



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Work Session Minutes

August 15, 2022, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council Chambers, Dahlongega 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 Dahlongega's resources.

PRESENT

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

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

1. Cemetery Committee—July 2022
Chris Worick, Committee Chairman
Chairman Worick was not in attendance. Mayor Taylor mentioned the next big thing would be the resodding of Memorial Park.
2. Downtown Dahlongega – July 2022
Ariel Alexander, Downtown Manager
Mayor Taylor announced the item was in the packet and asked for questions. As there were none, she moved to the next item.

TOURISM: Sam McDuffie, Tourism Director

Mr. McDuffie was not in attendance.

Councilmember Gaddis arrived at 4:01 pm.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

3. Community Development – July 2022
Jameson Kinley, Planning and Zoning Administrator
4. Dahlongega Police Department – July 2022
George Albert, Chief of Police

5. Finance and Administration Department - July 2022
Allison Martin, Finance Director
6. Public Works—July 2022
Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer
7. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report - July 2022
John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director
Mayor Taylor announced the reports were included with the packet and asked if there were any questions.
Councilmember Shirley asked for an update on the Barlow Rd Pump Station. Director Jarrard let Council know they were still waiting on the specs of the pumps.
Councilmember Ariemma asked about lead and mercury testing. Director Jarrard indicated they test at the reservoir and have never had a hit.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

8. Housing Needs Assessment
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
Mayor Taylor announced the item and asked for any further discussion.
The Mayor and council discussed aspects of the study.
9. Discussion of the 1687 Morrison Moore Parkway Parcel
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
Mayor and Council discussed the property and decided it should be brought to an executive session for in-depth discussion.
10. Upcoming TSPLOST and Lumpkin County IGA
Mark Buchanan, City Engineer
Interim City Manager Lewis indicated there had been a meeting on August 1, 2022, and we agreed to disagree on the breakdown of monies. They discussed the Auraria Road/Rte. 9 intersections.
11. Government Finance Acquisition Administration Compliance - Municipal Funding Acquisition Agreement
Allison Martin, Finance Director
Mayor Taylor announced the item and invited Director Martin to present.
Director Martin indicated this firm specializes in finding additional funds and offers this service. She explained the benefits of using a firm such as this. Jo Smith, a representative with GFAB, reassured Council they only get paid if they find money, and it is distributed to the City. Director Martin explained she would bring all opportunities to Council to look at. This opportunity is more of a partnership.
12. Reservoir Restroom Project 2022-004 Update
Allison Martin, Finance Director
Director Martin was under the impression Lumpkin County would contribute 46% of the project. She learned that is not the case, and County is only willing to do maintenance. The City will bear 100% of the cost. Council discussed the location of the restroom and each park's usage. After discussion, Mayor Taylor indicated it seemed the sentiment of

the Council was to leave it at the Boat Ramp. Director Martin said she, Manager Hunsinger, and Director Buchanan would review the budget for the additional funding.

Council recommended a sign on the building indicating the bathrooms were provided by the City and maintained by the County.

13. Downtown Tree Work

Mark Buchanan, City Engineer

Mayor Taylor indicated she forwarded the Arborists and Tree Committee reports to Council. The pecan tree in front of Spirits has been recommended to be removed as a dangerous tree as it is leaning over the road at an angle of 30 degrees. This tree will be replaced with two trees—one at the exact location and one at Pueblos. Mayor Taylor emphasized this is the only tree.

Council discussed building up the planters for more room to hold the root system and concerns with the misinformation on social media.

14. Morrison Moore Pedestrian Bridge & Sidewalk Revisions

Mark Buchanan, City Engineer

Mayor Taylor announced the topic as Director Buchanan was unavailable. This bridge addresses public safety, and GDOT requests another bridge foundation recommendation. We do not have exact design costs.

15. Annual Asphalt Patching and Leveling Project #2022-015

Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Mayor Taylor announced the project, and Manager Hunsinger stated there was only one proposal that came in. The respondent was Raines, with an increase of \$31/ton.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk Csukas had no additional comments.

Interim City Manager Lewis indicated he enjoyed being with the City.

City Attorney Parks had no comments this evening.

Councilmember Bagley asked if the Reservoir restrooms could be funded through TSPLOST.

Councilmember Reagin asked about dividers previously discussed for pedestrian safety on the bridge at the Reservoir. RR- RL point, dividers at the pedestrian bridge. Councilmember Larson clarified the style of the separating tool.

Councilmember Larson asked for a Head house update. Director Martin indicated the schedule has not changed and is set for September 20th.

Councilmember Gaddis indicated when the Morrison Moore Bridge was repaved; the county tried to get dividers in place. DOT would not allow them; they would only shift the lane to the right and put the reflector bumpers in place. Director Martin stated she texted Mark, and he indicated they did not respond to his request.

Councilmember Ariemma gave a warm welcome back to Jennifer Ramsey from the Nugget.

Councilmember Shirley thanked the staff for their answers to questions.

Mayor Taylor stated Lumpkin County is now a medium transmission area. Numbers have escalated. The Georgia environmental finance authority has a new executive director, Hunter Hill, who is a previous senator. GEFA provides low-interest loans for water systems.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn at 4:51 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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