



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## Council Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2021, 6:00 pm

Gary McCullough Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

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### PRESENT

Mayor Sam Norton

Councilmember Roman Gaddis

Councilmember Ron Larson

Councilmember Johnny Ariemma

Councilmember Joel Cordle

### CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Norton Called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

### PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Councilmember Cordle led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Councilmember Larson led the Prayer.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Norton called for a motion to accept the agenda with no amendments.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Ariemma.

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

### PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Mayor Norton called for public comment and reminded the public of the 3 minutes limit.

There were no Public Comments.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

- a. Council Meeting Minutes September 7, 2021, Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk
- b. Council Meeting Minutes October 4, 2021, Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Norton called for comments or adjustments to the minutes. As there were none, Mayor Norton called for a motion to accept the minutes.

Councilmember Gaddis made a motion to accept both the September 7<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup> minutes as written. Seconded by Councilmember Larson. Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Cordle

### APPOINTMENT/RECOGNITION

1. Appointment to Planning Commission - James Carroll

2. Appointment to Planning Commission - James Spivey

Mayor Norton expressed appointments as one of his favorite parts of the job and feels it is the highest service a person can offer.

Mayor Norton offered the opportunity for a motion for both Mr. Carroll and LTC Spivey's appointment at the same time.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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

Mayor Norton completed the swearing-in of Mr. James Carroll.

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION: None

ANNOUNCEMENT/CITY REPORTS:

1. September 2021 - Financial Report, Allison Martin, Finance Director

Director Martin discussed the report and indicated tax collection is complete. Sales tax has increased 7.6% more than last fiscal year, Hotel/Motel are running 23% greater than pre-pandemic levels, water/sewer is 3.2% greater than the previous year, and stormwater/solid waste stable.

Councilmember Larson stated we are blessed as a city to be in very solid financial condition. All those responsible for managing departments deserve credit for the challenges you have had and the attention to detail to make this come out as stable as it is.

Mayor Norton asked for action to the report.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson to accept the financial reports, Seconded by Councilmember Cordle. Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Cordle

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval to Purchase Used Dump Truck

John Jarrard, Director of Water and Wastewater Treatment

Director Jarrard presented \$95,000 as budgeted for a used truck but proposed a very good truck for \$70,000. We have a gentlemen's agreement for the truck. As we are under budget on the request for this dump truck, we would like to use \$10,000 of the budgeted amount to refurbish the other truck and use it for gravel for Stormwater and as a redundancy truck in Wastewater.

Mayor Norton complimented Director Jarrard for keeping the cost under budget.

Mayor Norton indicated he would make a motion for this item.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

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

2. Enota Stormwater, Vince Hunsinger, Capital Project Manager

Manager Hunsinger indicated the bid came in at \$247,000, was budgeted at \$212,000, and requested we move \$60,000 from Martin Street budget to offset and have a contingency. Contingency could return to the budget.

Mayor Norton commented on the need for this project and offered the opportunity for a motion.

Motion made by Councilmember Cordle to approve moving the \$60,000 from the Martin Street budget to this project, allowing for contingency funds. Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis. Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Cordle

3. Stormwater Management Backhoe Purchase, Troy Armstrong, Streets Supervisor

Presented by Director Buchanan

Director Buchanan indicated the backhoe budgeted at \$100,000, but Mr. Armstrong located one for a \$90,000 purchase price. As per policy, the replaced backhoe will go to auction on Govdeals.com.

Mayor Norton called for a motion.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Cordle.

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

4. Farm Winery Tasting Room - Georgia Farm Wines LLC dba Taste Wine and Gourmet Foods, Doug Parks, City Attorney

City Clerk Csukas indicated the paperwork in order and asked for approval for this item.

Mayor Norton called for a motion.

Motion made by Councilmember Cordle, Seconded by Councilmember Ariemma.

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

5. Residential Recycling, Mark Buchanan, Director of Public Works, and City Engineer

Director Buchanan recommended suspension of recycling as, Red Oak our current provider, has pricing that is very high and not sustainable.

The Council, Director, and Mayor discussed the current budget, the proposed budget with the new vendor, the current usage of the Community, and the impact of suspending the program. The Council, Director, and Mayor agreed to look again for other options, discuss again at the next meeting, and based on the current situation to give staff the authority to, if necessary to stop recycling and discontinue the fee to customers with the understanding the search for other options continues. Mayor Norton reiterated the need to suspend the billing when we suspend the service.

Mayor Norton invited Council for a motion.

Councilmember Larson made a motion to give staff the authority to stop recycling and cease the fee to customers when the upcharge from the new provider commences with the understanding the staff will continue to search for other options.

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

## COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk Mary Csukas reminded everyone to get out and vote on Election Day. She will post the results when we get them by 10 pm.

City Manager Schmid stated Marshal George Albert started on Monday and supported a successful trick or treat event on the square. City Manager Schmid was also thankful to Sheriff Jarrad and his staff and those who volunteered to create a successful Trick or Treat event.

Mayor Norton commented that public safety is not negotiable and offered thanks to those supporting the Trick or Treating on the square.

City Attorney Parks enjoyed meeting with the new city marshal and feels he will be an exceptional leader in our group.

Councilmember Ariemma indicated he was very nervous about tomorrow and wished JoAnne Taylor the best of luck.

Councilmember Gaddis also wished good luck to Ms. Taylor and thanked the staff for all they did. He also thanked City Manager Schmid for rallying troops for the trick or treating.

Councilmember Larson had no additional comments.

Councilmember Cordle wished JoAnne Taylor and Ross Shirley the best in the upcoming election and appreciated their continued attendance and interest in the issues and agendas of the Council.

Mayor Norton commented to Mr. Shirley that he only needs one vote to win and added to JoAnne Taylor, you had only missed one meeting, which was when you were out of the country. Thank you for coming. Thank you, Bill, for your assistance on the square. Thank you for being here.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Norton called to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

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