



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Work Session Minutes

May 16, 2022, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council 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.

PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor

Councilmember Ron Larson

Councilmember Roman Gaddis

Councilmember Johnny Ariemma

Councilmember Ryan Reagin

Councilmember Ross Shirley

ABSENT

Councilmember Lance Bagley

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. She took a point of privilege and invited Dahlonega/Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Robb Nichols to the podium to make a presentation.

Director Nichols announced the completion of the most recent Leadership Lumpkin class which included Allison Martin and Ron Larson. He reminded Council of the David Miller Servant Leadership Award, based on the number of volunteer hours each student completes. Ron Larson was the winner in this session, with over 100 volunteer hours. Councilmember Larson tirelessly gives his time in the City to many organizations, and Director Nichols thanked him for the tremendous impact he has on this City.

Mayor Taylor announced the Special Called Meeting would commence following the Work Session this evening.

Mayor Taylor also recognized recent College graduates, Jennifer Ramsey of the Dahlonega Nugget and Laura Hewell of Fetch Your News.

Councilmember Gaddis arrived at 4:03 pm.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

1. Cemetery Committee—April 2022, Chris Worick, Committee Chairman

Chairman Worick welcomed himself back, indicating he had been working the past couple of meetings with the Appalachian Studies students in the Cemeteries.

Councilmember Ariemma asked about a cemetery in Sky Country that is self-maintained. Chairman Worick indicated it was a private cemetery and did not fall under the Cemetery Committee.

2. Main Street – April 2022, Ariel Alexander, Main Street/DDA Interim Main Street Manager
Interim Manager Alexander stated the Mother's Day Crawl went well. Three winners were selected, who will be given gift baskets from downtown businesses this week. The social media posts for this event reached more than 6000 people. She added the Summer Movie Series advertising has already reached 7000 people.

TOURISM: Sam McDuffie, Tourism Director, Director McDuffie was not available.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor Taylor reminded Council and attendees that the department reports were distributed ahead of this meeting and are available on the City website.

3. Community Development – April 2022
Jameson Kinley, Planning and Zoning Administrator
4. Dahlonega Police Department – April 2022
George Albert, Chief of Police
5. Finance and Administration Department – April 2022
Allison Martin, Finance Director
6. Public Works—April 2022
Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer
7. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report April 2022
John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director

Councilmember Ariemma gave a shout-out to the Dahlonega Police Department, stating the reporting is fantastic, and Chris is the official possum handler.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

8. Municipal Court Judge Service Agreement Renewal, Doug Parks, City Attorney
Mayor Taylor offered the floor to City Attorney Doug Parks for this item.
City Attorney Parks stated this was a renewal of an existing contract with one year of renewal, with the same compensation. The Judge is doing a fine job.
Councilmember Gaddis asked if the compensation was similar to others. City Attorney Parks explained it was less, as the Municipal Court preps the cases in advance. The documents are available to the Judge to view offline.
Councilmember Larson added a comment for the new council members. He thanked City Attorney Parks for all he and his staff do. The City Municipal Court is noted around the state of Georgia as being one of the best-run, best-managed Municipal Courts in the state.
9. City of Dahlonega Housing Study, Bill Schmid, City Manager
Mayor Taylor explained that Dahlonega Housing Study was more extensive than it seemed and is a follow-up item from our retreat as a primary thing our City needs to do

and understand. City Manager Schmid stated he had identified a firm in Georgia that has done these studies for communities with a Board of Regents, a University. His recommendation would be this firm and have asked them for a letter of proposal. He also added they were researching if funds were available in this fiscal year.

10. Fleet Replacement by Enterprise, Mark Buchanan, Allison Martin, and Rachel McGirr of Enterprise Fleet

Director Martin stated we are always looking for ways to stretch our budget dollars. She explained this program cycles white fleet (non-CDL vehicles). It is being seen outside the budget process because it is essential to know if there is interest as it will directly impact our budget numbers.

Rachel McGirr explained she had put together a plan to reduce the City's cost with Directors Buchanan and Martin. She began her slide show presentation by describing how this program will help acquire newer vehicles, leverage the City's purchasing power and stretch dollars. Her presentation explained that the current lease option was for three vehicles per year and could save the City over \$593,000 over ten years. This program will save on maintenance costs and assist with resale.

Council discussed the sell-back process, the values of vehicles, and how the contact with this organization started. They also discussed the use of electric vehicles and Geotab. Council indicated they were interested in pursuing more information on this topic.

11. Reservoir Restroom – Project # 2022-004, Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Manager Hunsinger announced they had their bid opening, and the qualified bidder was \$105,420.90, which was more expensive than the initial bid. He described the placement location to be near the picnic tables. The intent is to bill the County 46% of the building's final cost, which is their percentage ownership.

Manager Hunsinger also wanted to share the completion of the joint sidewalk project with the University of Georgia College. Still, Georgia DOT will pave the ditch so that the erosion won't get on the sidewalk.

12. Distribution/Collection Hydrovac Purchase, Ron Simmons Distribution/Collection Supervisor

Director Martin presented this topic in place of Supervisor Simmons and indicated this is part of the capital improvement program. This item budgeted at \$55,000 had the lowest responsive bidder at \$59,725. She recommended the purchase with a budget adjustment.

Council discussed this item, and Manager Hunsinger clarified this item is smaller than we already have and can repair a pothole straight on top of the area, use the water pressure to drill down, and avoid underground damage to other utilities.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk Csukas had no additional comments.

City Manager Schmid notified the Council of the intent to process an annexation request for a single-family lot on Calhoun Drive.

City Attorney Parks had no additional comments.

Councilmembers Shirley, Ariemma, Gaddis, and Reagin had no additional comments.

Councilmember Larson expressed thanks to GDOT and suggested a letter from the Mayor or City Manager regarding the work of paving route 60. He indicated the dates and times regarding

paving times had multiple time changes and ultimately became a non-issue as they decided on night paving. He felt they deserved thanks from the City.

Mayor Taylor had no additional comments for this evening and thanked everyone for coming out.

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor called for a motion to adjourn at 4:44 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Shirley. Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

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