



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Meeting Minutes

December 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.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Councilmember Larson led the opening prayer.

Councilmember Gaddis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor advised the Council that comments would be discussed before the executive session.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion of approval.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Mr. David Kraft, the Carriage Company owner, had concerns with some of the new regulations outlined by the city for carriage rides downtown due to safety concerns for the public. These guidelines have changed the makeup of his business, and Mr. Kraft requests the former placement of his carriage stands.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

- a. Council Meeting Minutes November 7, 2022, Mary Csukas, City Clerk

Mayor Taylor called for a motion of approval.

Councilmember Ron Larson motioned, and Councilmember Ryan Reagin seconded the motion.

Councilmember Ariemma suggested modifying the minutes to reflect the June 19th federal holiday, the council date change for June, and a possible reason for changing the July council meeting on the public notice. None of the councilmembers opposed it.

APPOINTMENT/RECOGNITION

1. Oath of Office - Officer Nicholas Weathington,
Mayor Taylor said this was the fun part of our meeting, to swear in our newest police Officer Nicholas Weathington.

Mayor Taylor asked Mr. Nicholas Weathington to come forward to the front so he may read the oath of office. Mayor Taylor thanked Officer Weathington for his service, and the Mayor and Officer Weathington signed his oath.

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION:

2. Ordinance 2022-16: An ordinance to exclude off-street parking and loading requirements within the B-3 and CBD zones for restaurants, lounges, and retail businesses, Doug Parks, City Attorney

City Attorney Parks explained that this is a deviation from standard practice, in which this topic would typically come before the council at a work session. The impossibility of this ordinance has caused severe issues for businesses to open their doors. The served purpose of this ordinance is to be a temporary placeholder to allow this to move to the planning commission. He emphasized that this was a temporary solution that allowed for leeway to find a better solution for the downtown area.

Motion made by Councilmember Ross to approve the referral, Seconded by Councilmember Ryan.

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

Councilmember Bagley asked how this vote tonight would affect the current parking ordinance. City Attorney Parks informed Council that this vote of referral to the Planning Commission does not effectuate any change in the ordinance tonight. It will be moved to the Planning Commission for review and vote and then back to a council work session for more study and a council voting session.

Mayor Taylor stated that this was a serious move for the businesses of Dahlonega, and the city attorney recommended approval of item 8 regardless of further discussion.

Councilmember Gaddis requested consideration from the planning commission to maintain a "parking bank" for funds to account for new spaces that might be needed, in the future, when a business changes use. None of the councilmembers opposed the parking ordinance referred to the planning commission.

Mayor Taylor asked that all were in favor of approval, and the motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENT/CITY REPORTS:

No announcements or city reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

3. 2023 Agreement for Tourism Development Services, Allison Martin, Finance Director

Director Martin reminded the council of what was discussed at the city council work session, and because we have yet to see the CVB split from the Chamber, the previous agreement will need to be renewed.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion of approval.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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

4. UCBI Banking Service Contract Renewal, Allison Martin, Finance Director

Director Martin informed Council that the renewal contract is renewing with no changes since the original work session.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma,
Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

5. Resolution 2022-17 - FY2022 Year-end Budget Amendment, Allison Martin, Finance Director

This item was moved to the next work session.

6. DDA Intergovernmental Agreement City of Dahlonaga, Mary Csukas, DDA Director
Director Csukas asked for approval of the Downtown Dahlonaga agreement with the City of Dahlonaga, as the DDA board approved it at their last meeting.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion of approval.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma,
Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

NEW BUSINESS:

7. 2023 Alcoholic Beverage License - Gourmet Brew Inc dba Dahlonaga Tasting Room, Doug Parks, City Attorney

Mayor Taylor called for a motion of approval.

Motion made by Councilmember Shirley, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma,
Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

8. 2022 Alcoholic Beverage License – 35 Degrees North LLC dba The Station, Doug Parks, City Attorney

Mayor Taylor called for a motion of approval.

Motion made by Councilmember Shirley, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma,
Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

9. 2023 Alcoholic Beverage License Renewals, Doug Parks, City Attorney

City Attorney Parks noted that all the establishments up for renewal complied and recommended that all be approved.

Ms. Csukas informed Council that there are no late fees.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion of approval.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Ariemma.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma,
Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk Comments: Ms. Csukas reminded the council of the annual Christmas Party and thanked Council for their donations of Christmas gifts.

City Manager Comments: City Manager Lewis read a short statement about his time as interim city manager. He noted how much the city had changed and grown since his last time at City Hall. He commended the staff for their competent hard work and the council for their leadership. Mayor Taylor thanked him for his service and contributions to the city.

City Attorney Comments: City Attorney Parks thanked Bill Lewis for his long public service career and persistence in many difficult situations.

City Council Comments:

Councilmember Shirley thanked city manager interim Bill Lewis for all his support and guidance. Over the weekend, he saw a huge crowd at Dahlonge's Public Square and expects this to continue as we offer many events throughout the Christmas holiday.

Councilmember Ariemma thanked Bill Lewis for all his hard work. He then asked City Attorney Doug Parks for a status update on hiring a grant writer. Doug said he had no update.

Councilmember Gaddis thanked Bill Lewis for all his hard work and dedication to the city and mentioned that the Square looks remarkable. As he is heading the recycling committee, he asked for recommendations from the council to form the committee.

Councilmember Shirley thanked Bill Lewis for all his hard work and the Tourism board for their hard work.

Councilmember Reagin thanked Bill Lewis for his service and commitment to the city.

Councilmember Bagley thanked Bill Lewis for his years of service. He informed staff that he appreciated the upkeep of the Square and hearing all the positive feedback from visitors downtown. Also, he enjoyed the Tree Lighting Downtown.

Mayor Taylor appreciated the staff, welcomed the new city police officer, and thanked the Christmas committee for all their hard work.

10. Executive Session - Litigation and Personnel

Mayor entertained the motion to go into executive session at 6:39 P.M.

Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

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

No action was taken at the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor adjourned the Council meeting.