



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Meeting - Amended Minutes

October 05, 2022, 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 - 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.

PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor
Councilmember Ron Larson
Councilmember Roman Gaddis
Councilmember Johnny Ariemma
Councilmember Ross Shirley
Councilmember Lance Bagley

ABSENT

Councilmember Ryan Reagin

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:02
She thanked everyone for being in attendance.

PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mayor Taylor led a prayer for Allison Martin, Finance Director, regarding the loss of her father.
Councilmember Larson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for approval of the Agenda.
Motion made by Councilmember Shirley, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma,
Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Jim Gribben of 257 Hawkins St introduced himself and indicated he had come to previous meetings and find ways to assist. He expressed his thoughts regarding the opportunity for community members to speak on agenda items. The County has this feature on its web page. He also was looking for information on the Head House regarding potential tenants.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

- a. Special Called Council Work Session Minutes September 6, 2022

- Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk
- b. Council Work Session Minutes September 19, 2022
Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk
 - c. City Council Meeting Minutes September 6, 2022
Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk
 - d. City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes September 19, 2022
Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk
 - e. City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes October 3, 2022
Danna Foster, Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Taylor read the titles of all meetings and asked for a motion to approve all minutes.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson to approve all items a-e, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

APPOINTMENT/RECOGNITION

1. Proclamation - Official 2022 City of Dahlonega/Lumpkin County Collectors Ornament
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
Mayor Taylor read the proclamation announcing the Community Helping Place Ornament to be the official 2022 City of Dahlonega/Lumpkin County Collectors Ornament.
2. Proclamation - Mark Spraker, Chair of the Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors for 2022
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
Mayor Taylor read the proclamation.

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION:

3. Ordinance 2022-12: Ordinance to allow for commercial walking tours of Mount Hope Cemetery.
Doug Parks, City Attorney
Mayor Taylor announced the item and deferred the article for later in the meeting.
At 6:32 pm, the Mayor returned to the item and called for a motion for Ordinance 2022-12, an ordinance to allow for commercial walking tours of Mount Hope Cemetery.
Motion made by Councilmember Larson, seconded by Councilmember Shirley.
Mayor Taylor asked for any discussion.
Councilmember Shirley called attention to section 10-129 violations. He paraphrased, "Any individual or organization that violates the Rules and Regulations of Municipal Cemeteries will be prohibited from holding future tours or events in the cemetery. Independent violations of the law will also be prosecuted." He discussed the statement did not allow any discretion by the council or city attorney and added that it seemed a little

harsh to me. He wanted more flexibility on how violations were handled.

City Attorney Parks enters the meeting.

Mayor Taylor explained that Councilmember Shirley was looking for some moderation in the wording of the section above.

There was a discussion of an edit that was made, which may not have made the packet.

Mayor Taylor stated she would entertain a motion for the item as modified by the City Attorney.

Councilmember Larson revised his motion to approve section 10-129 as amended.

Councilmember Shirley seconded.

Mayor Taylor called for further discussion.

Councilmember Bagley asked City Attorney Parks to read that section again.

City Attorney Parks read, "Any tour guide or group organizer that materially violates the rules and regulations of the municipal cemetery will be prohibited from holding future tours or events in the cemetery."

Councilmember Gaddis thanked City Attorney Parks for the clarification. He indicated he did not see the document until today and that he would be voting no on the document because of the version that was advertised to the public. He suggested tabling it. Councilmember Larson added that there didn't seem to be an urgency.

Councilmember Ariemma asked about the formality of it. Councilmember Larson added that if there was no further discussion, based on the points raised, he withdrew his motion requesting the ordinance be properly circulated and addressed at the next meeting. Councilmember Shirley withdrew his second. Mayor Taylor asked this item to be moved to the next meeting and the item circulated.

Council returned to the comment section of the meeting.

4. Ordinance 2022-13 - Cross-connection

Mark Buchanan, City Engineer & John Jarrard, JWS

Mayor Taylor announced the item and asked for a motion.

Mayor Taylor called for, and there was no discussion

Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma to adopt Ordinance 2022-13, approving the cross-connection plan for the City of Dahlonge., Seconded by Councilmember Shirley. Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

5. Resolution 2022-14 - FY22 Budget Amendment for Additional Tourism Funds

Allison Martin, Finance Director

Mayor Taylor announced the item and called for a motion.

Mayor Taylor called for, and there was no discussion.

RG read motion

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis to amend the FY2022 budget as outlined in Attachment A to Resolution 2022-14, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT/CITY REPORTS:

6. Financial Report - August 2022

Allison Martin, Finance Director

Financial report was not given this evening due to Director Martin's absence.

OLD BUSINESS:

7. 2023 Employee Benefits Program

Allison Martin, Finance Director

Matt Bidwell, MSI Benefits Group, Inc.

Mayor Taylor announced that the initial discussion was at the last work session, and the final work is underway finalizing numbers. There is no presentation this evening. It remained on the agenda, so the Council would know it is still being worked on.

No motion is required.

8. Proposed Construction Easement Pinetree Way

Allison Martin, Finance Director

Mayor Taylor announced that the specifics of granting the easement are still underway.

No motion is required.

9. Project # 2021-004 Choice Street Parking Lot Resurfacing

Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Mayor Taylor announced the item and turned it over to Manager Hunsinger.

Manager Hunsinger announced that the bid came in at \$87,264. There are funds of \$35,000 rolled over from 2022 and \$70,000 from 2023.

Councilmember Larson stated that based on the additional information on the budget of 2022 and 2021 with it being fully funded, he made a motion to approve the 2021-004 Choice St Parking Lot resurfacing. It was seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

Mayor Taylor called for further discussion.

Councilmember Bagley expressed concerns about inflation.

Council and the City Manager discussed the costs and the possibility of building a parking garage there. Manager Hunsinger indicated there were no plans for a parking garage. They also discussed timing and keeping the lot looking nice.

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

It was questioned by Council during the discussion of item 10 that this item was mislabeled and should be 2022-004. Manager Hunsinger confirmed that this item is labeled correctly.

10. Project # 2021-019 Choice Street Sidewalk

Vince Hunsinger, Capital Project Manager

Mayor Taylor announced the item and turned the it over to Manager Hunsinger. Mayor Taylor called for a motion.

Councilmember Bagley made a motion to approve the Construction of a curb, gutter, concrete sidewalk, and installation of a brick paver sidewalk on Choice Street 2021-019

and then asked if it should be 2022-19, which was affirmed. Councilmember Gaddis seconded.

Mayor Taylor indicated there was a challenge with the project, and they were faced with high bids. She added that Manager Hunsinger had cleared his suggestion with Director Martin.

Manager Hunsinger indicated that the low bid came in at \$74,375. He added that he was asking for a 15% contingency. The budget was set at \$41,715, and per Director Martin, the additional funds would come out of TSPLOST monies. The total need is \$85,531. He added that \$43,816 would come out of TSPLOST. Manager Hunsinger indicated there was enough for this project and the Mechanicsville road project. Council discussed the visual of this sidewalk, the front sidewalk, the materials used, and costs.

Mayor Taylor called for those in favor of approving project 2022-019.

Motion made by Councilmember Bagley, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

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

Council moved to back to item number 3.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk Csukas reminded the Council of the Staff appreciation on Friday. Councilmember Larson asked what was expected of Council on that day.

City Manager Lewis had no comments.

City Attorney Parks had no comments this evening.

Councilmember Shirley had no additional comments. Councilmember Ariemma apologized to City Attorney Parks for a mishap in the doorway. Councilmember Gaddis thanked Mr. Gibbens for his comments and encouraged him to check out Leadership Lumpkin as a great way to get plugged into the community. Councilmember Larson had no additional comments.

Councilmember Larson commented that the Head House looks great and will be a stand-out piece for Dahlonega. Mayor Taylor had no additional comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn at 6:55 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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