



CITY OF DAHLONEGA Council Meeting Minutes

February 03, 2025, 6:00 PM

Gary McCullough 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 - 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.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Taylor called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mayor Taylor led the Invocation and Councilman Shirley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was a motion by Councilman Bagley and a second by Councilman Reagin to approve the Agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

There was a motion by Councilman Gaddis and a second by Councilman Reagin to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

1. Ordinance 2025-02 Amendment to Adopt the National Electrical Code 2023 Edition
Doug Parks, City Attorney

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT - PLEASE LIMIT TO FOUR MINUTES PER SPEAKER

There were no speakers during Public Comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There was a motion by Councilman Ariemma and a second by Councilman Shirley to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2025; Public Hearing Minutes of January 21, 2025;

Special Called Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2025; and, Work Session Minutes of January 21, 2025.

- a. Regular Meeting of January 6, 2025
Rhonda Hansard, City Clerk
- b. Public Hearing of January 21, 2025
Rhonda Hansard, City Clerk
- c. Special Called Meeting of January 21, 2025
Rhonda Hansard, City Clerk
- d. Work Session of January 21, 2025
Rhonda Hansard, City Clerk

Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT, PROCLAMATION & RECOGNITION:

1. Appointment of Jan Tolbert to Public Housing Authority
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

Mayor Taylor appointed Jan Tolbert to the Public Housing Authority.

No Council action was taken.

2. Arbor Day Proclamation
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

Mayor Taylor read aloud a Proclamation declaring February 20, 2025 as *Arbor Day* in Dahlonaga and announced that the City will be hosting an Arbor Day ceremony that will consist of planting trees on North Square at 1:00 p.m. on February 20.

Mayor Taylor recognized the Dahlonaga Sunrise Rotary Club for its generous planting of trees on Wimpy Mill.

There was a motion by Councilman Reagin and a second by Councilman Bagley to adopt a Proclamation declaring February 20, 2025 as *Arbor Day* in Dahlonaga.

Councilman Bagley announced that the Gold Museum had to cut down a tree and that it will be replanted; the Councilman thanked citizens and staff for always replanting quickly and rebuilding the canopy.

Allison Martin, City Manager, confirmed that the Hornbeam planted in front of Spirits is doing well. Mayor Taylor described a Hornbeam and stated that its species has a small root ball.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Recognition of DDA/Main Street Staff
Allison Martin, City Manager
Communication

Allison Martin, City Manager, recognized staff from the Downtown Development Authority/Main Street - Ariel Alexander and Skyler Alexander - for their hard work and being awarded the GEMS designation, which is for a Georgia Exceptional Main Street Program.

Manager Martin explained that the City maintained this designation for many years, but it was lost during a period of staff turnover; the current staff from the Downtown Development Authority/Main Street worked tirelessly to regain this designation for the City.

No Council action was taken.

4. Recognition of Donna Logan DDA Board Service
Allison Martin, City Manager
Communication

Allison Martin, City Manager, recognized Donna Logan for her years of service on the Downtown Development Authority Board.

Mayor Taylor expressed her appreciation to Ms. Logan for serving on the Board.

No Council action was taken.

[Clerk's note: Donna Logan was not present.]

5. Recognition of Donation - Chuck and Debbie Jones
Allison Martin, City Manager
Communication

Allison Martin, City Manager, recognized Chuck and Debbie Jones for their recent donation of cedar planters to the City.

Mayor Taylor expressed her appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Jones for their generosity towards the community and noted that the donated planters add to the overall ambiance of downtown.

No Council action was taken.

6. Employee of the Year Award and Nominations
Allison Martin, City Manager
Communication

Allison Martin, City Manager, stated that for years the Dahunega Sunshine Rotary Club has recognized an Employee of the Year for the City and County governments. Manager Martin announced that the 2024 Employee of the Year winner - Tim Martin, along with the other award nominees, display exemplary service daily.

Mayor Taylor provided Mr. Martin with the 2024 Employee of the Year award and thanked him for his service.

No Council action was taken.

7. Special Award - Jones Family
Allison Martin, City Manager
Communication

Allison Martin, City Manager, described the 24-Karat Excellence Award as an award sponsored by Chuck and Debbie Jones, which recognizes an employee who exemplifies the City's Guiding Principles established by the employees. Manager Martin announced Justin Priest as the winner of the 2024 24-Karat Excellence Award.

Mayor Taylor provided Mr. Priest with the 2024 24-Karat Excellence Award and thanked him for his service.

Chuck and Debbie Jones presented Mr. Priest with a monetary award.

No Council action was taken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

CITY REPORTS:

8. Financial Reports - November & December 2024
Allison Martin, City Manager

Allison Martin, City Manager, provided the Financial Reports for November and December 2024. Manager Martin announced that the Tax Commissioner's office mailed annual property tax bills on October 1, 2024 with a deadline for December 1, 2024; as of December 31, 2024, 90.17% of the 2024 budgeted taxes were collected. In addition, Manager Martin provided financial updates on various matters, including collections of Sales Tax, revenue of Insurance Premium Tax, revenue of Alcoholic Beverage Tax and License, collected revenue for Permits, departmental expenditures, water and sewer sales, solid waste Refuse Collection Charges, and the Stormwater Enterprise Fund.

There was a motion by Councilman Gaddis and a second by Councilman Reagin to approve the Financial Reports of November 2024 and December 2024.

The Council held discussions of possible scrivener's errors within the reports; Manager Martin confirmed that she will review the *Revenue and Expenditure Report* regarding the *General Property Taxes* under *Fund 100 - General Fund* to recheck the percentage of budget used and that she will amend the budgeted amounts under the *FY2025 Stormwater Operating Revenues* and *FY2025 Stormwater Operating Expenditures* graphs to reflect the same amount. In addition, Manager Martin stated that breakouts of SPLOST and TSPLOST can be included in the next reports.

Mayor Taylor provided clarification to those in the gallery that facilities operated by the City are called "Enterprise Funds" and they must pay for themselves. Mayor Taylor explained that "Enterprise Funds" are accounted for differently than "General Funds".

Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

9. Ordinance 2024-04 Amending Map
Doug Parks, City Attorney and Allison Martin, City Manager

Doug Parks, City Attorney, addressed the Council and confirmed that the proposed Ordinance amendment is regarding a routine change that should be included in the map. Attorney Parks reminded the Council that Manager Martin previously provided an overview of the changes to the Zoning Map and the consideration this evening is to adopt the Ordinance approving those changes.

There was a motion by Councilman Ariemma and a second by Councilman Reagin to adopt Ordinance 2024-04 Amended Zoning Map.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS:

There were no Contracts or Agreements.

OTHER ITEMS:

There were no Other Items.

COMMENTS - PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments

Rhonda Hansard, City Clerk, congratulated the recipients of the employee awards and announced that the Mayor and Council will hold a Retreat in the City of Gainesville on March 14 and 15, 2025.

City Manager Comments

Allison Martin, City Manager, announced that the unveiling of the Bears on the Square is approaching and announced that she had received information regarding federal grants and the mandated pause in funding could potentially impact the City and its proposed projects; she confirmed that she and staff will continue to monitor the situation and will keep Council updated.

City Attorney Comments

Doug Parks, City Attorney, had no comments.

City Council Comments

Councilman Gaddis congratulated the recipients of the employee awards and requested an update regarding the base coat of asphalt (paving) on Park Street. Allison Martin, City Manager, confirmed that she will check to see if a date has been determined and will let the Council know.

Councilman Brown congratulated the recipients of the employee awards.

Councilman Bagley congratulated the recipients of the employee awards; stated that he saw one of the bear statues and that it looks great; announced the upcoming ConnectAbility Talent Show that will occur at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 8; and, announced the upcoming Wimpy Mile that will occur at 10:00 a.m. on February 15.

Councilman Ariemma thanked the Jones family (Chuck and Debbie Jones) for their continued support of the City and congratulated the recipients of the employee awards.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor thanked the Jones family (Chuck and Debbie Jones) for their generosity; congratulated the recipients of the employee awards; and, thanked the public for attending the Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a motion by Councilman Ariemma and a second by Councilman Bagley to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously, and the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Guideline Principles - The City of Dahlonaga will be an open, honest, and responsive city that balances preservation and growth and delivers quality services fairly and equitably by being good stewards of its resources. To ensure the vibrancy of our community, Dahlonaga commits to Transparency and Honesty, Dedication and Responsibility, Preservation and Sustainability, Safety and Welfare ...for ALL!
