



CITY OF DAHLONEGA Council Meeting Minutes

January 03, 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 Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

PRESENT

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

PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Councilmember Larson leads the Prayer.

Councilmember Shirley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

No Public Comments

APPOINTMENT/RECOGNITION

Mayor Taylor recognized the City Waste and Water Plant Employees for all their hard work during the recent below-freezing weather.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Motion made by Councilmember Bagley, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma,
Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

- a. City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes - December 5, 2022
Mary Csukas, City Clerk
- b. City Council Meeting Minutes - December 5, 2022
Mary Csukas, City Clerk
- c. City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes - December 15, 2022
Mary Csukas, City Clerk
- d. City Council Work Session Minutes - December 19, 2022
Mary Csukas, City Clerk
- e. City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes - December 19, 2022
Mary Csukas, City Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENT/CITY REPORTS:

6. Financial Report - November 2022, Allison Martin, Finance Director
Director Martin gave an overview of the November 2022 Financial Report.
Councilmember Larson thanked Director Martin and all department managers for appropriately budgeting department expenses and enjoyed hearing positive reports being presented.
Mayor Taylor asked Director Martin to give the attending citizens an overview of the insurance premium tax.
Councilmember Gaddis questioned the various financial graphs submitted in the packet. Director Martin stated that the graphs showed continued growth in 2023.
Mayor Taylor called for a motion to accept the financials.
Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION:

7. UNG's Sesquicentennial Celebration, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
Mayor Taylor read the University of North Georgia's Proclamation of Recognition for their 150th Anniversary.
Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve.
Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Reagin.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

OLD BUSINESS:

8. Ryan Quigley Plaque Request, Mark Buchanan, PE, City Engineer & Public Works Director, and Brian Quigley, Resident
Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the plaque request for Ryan Quigley.

Councilmember Ariemma insists that an ordinance be written outlining rules for future requests of this nature.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

9. Contract Renewal - Jarrard Water Services, Allison Martin, Finance Director

Director Martin informed Council that this contract renewal is unchanged.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the Jarrard Water Services contract renewal.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

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

10. Peachtree Recovery Services Renewal, Allison Martin, Finance Director

Director Martin gives a brief overview of Peachtree Recovery Services to the Council and citizens in the audience.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the Peachtree Recovery Services Renewal Contract.

Councilmember Ariemma asked Director Martin to expound on the services received with the Peachtree Recovery Services contract. Director Martin explained the benefits of this service and how the staff is involved in the process.

Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

11. Grant Writing Services Agreement, Allison Martin, Finance Director

Director Martin informed Council that the Grant Writing Service Agreement would limit future financial difficulties for the City.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the Grant Writing Services Agreement.

Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

12. Local Administration Project (LAP) Certification, Mark Buchanan, Director of Public Works

Director Martin informed the council of the benefits of Local Administration Project (LAP) Certification and its positive impact on the City.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the Local Administration Project (LAP) Certification.

Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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

13. Executive Session – Personnel, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

Mayor Taylor advised the public at 6:27 P.M. that the council would move into an Executive Session Meeting.

Mayor Taylor announced that the City Council meeting had resumed after the executive session at 6:33 PM.

No action was taken.

14. Selection of City Manager Discussion, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the final candidate as New City Manager.

Mayor Taylor formally announced Allison Martin, Finance Director, as the final candidate for city manager of the City of Dahlonaga.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

Council discussed the challenges associated with any candidate for the city manager position.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Shirley

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments

Ms. Csukas mentioned that the Mayor-Council Retreat would occur on February 10 and 11 at the Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris. She informs everyone that from January 19 to January 23, some council members will attend training at GMA United Cities in Atlanta, Georgia.

City Manager Comments

Finance Director Martin thanked the City Council for placing her as the final candidate for City Manager. She appreciates serving the community and feels privileged to be allowed to be the final candidate to be chosen by the Council.

City Attorney Comments

No Comments

City Council Comments

Councilmember Shirley congratulated Ms. Martin on this new opportunity.

Councilmember Ariemma has known Ms. Martin for a long time and is happy to see her being allowed to be city manager.

Councilmember Gaddis congratulated Ms. Martin. He looks forward to possibly working with her and believes she deserves the opportunity to be City Manager.

Councilmember Larson stated that after hearing his colleague's comments, he believes Ms. Martin will be an excellent City Manager. He has been involved in the financial side of the business and knows the value and experience training can offer. He is incredibly excited for Ms. Martin and wishes her the best of luck.

Councilmember Reagin congratulated Ms. Martin on her opportunity to serve as City Manager.

Councilmember Bagley noted that the level of the contenders was outstanding. She is well deserved for the position, and he looks forward to working with Ms. Martin. She should be pleased with herself for succeeding.

Mayor Taylor anticipates increased growth and accomplishments in the future. She knows we have areas where we exceed and others where we may improve. Working with Ms. Martin on both of those difficulties, as well as your advancement and appreciation for your achievements, is something I'm looking forward to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 P.M.

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