



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Meeting - Amended Minutes

January 04, 2022, 6:00 PM

Gary McCullough Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Sam Norton

Mayor-Elect JoAnne Taylor

Councilmember Roman Gaddis

Councilmember Ron Larson

Councilmember Johnny Ariemma

Councilmember Joel Cordle

Councilmember Elect Ryan Reagin

Councilmember Elect Ross Shirley

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Norton called the Council Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Councilmember Larson led the prayer and Councilmember Gaddis the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the agenda as written.

Motion made by Councilmember Cordle, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis

Voting Yea: Councilmember Cordle, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma.

ORGANIZATIONAL CEREMONY

For a moment of personal privilege, Mayor Norton shared the following:

“It has been a testament to our ability to focus on essential and sometimes contentious matters and be productive. Our ability to dialogue and to discuss and compromise has allowed us to achieve many, many, goals including the building of Main Street Hotel, creating a Short-Term Rental Ordinance, reorganization of the Chamber-Tourism body, we survived a patriotic White Supremacy Rally on the square which required hundreds of Police Officers to maintain order, we navigated and still are navigating a global pandemic which occupied nearly two of the last four years. We reorganized the Solid Waste Department, secured the Historic Head House, built and rebuilt the Police Department, installed much-needed parking meters downtown. We created Wimpy Mill Park for generations to enjoy, created the Cemetery Committee, and recognized that Chairman for being here, Chris Worick does a beautiful job. We initiated the Storm Water Fees to include students in UNG in the infrastructure funding. We pushed through the Columbarium project, Councilmen Ariemma’s project, updated a 30-year-old accounting software- thank you, Ms. Taylor, built an award-winning all-abilities playground at Hancock Park- thank you, Councilmen Gaddis, fended off multiple tax receipting- internal and external among other things. And let me remind everyone here that all this was done in 4 years without increasing taxes or

reducing services to the Dahlongega residents. I have genuinely enjoyed and appreciated our terms together and wish the Staff and the Council the best in the future. If I can be of further service to the city, come by Picnic Café and have a cup of coffee and try to persuade me.”

Mayor Norton requested the City Clerk to introduce the Judge

Mary Csukas, City Clerk, introduced Judge Raymond George, officiating the newly elected Mayor and Councilmembers this evening.

Judge George called each Councilmember to approach and swore them in the following order.

Swearing-in of Ross Shirley - Councilmember

Swearing-in of Roman Gaddis – Councilmember

Swearing-in of JoAnne Taylor- Mayor

Swearing in of Ryan Reagin – Councilmember

Mayor Norton transferred the Gavel to Mayor JoAnne Taylor.

PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor

Councilmember Roman Gaddis

Councilmember Ron Larson

Councilmember Johnny Ariemma

Councilmember Ryan Reagin

Councilmember Ross Shirley

Mayor Taylor thanked those present at the meeting and stated she was committed to serving the citizens of Dahlongega and to helping the Council as they make their crucial decisions.

SPECIAL APPOINTMENT/RECOGNITION

1. Resolution 2022-01 Honoring Sam Norton for distinguished service.

Mayor Taylor read Resolution 2022-01, honoring Sam Norton for HIS distinguished service to Dahlongega.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Mayor Taylor invited public comments.

Chris Worick congratulated Mayor Taylor and asked Mayor Norton to receive an award on behalf of the Cemetery Committee. A plaque in appreciation of the support of the Cemetery Committee was presented to Mayor Norton.

Tyler Barnes, Accent Cellars, offered congratulations and requested consideration for Class E Consumption on Premise for Beer License at his Farm Winery. This opportunity is allowed in the County and requests an amendment to the alcoholic ordinance to allow a Class K Manufacturing license holder to hold a Class E Retail Beer by Drink.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

- b. Council Meeting Minutes December 6, 2021, Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk
Mayor Taylor asked for a Motion to approve the Council Meeting Minutes on December 6, 2021.
Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Ariemma.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley

APPOINTMENT/RECOGNITION

1. Re-Confirm Main Street Downtown Development Authority Board, Members
Mayor Taylor indicated the DDA Board at their last meeting cast a vote to remove a DDA member due to three absences from recent meetings. This member has met with family tragedy and business issues that led to these absences. Mayor Taylor reminded everyone the Council is tasked with appointing Board and Committee Members and requested reconfirmation of all current Main Street Downtown Development Authority members and the appointment of Joel Cordle as a member of the Main Street Downtown Development Authority.
Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis to reconfirm all members and appoint Joel Cordle to a new 4-year term, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Cordle, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley
Mayor Taylor completed a swearing-in of Joel Cordle to the Main Street Downtown Development Authority.
2. Appointment of Michael Feagin - Planning Commission
City Clerk Mary Csukas clarified this item as a reappointment to the Planning Commission seat. Mayor Taylor asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Michael Feagin.
Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley
As Mr. Feagin was in the audience, Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Feagin for his voluntary service. We appreciate those citizens who volunteer their time to support the city.
3. Appointment of Matt Harper - Tourism Committee
Mayor Taylor stated she would entertain a motion to appoint Mr. Harper to the Tourism Committee.
Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley
Mayor Taylor completed a swearing-in of Matt Harper to the Tourism Committee.

Councilmember Larson asked for clarification if the Tourism Committee was the new Tourism Board, and Robb Nichols affirmed it.
Mayor Taylor indicated the service of our citizens who assist with running the city is essential and thanked Mr. Harper for the many things he does around the square.

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION: none

ANNOUNCEMENT/CITY REPORTS:

4. Financial Report - November 2021, Allison Martin, Finance Director

Ms. Martin presented the report to Council and indicated a budget amendment to transfer Capital Funds for the water filter replacement. Mayor Taylor entertained a motion to accept the Financials.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

Councilmember Ariemma asked for separate GL numbers for the Columbarium and Plots.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

5. Wimpy Mill Park Restrooms, Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Manager Hunsinger stated there was a bid from CTX for an all-concrete stainless-steel bathroom. The bid came in under budget. The extra will be used for site fees and tap work.

Mayor Taylor asked for a motion to approve as this item was covered in the December 6th meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember Shirley, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

Councilmember Ariemma asked if there were posted park hours and expressed concern that the lot is being used as overflow parking for business. Manager Hunsinger indicated he would collaborate with Police Chief Albert for a solution. City Manager Schmid said there was an ordinance for park hours for other parks, and the ordinance would be amended, but it currently was not listed.

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

Manager Hunsinger took a moment to recognize all the employees in the shop for the extra hours due to sickness and the holidays.

6. Guardrail Replacement Wimpy Mill 2022-003, Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Manager Hunsinger indicated the bid came in under budget but would like to use the excess in contingency. Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

Councilmember Larson asked if Director Martin had been in conversation about the excess funds. Councilmember Ariemma agreed with Councilmember Larson's concern. Director Martin indicated that she had been in discussion with Manager Hunsinger.

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

7. Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage License Class B & C Ancillary Growler and Wine Tasting and Farm Winery Tasting Rooms, Mary Csukas, City Clerk

City Clerk Csukas indicated these were the remaining licenses that need Council approval.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

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

Voting: Councilmember Ariemma recuses himself.

NEW BUSINESS:

8. Certified City of Ethics Program

Mayor Taylor stated the City has the designation as a City of Ethics through 2023, and with recent changes in the Council and movement of the Ethics Pool, Council is tasked with the appointment of a new Ethics Pool. Mayor Taylor requests the Councilmembers come to the next Work Session with two names.

Councilmember Larson asked for a list of the current names from the City Clerk.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

The City Clerk had no additional comments.

City Manager Schmid commented on the employees' superior performance during these trying times.

City Attorney Parks had no other comments.

Councilmember comments:

Councilmember Shirley thanked the community for the honor of serving and thanked City Employees.

Councilmember Ariemma asked Councilmembers to review the Standards of Ethics and thanked Mayor Norton and wished him well.

Councilmember Gaddis thanked the community for the opportunity to serve again and welcomed the new Councilmembers and Mayor. He wished Mayor Norton well.

Councilmember Larson offered congratulations and welcome to the Mayor and new Councilmembers and thanked Mayor Norton.

Councilmember Reagin thanked the community for their votes and the opportunity.

Mayor Taylor expressed her deep appreciation for her support and thanked the City Employees for their community support. She invited community members to bring items to her attention and stated she has an open-door policy.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for Adjournment at 6:55 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Reagin.

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