukas informed Council the alcoholic beverage license application for Hamilton Meat Market is complete, and the staff approves the application.

Mayor Norton called for approval of Hamilton Meat Market alcoholic beverage license application.

Motion made by Council Member Larson, Second by Council Member Taylor.

- Hamilton Meat Market applied for an alcoholic beverage license promptly, but construction issues on site delayed the approval process with City Council.

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

9. Alcoholic Beverage License Application – 1959 Business 13 LLC., Mary Csukas, City Clerk Ms. Csukas informed Council the alcoholic beverage license for 1959 Business 13 LLC is complete, and the staff approves the application.

- 1959 Business 13 LLC applied for an alcoholic beverage license promptly, but many months of construction on site delayed the City Council's approval process.

Mayor Norton called for approval of alcoholic beverage license application for 1959 Business 13 LLC.

Motion made by Council Member Larson, Second by Council Member Taylor.

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

10. Financial Reports - May 2020, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director

Director Marlowe informed Council the amended budget is on target during this COVID-19 Pandemic. The Council and Mayor praised staff for maintaining the budget in such a difficult time. No vote is required.

11. Principles of Public Service Ethics, Mary Csukas, City Clerk

Ms. Csukas requests that Council, Mayor, and City Manager sign the updated Principles of Public Service Ethics; this item needs no approval.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

- Clerk Comments – No comments
- City Manager Comments – Over the next three days, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., staff will discuss, in detail, the FY2021 Budget proposal with Council in public meetings in the City Hall Council Chambers. A Fish Survey of the Yahoola Creek and Dahlonega Reservoir resulted in 15 types of fish present.
- City Attorney Comments- The UNG sidewalk construction will begin 90-days after the City completes the water line project.
- City Council Comments –
- Ariemma – There is a sidewalk issue outside of the Canvas and Cork establishment.

- Larson – Department Heads should attend the Council Meetings, when possible. Discussion about changing the Marshals Office name to a Police Department will be the focus on an upcoming agenda of a Work Session. Please include the tag reader information results in the Marshal’s Office monthly report.
- Taylor – Please revisit dark lighting sky or a lighting ordinance at the September Work Session.
- Hardman – Thanked everyone who can attend the live Council Meeting.
- Mayor Comments – The Mayor praised Main Street and the Downtown Development Authority for their hard work and dedication with the 4th of July event. This team did a remarkable job adjusting the plan during the conception and executing the July 4th event. hence, the program was a success to some and a disappointment to others in the community.

Mayor Norton adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2020.

_____ Sam Norton, Mayor

Attest: _____ Mary Csukas, City Clerk