



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## Council Work Session Minutes

February 15, 2021 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

### OPEN MEETING:

Mayor Norton opened the Work Session at 5:55 p.m. in the Lumpkin County Parks and Recreation Building. The Work Session followed a Council / Main Street DDA Board meeting relocated to the Lumpkin County Parks and Recreation Building.

### PRESENT:

Sam Norton	Mayor	Present
Roman Gaddis	Council Member	Present
Mitchell Ridley	Council Member	Present
Ron Larson	Council Member	Present
JoAnne Taylor	Council Member	Present
Johnny Ariemma	Council Member	Present
Joel Cordle	Council Member	Present

### BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

1. Cemetery Report January 2021, Chris Worick, Dahlonega Cemetery Committee Chairman
2. Main Street Department – January 2021, Lucas Cheney, Main Street Project Coordinator
  - Council discussed the vacant Main Street Program- Downtown Development Authority Manager position. This topic discussion will continue at the Work Session on March 15, 2021.

### TOURISM: Sam McDuffie, Tourism Director

1. Tourism Report - January 2021, Sam McDuffie, Tourism Director
  - As a precaution, during the roof repair project at the Visitors Center, expect the center to be closed for one day.
  - We have a new team member who will fill the vacant post as a part-time communication specialist.
  - New retail merchandise is on order for the Visitors Center.
  - Paul Milliken, Fox 5 News, will conduct three live newscasts to cover the upcoming Chocolate crawl event, scheduled for March 3-8, 2021.
  - The new Holiday Inn Express on E. Main Street is impressive, as we were allowed a walkthrough this past week.
  - The upcoming summer baseball tournament hosting children twelve and under will be a boon for the City of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County.
  - The Tourism Board Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2021, is open to the public via Zoom.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Marshal's Office Report January 2021, Jeff Branyon, Marshal
  - City Manager Schmid commended Marshal Branyon for the updated bodycam system implemented recently in his department. The bodycam, if dormant, can be activated upon the use of a taser or a gun being unholstered.
2. Community Development – January 2021, Kevin Herrit, Director
  - The Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Downtown Dahlenega received its certificate of occupancy and opened this past Monday.
  - The Land Water Conservation Grant Committee denied our grant for restroom facilities at the Wimpy Mill Park; GMRC assisted with the grant application. City Manager Schmid informed Council that some undesignated hotel-motel tourism product funds are a possible alternative source of funding for the bathroom facility.
  - No single-family permits were issued in January, but we have four lots sold in Crown Mountain in February.
  - The Council encourages Staff to create recommendations to promote more single-family home construction by updating current zoning regulations.
  - Staff is working on HPC Guideline updates to allow administrative approval options.
  - Council believes zoning appeal opportunities may exist for some recorded parcels in the City created before current zoning regulations.
3. Financial Services – January 2021, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director
  - Stormwater billing and the newly created policies & procedures were a considerable achievement this year.
4. Public Works--January 2021, Mark Buchanan, PW/ City Engineer
  - Staff in all departments are working above and beyond to maintain the beautification of Dahlenega.
  - The Grand Opening of the Wimpy Mill Kayak Launch will be open to the public.
5. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report January 2021, John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director
  - Water Loss audit is completed annually for the last five years to ensure honesty.

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Tree City USA Certification, Lucas Cheney, Main Street Project Coordinator
  - The Arbor Day celebration on February 24 will be honored with a Proclamation.
  - The Tree Committee is active in Dahlenega but only meets as needed.
2. FY2020 Year-End Budget Amendment, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director
  - The final FY2020 budget will require a resolution for finalization.
3. FY2021 Reappropriations Budget Amendment, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director
  - The budget amendment pertains to reappropriations from the FY2020 capital projects moved to the FY2021 budget.
  - Council was updated on the Martin Street widening capital project.

4. Ordinance 2021-01: An Ordinance to establish Regulations for Formula Businesses, Doug Parks, City Attorney
  - This proposed ordinance to establish regulations for formula businesses in the downtown area is ready to transfer to the Planning Commission if Council agrees.
  - The purpose of this ordinance allows for franchise businesses to operate in Dahlonoga's B-3 zoning district as conditional uses.
5. Ordinance Changes Regarding House Bill 879, Doug Parks, City Attorney
  - The proposed House Bill 879 ordinance changes are subject to State regulations.
6. Barlow Lift Station Upgrade Proposal for Engineering Services, John Jarrard, Director of Water/Wastewater Treatment Departments
  - Proposal for upgrade of Barlow Lift Station for a vote at a future Council Meeting.
7. Head House Update, Bill Schmid, City Manager
  - Outlined in the packet are plans for an update of the Head House project.
  - Council discussed the viability of the retail plan as opposed to the restaurant or apartment plans.
8. 147 North Park Street Update, Bill Schmid, City Manager

No action is needed at this time, as we expect bid action for demolition at this property for Council by this April.
9. Solid Waste Appeal, Bill Schmid, City Manager
  - City Manager Schmid recommends denial of the appeal.
10. Paid Parking Review, Bill Schmid, City Manager
  - Currently, there are seven 15-minute parking spaces available in town, but restaurants need more of these limited parking spaces. Council agrees this is a good practice during the COVID pandemic. These spaces are not permanent.
11. South Meaders Metered Parking, Mark Buchanan, Public Works Director
  - Council discussed the need for parking meters on South Meaders.
12. Solid Waste Supervisor, Mark Buchanan, Public Work Director
  - Council discussed the need for a full-time solid waste supervisor to allow Vince Hunsinger as the full-time Capital Project Manager; the additional solid waste funds would fund this position.
13. Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Resurfacing for 2021 Award Recommendation, Mark Buchanan, City Engineer
  - Council discussed Staff's recommendation for the LMIG resurfacing 2021 award for Wimpy Mill Road.
14. Asphalt Leveling and Resurfacing of City Streets in Dahlonoga, Ga In House Project for 2021, #2021-002, Mark Buchanan, City Engineer
  - Council discussed the Staff's recommendation for the in-house project for the Wimpy Mill Road.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments – No Comments

City Manager Comments – No Comments

City Attorney Comments – No Comments

City Council Comments:

- Council Member Taylor asked to have Valerie West Fambrough at the next Work Session to discuss a hummingbird trail.
- Council Member Larson asked that we inform the Downtown Business Association of the new formula business ordinance.
- Council Member Ridley informed Council and Staff of his decision to retire after this term expires.
- Council Member Ariemma requested a camera at the dumpster downtown.
- Council Member Cordle commended Council Member Ridley for his time on Council.

Mayor Comments – COVID numbers reported at an all-time low of 4.7.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Norton adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.