



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Meeting Minutes

May 03, 2021 6:00 PM

Gary McCullough Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Sam Norton
Council Member JoAnne Taylor
Council Member Mitchel Ridley
Council Member Roman Gaddis
Council Member Ron Larson
Council Member Johnny Ariemma
Council Member Joel Cordle

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Norton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Council Member Ariemma led the Prayer, and Council Member Cordle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Norton called for a motion to amend the agenda to include Head House Design Phase Funding and a Proclamation for the City Clerk's Office.

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

Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle

PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES:

Ivana Pelnar-Zaiko, Chair Person Holly Theatre Community Center, Inc, presented Mayor Norton and Council with an authentic original piece of the Holly Theatre stage. The Holly Theatre Board appreciated the City's assistance in securing the ARC Grant to renovate the Holly Theatre stage.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Council & Main Street/ DDA Work Session Meeting Minutes - March 15, 2021
- b. Work Session Meeting Minutes - March 15, 2021
- c. Council Meeting Minutes - April 5, 2021

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Council & Main Street/ DDA Work Session

Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2021, Work Session Meeting Minutes - March 15, 2021, Council Meeting Minutes - April 5, 2021.

Motion made by Council Member Taylor, Seconded by Council Member Cordle.
Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis,
Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle.

APPOINTMENT/RECOGNITION:

Mayor Norton and Council presented the City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk with a Proclamation proclaiming May 2 - May 8, 2021, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week. The Mayor and Council expressed sincere appreciation to the City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk for all their efforts in keeping the City government moving forward.

ANNOUNCEMENT/CITY REPORTS:

1. FY2020 Audit Report, Chris Hollifield, CPA, Rushton & Company

Mr. Chris Hollifield presented the FY2020 Audit Report to the Mayor and Council with no management comments from Rushton & Company despite a COVID pandemic and financial software conversion. Rushton & Company will forward a copy of the FY2020 Audit Report to GFOA for possible financial awarding.

Council, Mayor, and staff discussed various aspects of the report and determined no discrepancies in the reporting of financial numbers by Finance Department.

2. Financial Report - March 2021, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director

Director Marlowe informed Council that the City is staying within the COVID budget numbers at the six-month mark in our fiscal year. The hotel/motel tax numbers are strong, but water and sewer numbers are lower than pre-COVID, but within the budgeted numbers.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Park Street Utilities Funding, Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Capital Projects Manager Hunsinger requested \$60,000 for the engineering permitting and consultation fees for the Park Street Utilities Replacement project to define this long-term project's engineering designs.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the funds of \$60,000 for the engineering design process of the Park Street Utilities project.

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

Council, Mayor, and Staff discussed the Park Street Utilities Project. Council and Mayor reminded staff of the historical aspects of Park Street and the need to understand the elements of this project and the best possible timeline for completion of the water main and sewer replacement. This project is part of the long-term Five Year- Capital Project.

Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis,
Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle

2. Wimpy Mill Sidewalk Extension, Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager
Capital Projects Manager Hunsinger requested approval to award Wimpy Mill Sidewalk Extension Project to Sol Construction as the winning bid at \$110,260 with staff discretion on possible contingencies and budget reallocations as needed.
Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Wimpy Mill Sidewalk Extension Project to Sol Construction as the winning bid of \$110,260.
Motion made by Council Member Ridley, Seconded by Council Member Cordle.
Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Head House Relocation and Rehabilitation Proposal, City Manager Schmid
City Manager Schmid discussed the need for Council approval to the next phase of the actual design of the Head House Project.
City Manager Schmid requested approval of the proposal of April 30, 2021, from Arcollab for Head House Relocation and Rehabilitation Design and Construction Phase Services; the finance of these services is part of the package of project funding.
Design of Phase I - Relocation structural plans will be \$9,250; Design of Phase II - Building rehab design is \$49,850; the construction phase services estimate between \$15k-\$20k.
Motion made by Council Member Larson, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.
Council Member Taylor stated the relocation of the Head House would be on the same property for correction in the foundation.
Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES:

Clerk Comments – Ms. Csukas thanked the Mayor and Council for the City Clerk Proclamation

City Manager Comments –The hiring process for a new Financial Director is progressing well.

City Attorney Comments – No comments.

City Council Comments

- Council Member Cordle requested information on the District 2 GMA election and the bid process for the 147 Park Street project. Mayor Norton cast a vote for the City of Dahlonega for Ms. JoAnne Taylor, and City Manager Schmid discussed the bid process for the 147 Park Street Project.
- Council Member Ridley discussed the lively and beautiful downtown area and how the upcoming projects at the Head House and Kindergarten property will further enhance the City of Dahlonega.

- Council Member Larson requested information on the hiring process for the new Main Street/DDA Director position. City Manager Schmid informed Council that the hiring committee for this position is progressing as expected.
- Council Members wished City Manager Schmid birthday wishes.

Mayor Comments – Mayor Norton stated Lumpkin County’s number of COVID cases is low but stressed the need to be diligent with the COVID-19 vaccine programs. Government Kemp has lifted some mask restrictions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Norton asked for a motion to suspend the meeting to adjourn to an executive session for personnel matters at 7:15 p.m.

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

Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle.

Mayor Norton reconvened the council meeting at 7:47 p.m.

No official action was taken at the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Norton called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Council Member Gaddis, Seconded by Council Member Larson.

Voting Yea: Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Cordle.

Mayor Norton adjourned the meeting at 7: 48 p.m.