



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Work Session- Amended Minutes

January 17, 2023, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council Chambers, Dahlongega 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 Dahlongega's resources.

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor called the City Council Work Session to order at 4:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Shirley, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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

BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

1. Cemetery Committee—December 2022, Chris Worick, Committee Chairman
Director Buchanan stated no new information for the submitted department reports. He mentioned that a meeting would be held this evening, January 17, 2023, to review various incidents at the cemetery and issues that need to be resolved. These issues will be covered in the future, and further reports will be sent in packets over the coming months.
2. Downtown Dahlongega – December 2022, Ariel Alexander, Downtown Manager
Councilmember Ariemma said he finds it upsetting to see the beautiful old buildings Downtown vacant. He lists properties that are his most significant concerns.
Downtown Manager Alexander states that she stays in contact with most of our property owners on the square and that the buildings discussed are for sale.

TOURISM: Sam McDuffie, Tourism Director

Director McDuffie states the strengths and weaknesses during December and has researched ways to increase tourist numbers for 2023, with projects slated for Dahlongega in 2023.

Mayor Taylor believes that the weather impacted the number of people coming to Dahlongega's Visitor Center and Dahlongega's Square in December 2022.

A discussion was had between Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Larson, and Director McDuffie about the math that goes into making the report on the number of people that visits Dahlongega and enters the visitor center.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

3. City of Dahlonega Police Department – December 2022, George Albert, Chief of Police
4. Community Development – December 2022, Jameson Kinley, Planning and Zoning Administrator
5. Finance and Administration Department – December 2022, Allison Martin, Finance Director
6. Public Works—December 2022, Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer
7. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report - December 2022, John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director

Councilmember Larson gave recognition to all the Departments for their excellent reports.

Mayor Taylor expressed her appreciation to the Water/Wastewater Treatment Department for all of their efforts during the cold weather that began at the end of December.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

8. Happy Hollow & Hwy 52 Water Main Engineering Contract
Mark Buchanan, City Engineer & Director P.W.

Director Buchanan states that this contract is for the engineering and surveying a water main that runs along Happy Hollow Road and Highway 52. This will improve the system for one of the larger water main loops in the city; this is the most cost-effective plan.

Councilmember Ariemma stated that all utilities should be located if he were to call 811. Once he saw the price to have utilities located, he asked Director Buchanan if that was true. Director Buchanan explained the actual process of 811.

Councilmember Bagley and Director Buchanan further discussed the reason for improving the main water loop.

Mayor Taylor questioned what the age of the infrastructure is now. Director Buchanan explains that a main goes down Happy Hollow Road. It stops being a good solid main $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down. Director Jarrard agreed with Mr. Buchanan's statement of the water mains being too small for the pressure it gives.

9. Request for Proposal for Rental Management at the Head House
Mary Csukas, DDA Director

Options from the council members discussed various opportunities for managing the first-floor rental space of the Head House. Director Csukas states that the DDA has developed suggestions for the first-floor rental of the Head House property. After reviewing several ideas, the DDA has decided on the property's final use.

The council approved the DDA to decide on the rental space of the first-floor Head House.

10. Applications for appointment to the DDA
Mary Csukas, DDA Director
This topic was tabled for a future date.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments

City Clerk Csukas reminded the City Council of the United City Summit Training Dates in Atlanta.

City Manager Comments

No Comments

City Attorney Comments

No Comments

City Council Comments

No comments.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor announced that we had become at risk due to the ongoing deterioration of two sycamore trees downtown. She states that we must take public safety very seriously since a big limb fell on its own. The intention is to cut down these problematic trees this week to ensure the community's safety. The trees will be replaced later in the year 2023, but first, the area where they were planted will undergo much recovery. The wood from the trees will be preserved once they are cured, and options for the tree's usage will be discussed at a future date.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 P.M.