



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Work Session Minutes

June 20, 2023, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council 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.

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor opened the City Council Work Session at 4:05 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor
Councilmember Roman Gaddis
Councilmember Johnny Ariemma
Councilmember Ryan Reagin
Councilmember Ross Shirley
Councilmember Lance Bagley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to amend the agenda to include public comments.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

BOARD & COMMITTEES

1. Cemetery Committee—May 2023
Chris Worick, Chair, Dahlonega Cemetery Committee
2. Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority/Main Street – May 2023
Ariel Alexander, Downtown Development Director

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AVAILABLE AT: <https://dahlonega.gov/category/department-reports/>.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Taylor declared that the City of Dahlonega will again be known as a City of Ethics. The city will be acknowledged as a member of the Ethics program at the awards luncheon during this week's Georgia Municipal Association Convention. She thanked the previous council members for their assistance in upholding a strict code of ethics. She congratulates everyone for signing up and earning recognition for the city.

Karolyn Jarrard said she does not support an open container ordinance.

Tom Gordineer commented about how beautiful Father's Day was in the square. He acknowledged the work done by the public works to make this happen. He thanked the council members for their continued work as members of the Dahlonega Council.

CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS

3. Project #2023-011 International Dump Truck ITB Ron Simmons, Water Distribution/Sewer Collection Supervisor

City Engineer Buchanan states this is a replacement dump truck purchased for the Distribution/Collection Department that replaces a vehicle that has since been put out of service.

Councilmember Ariemma inquired into a dump truck purchased ten years ago and what a dump truck's life is. City Engineer Buchanan stated that 25 years is general for a dump truck.

Councilmember Shirley asks if the Lease Program covers the bigger trucks. These trucks are not part of the program at this time.

Councilmember Bagley stated that he was happy this purchase was below budget.

4. 2023 Amendment to Agreement for Tourism Development Services

City Manager Martin informed the Council of the Tourism Development Services Agreement modification. The tourism board received notice from the IRS that they must have memberships, even if it is non-paid. Further investigation revealed that none of the 2022 application packets for these kinds of entities had the same specifications. They are contacting members to inform them they would no longer be considered paying members. They had anticipated a resolution by the end of June, but it has now become necessary to extend the deadline until then.

5. Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement

City Attorney Parks inform Council that we regularly address this routine annual item. This Indigent Defense Services Agreement has been very successful. He says this is a cost-efficient way to manage your indigent defense. This document is a renewal of the same terms as the previous one, and he recommends that the council adopt it at the next meeting.

Councilmember Ariemma asked if the city had a public defender, which was answered affirmingly.

OTHER ITEMS:

6. East Main Street Repair Update, Allison Martin, City Manager

City Manager Martin states that due to a water leak earlier this year, compaction was lost around the stormwater infrastructure, which caused the degradation of the road and issues with the other utilities in the area from Park Street to North Grove. The necessary engineering plans have been secured, and pricing has been obtained for this project.

Mayor Taylor states that this is a much-needed process. She asks if City Manager Martin knows the approximate age of the infrastructure. City Manager Martin believes it is around 100 years old.

Councilmember Gaddis asked where the repair will start and if we can look at putting bollards in for safety reasons. He also questioned the effect on bus and school traffic.

Mayor Taylor requested more information by the next meeting.

Councilmember Bagley states that UNG has bollards on campus. He asked when the timeline would be and how we would communicate this project to the public.

Councilmember Ariemma questioned if we solved the problem with the cleaners.

City Manager Martin stated that the work will begin in July and run for three to four months. All county entities have been informed of the upcoming road closures affecting bus routes and regular daily traffic.

7. 147 N Park Street Conceptual Design for Discussion Purposes Only

City Manager Martin and the DDA started discussing potential uses for this property following the withdrawal of the initial proposal. City Manager Martin informed Council that Hancock Park is under much strain due to the high volume of visitors. She contacted an architect who created plans where topics like a farmers' market, outdoor courts, recreation, and pump tracks were discussed. They inspected the property, where she briefed him on the conversation's points. City Manager Martin informed Council that certain grants are available for outdoor courts and farmer's markets; should the council want to investigate this idea which leaves nothing permanent. She says that this may be accomplished using a mix of internal resources and grant money. City Manager Martin continues by discussing how this would benefit the community. The most recent offer came closest to the requested sum in the previous two years. The other parties interested in developing it want to provide a significantly lower purchase price and economic incentives.

Mayor Taylor voices her support for this project.

Councilmember Bagley loves the idea. He suggests looking at more parking in the design. He asks what a pump track is and if there could be community feedback.

Councilmember Ariemma agrees with Councilmember Bagley and Mayor Taylor. He likes the idea but suggests a dog park and a playground.

Councilmember Gaddis shares that the people that live in that area love this concept. He likes the idea, especially the courts, which are essential to a community. He believes this won't create traffic and will increase the property value. Since the Council prefers control over the property, this concept is a way to keep the area community-friendly.

Councilmember Shirley disagrees with the location and suggests the DDA look into some different properties for this concept.

Councilmember Reagin inquires into the cost of this plan. City Manager Martin believes it would be around \$200,000 paid with various resources.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments - Ms. Csukas stated that the Council, Mayor, and Staff will attend the Savannah GMA Conference for training and social networking.

City Manager Martin recognized all who had served.

Councilmember Roman Gaddis – no comment.

Councilmember Johnny Ariemma is looking forward to the GMA Conference.

Councilmember Ryan Reagin – no comment.

Councilmember Ross Shirley – no comment.

Councilmember Lance Bagley - no comment.

City Attorney Parks had no comments.

Mayor Taylor had no comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the City Council Work Session at 4:51

Motion made by Councilmember Bagley, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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