



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## City Council Special Called Work Session Minutes

November 27, 2023, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council 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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### OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor called the City Council Special Called Work Session meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### PRESENT

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

### ABSENT

Councilmember Lance Bagley

Mayor Taylor stated that this meeting aims to work on proposals that the Council will make for the Distribution Percentage of the proposed special purpose local options sales tax. The second objective is to review the current proposed project list of the city's big expenses in the next few years. The Mayor wishes to thoroughly discuss each of these topics and their impact.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

### OTHER ITEMS:

1. 2026 SPLOST Proposed Project List and Distribution Percentage

Allison Martin, City Manager

SP#2 - Infrastructure

Mayor Taylor asked City Manager Martin to review this topic with the Council.

City Manager Martin stated that she has met with County Manager Ours to discuss and prepare for SPLOST. She previously shared the county's timeline for this continuation referendum with the council. City Manager Martin agreed with Mr. Ours that a population

split of the last census would be the best option for both governing bodies to consider. She stated that based on the 2020 census, the population percentage for the City sits at 22.51%, and the county is 77.49%. Based on the county estimate, which has some growth, it is just over a \$7.4 million dollar collection for six years if you do an intergovernmental agreement. By law, six years is the maximum amount with an IGA. Without an IGA, you can only collect five years. She states that it would benefit the community if there were an IGA. Staff recommends approving the project list and entering into an IGA with the county, whereby a tax distribution is based on the 2020 census count for the City of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County. This will be voted on at the Joint Special Called Meeting on Monday, December 4th.

The mayor, council, and city manager discussed the 2026 SPLOST Proposed Project List and Distribution Percentage.

#### COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk Csukas had no comments.

City Manager Martin thanked the council for their feedback and said she would have more data for them at the next meeting.

#### City Council Comments

Councilmember Larson thanked the staff for their outstanding work on the SPLOST project and for their effort in serving our citizens.

Councilmember Gaddis mentioned that there was no Lumpkin High School Football on Friday.

Councilmember Ariemma congratulated the staff and Dahlonega Christmas on Dahlonega's lighting and shared how well it went.

Councilmember Reagin thanked Dahlonega for Christmas and said they did a great job and were beautiful.

Councilmember Shirley had no comments.

Mayor Taylor stated that Dahlonega Christmas went great and thanked staff for everything they did to help with the lighting of Dahlonega.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5.17 P.M.

The Motion was made by Councilmember Reagin and seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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