



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## Council Work Session Minutes

August 17, 2020, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

<p>PRESENT            Mayor Sam Norton            Council Member Roman Gaddis            Council Member Mitchell Ridley            Council Member Ron Larson            Council Member JoAnne Taylor            Council Member Helen Hardman            Council Member Johnny Ariemma</p>	<p>PRESENT            City Clerk Mary Csukas            City Manager Bill Schmid            Director Melody Marlowe            Director Mark Buchanan            Director Kevin Herrit            Superintendent John Jarrard</p>	<p>PRESENT            City Attorney Doug Parks            Director Shannon Ferguson            DDA Program Assistant Cari McDuffie            Chamber President Robb Nichols            Tourism Sam McDuffie</p>
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Mayor Norton opened the work session at 4:03 p.m.

### BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

1. Cemetery Committee Report July 2020, Chris Worick, Cemetery Committee Chairman
  - Repairs to Mt. Hope cemetery gate is complete.
  - People are walking through the cemetery after closing hours.
  - Council requested the current ordinance that outlines the operating hours for Mt. Hope Cemetery.
  - Research the possibility of a Georgia Historical Cemetery Grant for ground-penetrating at Mt. Hope Cemetery. The FY Budget 2021 has ground-penetrating at \$3000.00.
2. Downtown Development Authority, Shannon Ferguson, Executive Director
  - The Head House project in Downtown Dahlonega has received eight bids.
3. Main Street Report, July 2020, Shannon Ferguson, DDA Director
  - The Dahlonega Jaycees will finalize the upcoming Gold Rush Event on September 18, 2020.
  - The Farmers Market sustainability in the current year is under review. We have proposed the inclusion of a volunteer committee for next year.
  - The Frist Friday Concert and App Jams are up and operating in Downtown Dahlonega.
4. Tourism Report, July 2020, Sam McDuffie, Tourism Director
  - A Dahlonega travel rider is in the Charleston Living Magazine, Willington Magazine, and Columbia Living Magazine to reach the 500,000 subscribers in South Carolina.
  - Our Guide Books are being distributed to States reopening Visitor Centers, Convention Centers, and Visitors Bureaus.
  - Our paid social media page on Google, focusing on returning to Dahlonega with social distancing at Georgia Wineries, outdoor activities, and local tourist areas, shows promise with 106,000 impressions in two weeks.

- COVID-19 directly impacts Dahlonega with a decline in 2020 Visitors.
- The Old Fashion Christmas and Lighting on the Square events will continue this year with social distancing measures. One idea is (2) Lighting on the Square events this year.
- The lack of Social and Sporting Groups has directly impacted revenues for local hotels and merchants. The golf course in Achasta is rated one of America's best, so we are pushing a golf package with a mountain view, wine tours, and a hotel stay.
- A Youth Baseball Sports group is under discussion for 2021 to play at Yahoola Creek Park and Dahlonega High School fields with the Gold Championship at the University of North Georgia. This group consists of 32 teams with over 220,000 youth players.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

5. City Marshal's Report - July 2020, Jeff Branyon, Chief Marshal
  - South Chestatee from Crowne Mountain to Achasta has the most accidents in Dahlonega attributed to speeding. Traffic enforcement on South Chestatee is essential to stop accidents, especially during rainy days.
  - The Marshal's Office is looking for GDOT assistance with reviewing a section on state road 60 at the Bear Paw exit that conflicts with an outdoor business exit directly across the street. Currently, our goal is to slow the traffic in this area.
  - Lumpkin County Sherriff, UNG College Police, and Marshal worked together to handle large college events.
  - Council and the Marshal are reviewing the use of the tag reader.
  - The Marshal's Office is addressing dilapidated properties in Dahlonega.
6. Community Development – July 2020, Kevin Herrit, Director
  - Community Development Departments are reviewing the site development plans for the new apartments on Victory.
  - The Downtown Hotel delays, due to franchise requirements and electrical issues, will delay opening under December 2020.
7. Financial Services – July 2020, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director
  - The 2020 COVID Budget is on target.
8. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report - July 2020, John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director
  - The Achasta Lift Station completed in three weeks was within Budget.
9. Public Works Department Report – July 2020, Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer
  - Council asked the City Manager to place a directional sign to Dahlonega City Hall and Dahlonega City Park at the entrance to Riley Road on Morrison Moore.

#### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

10. FY2021 Budget and 5-Year Capital Improvements Program, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director
  - The Budget Resolution will be presented for adoption at City Council Meeting on September 8, 2020.

11. 2020 Tax Digest and Millage Rate, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director
  - Ordinance 2020-28 is approving the use of the Lumpkin County assessment for the tax year 2020, establishing a millage rate of 5.776 for the tax year 2020. This ordinance will also allow Lumpkin County the authority to collect property taxes for the City of Dahlonega.
  - Ordinance 2020-28 will be presented for adoption at the City Council on September 8, 2020
12. Intergovernmental Service Agreement – Downtown Development Authority, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director
  - The DDA Budget is as follows: City of Dahlonega general fund will supply \$255,057, hotel/motel tax collection funding expected at \$29,377; the Authority will generate an additional revenue stream of \$1,000.
  - The Intergovernmental Service Agreement with Downtown Development Authority will be presented for adoption at the City Council Meeting on September 8, 2020.
13. City of Dahlonega Master Fee Schedule, Bill Schmid, City Manager
  - The Master Fee Schedule is for review only at this time.
14. Reallocation of Budget for New Development Standards Manual, Mark Buchanan, City Engineer
  - Reallocate funds from the Water Model Project and Water/SS Mapping project in the amount of \$15,000 and \$34,270, respectively, into a new budget line item New Development Standards Manual at \$49,000.
  - Reallocation of these Budget Funds will be presented for approval at the City Council Meeting on September 8, 2020.
15. New Event: Halloween Party, Shannon Ferguson, DDA Director
  - An adult Halloween party in Hancock Park on October 31, 2020, from 7: 00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. requesting Council approval.
  - There is a possible overlap with the children's Halloween event in Downtown Dahlonega on October 31.
  - The City Manager will complete the approval process for this event.
16. Stormwater Ordinance 2020-25 & Dahlonega Credit Manual, Mark Buchanan, Public Works
  - Council reviewed the Dahlonega Credit Manual.
  - Ordinance 2020-25 will be presented for adoption at the September City Council Meeting on September 8, 2020.
17. Upcoming Stormwater Management Open House Dates, Mark Buchanan
  - The Open House for Stormwater Management will occur at the Park and Recreation Building on August 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m.
18. Resolution 2020-13: Resolution to adopt the Stormwater Utility User Fee Rate, Doug Parks, City Attorney
  - Resolution 2020-13 sets the rates for Stormwater Utility and will be presented for approval at the City Council Meeting on September 8, 2020.

19. River Sand, Inc. Contract Dredging Agreement, Mark Buchanan, City Engineer

- The DNR Recreational Trails Program Grant is used for upgrades to facilities for "green" trails for foot traffic and "blue trails" boat traffic. The City provides these types of waterborne recreational opportunities over the entire reservoir and as far up the Yahoola as possible.
- The River Sand, Inc contract allows a launch area of sufficient depth and size to provide the facilities needed for kayak access.
- This work will not only make a usable spot for the dock but provide access in areas that have been blocked by sediment for several years.

20. Recycling Options, Mark Buchanan, Public Works

- Recycling will continue in its current form.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments – No comments

City Manager Comments –Reminder: The Stormwater Open House on August 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Park and Recreational Building.

City Attorney Comments - Mask ordinance and resolution will be made tomorrow.

City Council Comments

- The use of facial masks may require an ordinance in the City of Dahlonaga.

Mayor Comments -Regulations for unsanctioned large private events in Dahlonaga without COVID compliance are under review.

Mayor Norton adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.