



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Work Session - Amended Minutes

January 18, 2022, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor

Councilmember Ron Larson

Councilmember Roman Gaddis

Councilmember Johnny Ariemma

Councilmember Ross Shirley

ABSENT

Councilmember Ryan Reagin

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting at 4:28 pm and introduced the Work Session with an amended agenda to remove item 13, the Mural Grant.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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

Mayor Taylor commended employees who spent 24 hours without a break working on the winter storm this weekend.

Mayor Taylor thanked George Albert, Kyle Kupari, Jeremy Tanner, Caleb Frady, Justin Priest, Kenny Well, Garrett Harris, Jr, Eric LeCroy, Mark Buchanan, Bill Schmid, Ronny Phillips, Buck McAlister, and John Jarrad, the leading players. They kept our streets safe while working long shifts and hours. In advance of the winter storm, we worked with the County to plan to support State Road clearing if needed. Job well done, everybody!

Mayor Taylor added that we had had an uptick in Covid cases, 42% over the last two weeks. There have been 446 hospitalizations and 94 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic; we are in the higher percentage rates for the area. We are reminding everyone to take precautions and consider vaccination.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

1. Cemetery Committee—December 2021, Chris Worick, Committee Chairman

Chairman Worick commented there were no changes to the report as there was no meeting in December. He commended the November 20th Cemetery Cleanup, where they replaced over 100 Veteran flags, cleaned up ground debris and vegetation, reset ten headstones due to neglect. The iron bench was installed this past week. They have 8 Appalachian studies students working with them this semester.

Council discussed the process for selling lots and Columbarium.

2. Main Street – December 2021, Ariel Alexander, Main Street/DDA Interim Main Street Manager

Manager Alexander implements the items from the Planning retreat attended by Council and the Main Street DDA Board into our annual work plan and will publish the work plan shared to DCA on their website. Mayor Taylor thanked Manager Alexander for a good retreat and thanked everyone for their participation.

TOURISM: Sam McDuffie, Tourism Director

No report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor Taylor reminded Council that they received Department Reports electronically and asked any questions. Council commented on placing security cameras at trash bins located in the corner of Hancock Park to review people putting furniture in the refuse bins at Hancock Park.

3. Dahlenega Police Department – December 2021, George Albert, Chief of Police
4. Community Development – December 2021, Jameson Kinley, Planning and Zoning Administrator
5. Finance and Administration Department – December 2021, Allison Martin, Finance Director
6. Public Works - December 2021, Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer
7. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report - December 2021, John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

8. Certified City of Ethics Program - Board Member Appointment, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
Mayor Taylor reminded Council that we are a Certified City of Ethics and announced to the public that the purpose of this board was to be a pool of people who would be called if there was an Ethics concern. Mayor Norton requested Council state their pool's names:
 - Councilmember Ross Shirley named Fiona Bagley and Cindy Williams.
 - Councilmember Johnny Ariemma named Sam Johnson and John Gaston.
 - Councilmember Roman Gaddis named Alice Sampson and Paul Dunlap.
 - Councilmember Ron Larson called Ralph Prescott and Sam Norton.
 - Mayor Taylor named Sally Bell and Elisabeth Teal.

The Ethics Board names and contact information were submitted to the City Clerks' office.

9. Georgia Mountains Regional Commissions Council Position, Mary Csukas, City Clerk
Mayor Taylor requested a Councilmember to join the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission as a representative from Dahlenega. Mayor Sam Norton had previously filled this role. Mayor Taylor asked that anyone interested, please let her know before the next meeting.
10. Cyber Security Plan Update, Allison Martin, Finance Director

As part of the insurance renewal, we must show we have a plan. We will answer and provide the required documentation to show we are eligible. Council discussed how the

City is safe from attack. City informed Council that testing goes on continually. Director Martin indicated that utilizing partnerships and state resources offered at little to no cost, so taxpayers do not have a burden to protect the system.

11. Asphalt Leveling and Resurfacing of City Streets in Dahlenega, GA In House Project 2022-002, Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Manager Hunsinger presented this project for resurfacing Housley Drive and the North Hall area, with the project budgeted at \$150,000. Bid opening on February 7th.

12. Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Resurfacing 2022-001, Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Manager Hunsinger introduced this project shared with the City at 30% and the State at 70%. The total budget is \$110,000. The resurfacing project is for North Hall Road and Woodland/Dalton secondary streets. Bid opening February 7th.

13. Mural Grant Information, Ariel Alexander - Interim Main Street Manager

Removed from Agenda

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk Csukas reminded Council and attendees that she and Council would be in Atlanta from Friday to Monday for the Cities United Conference.

City Manager Bill Schmid expressed his thanks to the staff for their work with the recent weather. Council will be attending the retreat in March in the City of Carrollton.

City Attorney Doug Parks commended Chief Albert for the excellent job of re-establishing the permitting with the State.

City Council Comments:

Councilmember Shirley praised the efforts of City Workers this past weekend.

Councilmember Ariemma added a question for the Water Department Report concerning possible drinking water safety with the water filters used past the 10-year mark at the water plant. Director John Jarrard stated that drinking water was always safe while the water filters were at the 12-year mark.

Councilmember Gaddis had no additional comments.

Councilmember Larson asked for clarification for the dates secured for the retreat in Carrollton. The retreat is March 10-12th, and City Clerk Csukas will send an email confirming the dates.

Mayor Taylor thanked the staff again for their efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn at 4:53 pm

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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