



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2024, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

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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 – Dahlonega will be the most welcoming, thriving, and inspiring community in North Georgia

Mission Statement - Dahlonega, a City of Excellence, will provide quality services through ethical leadership and fiscal stability, in full partnership with the people who choose to live, work, and visit. Through this commitment, we respect and uphold our rural Appalachian setting to honor our thriving community of historical significance, academic excellence, and military renown.

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### CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:10

### PRESENT

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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Bagley, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

### NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. Ordinance 2024-03 Amending Sign Regulations

##### Doug Parks

City Attorney Parks stated that, as the Council may recall, the existing regulations are silent on murals and certain other types of wall signs. Also, the current regulations prohibit inflatables entirely. Ordinance changes addressing the proper treatment of murals and inflatables have been prepared as amendments to the signed regulations and are ready for review. These changes are amendments to the 2009 sign ordinance. Staff previously recommended reducing wall signs from 10% to 5%. After extensive research, this could lead to a situation where there are many non-conforming signs.

Director Of Public Works Buchanan stated that the technology used to measure the building and signs was not an exact science. Mr. Buchanan stated it was the only software the city had for such a project and the way they measured the signs was going

to lead to inaccuracies, but even given that, he believes there are probably several places where the signs could be out of compliance.

Councilmember Bagley asked if this would be a retroactive change.

Councilmember Ariemma asked Director of Public Works Buchanan and City Attorney Parks some measurement questions regarding the ordinance.

City Attorney Parks stated that when discussing inflatables, staff recommended deferring them into commercial and noncommercial.

Councilmember Gaddis asked if this meant it would stay in the ordinance.

City Attorney Parks stated that as far as the ordinance goes, they would be deregulated.

Mayor Taylor stated that the way the ordinance is standing currently regulates inflatables at residences, which is not the intention. She also comments on the size of signs, stating that right now, we do not have a problem with the 10% rule. She suggests doing more work and reviewing before making a change.

Councilmember Shirley stated that he has seen ordinances with a rule of 10% or 75sqf or less. He suggests looking into a rule like this.

City Attorney Parks stated that the Ordinance in the packet includes the reduction of 5%. He suggests making the change.

Mayor Taylor stated that she would take a motion regarding this new Ordinance 2024-03.

Councilmember Brown made a motion to deregulate the inflatables as mentioned and to define murals as wall signs, calling for HPC review of wall signs in their jurisdiction as written, with the exclusion of the 5% amendment, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

Councilmember Gaddis stated that if we remove all of the information completely and then soon have problems with inflatables, we could be back in the same spot. He suggested that it is wasteful to regulate inflatables.

City Attorney Parks stated that multiple people are not following the ordinance as it is written today.

City Attorney Parks stated that they could defer this one more time or suggest something different.

Councilmember Bagley agreed with Councilmember Gaddis and said he didn't want to defer it. He suggests limiting the height and number of them on the property.

Councilmember Ariemma states that five inflatables are too many. He suggests not allowing them in the historic district.

Councilmember Reagin stated that he thought they had discussed that since they have been around for so long, they would still be able to be around.

Councilmember Bagley suggested that business owners should be able to do what they want to but should have some limits.

There was more discussion between Councilmembers and City Attorney Parks regarding the ordinance.

Mayor Taylor called for another motion regarding the Ordinance 2024-03.

Councilmember Ariemma made a motion to differ this to a later date. No second, motion died.

Councilmember Bagley made a motion to move inflatables to general permitting, with a size limitation of 8 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft and a limit of 3 inflatables per property in the business

district, meaning B3 and CBD. Residential areas will not be affected by any inflatable permitting.

Councilmember Bagley adjusted his motion to include deregulating the inflatables as mentioned and defining murals as wall signs, calling for HPC review of wall signs in their jurisdiction as written, excluding the 5% reduction Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley, Councilmember Brown

Voting Nay: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the Special Called at 4:43.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Reagin.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Shirley

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Guideline Principles - The City of Dahlonaga will be an open, honest, and responsive city that balances preservation and growth and delivers quality services fairly and equitably by being good stewards of its resources. To ensure the vibrancy of our community, Dahlonaga commits to Transparency and Honesty, Dedication and Responsibility, Preservation and Sustainability, Safety and Welfare ...for ALL!

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