



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Work Session Minutes

April 17, 2023, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council 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 - To be an open, honest, and responsive city, balancing preservation, and growth, and delivering quality services fairly and equitably by being good stewards of Dahlonega's resources.

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor called the City Council Work Session Meeting to order at 4:19 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor

Councilmember Roman Gaddis

Councilmember Ron Larson

Councilmember Johnny Ariemma

Councilmember Ross Shirley

Councilmember Lance Bagley

ABSENT

Councilmember Ryan Reagin

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of item four appointment as a voting member of the cemetery committee.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Ariemma.

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

BOARD & COMMITTEES

1. Cemetery Committee—March 2023, Chris Worick, Committee Chairman

Mayor Taylor informed the Council of the long-term project to enclose Mt. Hope Cemetery with appropriate fencing that will add to the look and feel of our city.

2. Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority/Main Street – March 2023

Ariel Alexander, Downtown Development Director

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AVAILABLE AT: <https://dahlonega.gov/category/department-reports/>

APPOINTMENT, PROCLAMATION & RECOGNITION: (Vote at Council Meeting)

3. Ronald Cantrell, Employee Retirement Recognition, Allison Martin, City Manager

Mayor Taylor recognized Ronald Cantrell's retirement after forty-five-plus years as an employee of the City of Dahlonega.

Garrett Harris, Sanitation and Fleet Maintenance Supervisor spoke highly of Ronald Cantrell as an outstanding employee of Dahlonega for the last four-six years as someone who worked hard with a great attitude and always gave a helping hand. It was an honor to work with Ronald, and he will be missed.

4. Quataunda Armstrong – Appointment as Voting Member of the Cemetery Committee, Chris Worick – Chairman Cemetery Committee

The appointment of Quataunda Armstrong was removed from the agenda and placed at a future Council meeting for approval.

PRESENTATION - None

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

5. Change to Open Container Footprint for the Dahlonega Arts and Wine Festival, Doug Parks, City Attorney, Ariel Alexander, DDA Director

City Attorney Parks and Directory Alexander proposed changing the open container footprint for the upcoming Dahlonega Arts and Wine Festival. The proposal is a duplicate of the proposal for the Bear on the Square festival to what extent the Council is willing to allow it. This waiver allows the open container regulations within the area to be set aside for the alcohol footprint.

Councilmember Gaddis and Chief Ablert expounded on how well the Bear on the Square team handled the waiver given to their festival and expected the same with Dahlonega Arts and Wine Festival.

Councilmember Ariemma asked that more signage be placed around Hancock Park requesting property disposal of alcoholic beverage cups.

Councilmember Bagley wondered if any changes are needed to give a more friendly atmosphere at the Bear on the Square festival.

Councilmember Shirley attended the festival and saw a relaxed atmosphere and many people enjoying their time, with plenty of tables in the street area. The food truck area showed many patrons having nonalcoholic and alcoholic beverages.

Councilmember Bagley and Shirley noted that clean-up after the festival left minimal in the area, which was great for the city the next day.

A discussion was had to ask for signage stating no alcoholic beverages in the playground area.

CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS

6. IGA between Lumpkin County and the City of Dahlonega relating to the 2023 Municipal Election for the City of Dahlonega, Doug Parks, City Attorney

The City Attorney Parks informed the Council that this Intergovernmental Agreement is like previous Municipal Elections that Lumpkin County Election Officials handled for the City's Elections. The attached schedule A shows the responsible parties for each aspect of the 2023 Municipal Elections. The bulk of the workload will go to the County, which the City reimburses for their services.

7. Project # 2023-006 Telescopic Boom Lift, Troy Armstrong, Streets, Parks, and Cemeteries Supervisor

Mayor Taylor requested that Troy Armstrong, Streets, Parks, and Cemeteries Supervisor give an overview of Project 2023-006. Troy informed the Council that the expected financial obligations are five years for complete ownership of the boom lift, and the life span was over 25 years with the low-maintenance diesel engine. This equipment requires monthly and annual inspections with a safety course requirement after purchase.

Councilmember Larson was informed that the height restriction is 65 ft, with heavy uses during the October through January holiday season. This mobile equipment would allow for tree timing and maintenance on a monthly and weekly basis.

Councilmember Bagely was informed that the rental of this type of equipment is \$3000-\$3500 a month.

Councilmember Ariemma was informed that the city did not have a tree expert on the payroll, but the city could assist on an as-needed basis in an emergency. A carport will be available at the shop to house the new equipment.

Councilmember Gaddis believes this is a good idea and a wise choice for the city.

A discussion was had on the Telescopic Boom Lift, its positive aspects, and city savings by Councilmember Shirely and Mayor Taylor.

8. Project #2023-004 Mechanicsville Road Curb and Gutter, Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Mayor Taylor requested Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager, speak to Council on Project 2023-004, Mechanicsville Road Curb and Gutter.

Project Manager Hunsinger reminded Council that TSPLOST funds this project which is a continuation from last year to continue up Mechanicsville Road to Morrison Moore Parkway.

9. General Services Agreement – Wiedeman and Singleton, Inc., Allison Martin, City Manager, and Mark Buchanan, Public Works/City Engineer

Mayor Taylor asked Allison Martin, City Manager, and Mark Buchanan, Public Works/City Engineer, to inform the Council of the reasoning for this General Services Agreement with Wiedeman and Singleton, Inc.

City Manager Martin informed the Council of the need to update this agreement with Wiedeman and Singleton, Inc.

Director Buchanan outlined the need for this company's assistance when handling the water model, which outlines water flows and pressure in our system. Wiedeman and Singleton, Inc. assist with making changes in the water model, such as pipes, and how these upgrades or repairs will affect the water flow and pressure in the system.

10. TSW Proposal – City of Dahlonga Zoning, Allison Martin, City Manager

Mayor Taylor asked City Manager Martin to give an overview of the TSW proposal.

City Manager Martin stated that TSW would assist with addressing our housing needs assessment and current zoning ordinances from the 90s. This firm will meet with the Council and stakeholders in a series of meetings to understand the needs of the City. The first phase is budgeted at \$70,000, with an expected budget of \$70,000 in each budget year in the future.

The Council discussed the need for a competent firm to handle the enormous scope of updating our Zoning Ordinance.

Mayor Taylor reminded everyone that this process will involve input from the community of our city.

11. Selection of Website Design Firm, Allison Martin, City Manager

Mayor Taylor asked City Manager Martin to discuss an overview and cost of the new Website Design.

City Manager Martin stated that the city requested proposals and created a committee to review the proposals consisting of city staff, elected officials, and a citizen in 2022. Thirteen proposals were returned and evaluated. After a review of proposals, the committee's recommendation is Planeteria. The cost of the new website and features is \$39,650. The annual costs for hosting and maintenance are \$9,660, which is less than we currently pay for these services. Our current website is not user-friendly for citizens and staff. The integration of the new website will take approximately 6-8 months.

The Council discussed updating our website, the annual cost, and integrating current city software. The new site will allow staff to update and maintain content and citizens to make payments online.

OTHER ITEMS:

12. District 2 Officers for 2023-2024, Allison Martin, City Manager

Mayor Taylor informed the Council of the need to vote for Georgia Municipal Association District 2 Officers for 2023-2024; this is the Northeast Region. A vote will be made at a future meeting.

City Manager Martin informed Council that GMA will send a link to vote on the proposed slate of officers for 2023-2024 at the end of this month.

Councilmember Larson congratulated Mayor Taylor as one of the proposed officers for District 2.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments - No comment at this time

City Manager Comments - Be on the lookout for an email from April Howard with a pre-work survey for our Council Retreat in Canton on May 19-20, 2023.

City Council Comments:

Councilmember Bagley had no comment.

Councilmember Larson thanked Ronald Cantrell for his many years of service to the City.

Councilmember Gaddis had no comment.

Councilmember Ariemma lightened the mood with a humorous story concerning remote control issues with others in his neighborhood controlling each other's fans.

Councilmember Shirley praised Ronald Cantrell, whom he met eight years ago after moving to the City, as he never saw him without a smile and knows he will be greatly missed.

City Attorney Comments - No comment at this time.

Mayor Comments - Mayor Taylor congratulated and thanked Ronald Cantrell for being a beacon in the City.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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