



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA Council Meeting Minutes

September 05, 2023, 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.

---

## CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis welcomed everyone who came to the City Council Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

## PRESENT

Councilmember Ron Larson  
Councilmember Roman Gaddis  
Councilmember Johnny Ariemma  
Councilmember Ryan Reagin  
Councilmember Ross Shirley  
Councilmember Lance Bagley

## ABSENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor

## PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis asked City Manager Martin to lead the Prayer and Councilmember Shirley to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Bagley, Seconded by Councilmember Reagin.

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis called for Public Comments.

Mr. Gordineer made comments on the unique aspects of the City of Dahlonega.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. City Council Public Hearing on FY2024 Budget - August 7, 2023  
Sarah Hunsinger, Assistant City Clerk
- b. City Council Meeting Minutes - August 7, 2023  
Sarah Hunsinger, Assistant City Clerk
- c. City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes - August 21, 2023  
Sarah Hunsinger, Assistant City Clerk

- d. City Council Public Hearing Zoning - August 21, 2023

Mary Csukas, City Clerk

- e. City Council Work Session Minutes - August 21, 2023

Sarah Hunsinger, Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis called for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes as listed: City Council Public Hearing FY2024 Budget, City Council Meeting August 7, 2023, City Council Public Hearing August 21, 2023, City Council Special Called Meeting August 21, 2023, City Council Work Session August 21, 2023,

Councilmember Larson motioned for approval of the meeting minutes items a-e collectively. Seconded by Councilmember Ariemma

Councilmember Ariemma commented on a misspelling issue in the Public Hearing minutes and requested the correction of Joey Homans. Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis asked that the spelling change be made as requested.

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

#### APPOINTMENT, PROCLAMATION, & RECOGNITION:

- 1. Proclamation - UNG Softball Team 2023 NCAA Division II National Champions

JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis requested Councilmember Bagley read the proclamation for the UNG Softball Team.

Councilmember Bagley spoke on the outstanding accomplishments of the UNG Women's Softball Team and its winning year. He stated that the City of Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, and the State of Georgia are proud of the University of North Georgia Women's Softball Team's accomplishment as the 2023 NCAA Division II National Champions. This team persevered with leadership, drive to succeed, and true team spirit to become National Champions.

Councilmember Bagley read the Proclamation for UNG Softball Team 2023 NCAA Division II National Champions.

UNG Softball Coach Davenport thanked the City of Dahlonega for their support.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

#### CITY REPORTS:

- 2. Financial Report - July 2023, Allison Martin, City Manager

City Manager Martin outlined key areas of the financial reports for July 2023.

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis discussed how the City achieved 100% tax collection for CY2022.

Councilmember Bagley asked for a better understanding of the stormwater funds, as the fund seems lower than expected. The ARPA money will now be reported more clearly.

Councilmember Larson inquired if the new leak protection program on the city water bill is designed as an insurance policy for leak protection; that is a correct analogy.

Councilmember Ariemma inquired into possible changes in the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year; the answer was no expectations of change in the budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis called for a motion to accept the Financial Report.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: None

CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS: None

OTHER ITEMS:

3. Strategic Priorities Plan, Allison Martin, City Manager

City Manager Martin gave a brief outline of the changes to the strategic priorities plan as discussed at the last Work Session in August of this year

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis called for a motion to approve the Strategic Priorities Plan

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Reagin.

The Council praised the staff for their hard work on the strategic priorities plan.

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

4. Consent Agenda Policy, Allison Martin, City Manager

City Manager Martin answered questions on the abilities of a consent agenda to allow future meetings to proceed more strategically, as these topics were discussed in full at a prior work session.

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Policy.

Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

Councilmember Bagley inquired into the need for the consent agenda at this time.

City Manager Martin stated that the items on the consent agenda arrive from the work session, as the council uses this tool to allow items not needing further discussion to move to the consent agenda at the next regular council meeting.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Bagley

5. Storm Drainage Easement, Doug Parks, City Attorney

City Attorney Parks stated this easement would allow the city to enter the Hardman Building Group property for stormwater installation. This item was discussed in the previous work session and is needed to improve the City stormwater plans.

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis called for a motion to approve the Storm Drainage Easement.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin and Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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

6. Herr Services at Achasta, LLC, Mary Csukas, City Clerk & Doug Parks, City Attorney

Ms. Csukas and City Attorney Parks informed the Council that Herr Services application is in order and ready for approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis called for a motion to approve Herr Services at Achasta, an alcoholic beverage license for beer, wine, and distilled spirits.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

7. Change to Open Container Footprint for Dahlonge Trail Fest, Doug Parks, City Attorney, Ariel Alexander, DDA Director

City Attorney Parks informed the council this is a customary approach for festivals desiring to sell alcohol. We have a relatively routine motion that now scripts for the council a motion to allow open-container regulations to be deferred or otherwise not enforced during this particular festive with this particular special footprint within their permit.

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis called for a motion to approve the Dahlonge Trail Fest open container footprint change.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, I make a motion to suspend enforcement of the open container laws of the City of Dahlonge, including but not limited to the following: The Code of the City of Dahlonge, Georgia, Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-32, Section 22-33, Section 22-34, Section 22-35, within the geographical area set aside for alcohol sales and consumption within that certain festival special event permit application granted by the City to the Dahlonge Trail Fest organizer, the duration of the suspension to run concurrently with the duration of the permit granted, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis praised Councilmember Larson for his year of service on the Council and for being his friend.

Councilmember Larson believes there are good candidates for this seat and expects good things from our local government.

8. Executive Session - Real Estate

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis called for a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate at 6:40 P.M.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin and Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis resumed the Regular Council Meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis announced that no action was taken at the Executive Session.

## COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis requested comments.

City Clerk Csukas – No comments

City Manager Martin North Grove sidewalk/intersection begins work at 10 p.m. tonight.

City Attorney Parks – No comments

Council Comments

Councilmember Larson – stated that the property at 147 Park Street is viable as a hotel.

Councilmember Ariemma – commented on the restaurant, the Public House

Councilmember Reagin – congratulated the softball champs at UNG

Councilmember Shirley – stated that the contractors do a great job on the sidewalk and intersection project and that the consent agenda review is a good

Councilmember Bagley – commented on the opening of the new restaurant, the Public House

Mayor Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis – stated the meeting was productive this evening, and recent listening sessions held by City Manager Martin showed great feedback.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Gaddis called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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