



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## Council Meeting Minutes

October 05, 2020 6:00 PM

Gary McCullough Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

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| <p>PRESENT<br/>         Mayor Norton<br/>         Council Member Mitchell Ridley<br/>         Council Member Ron Larson - absent<br/>         Council Member JoAnne Taylor<br/>         Council Member Roman Gaddis<br/>         Council Member Johnny Ariemma<br/>         Council Member Helen Hardman</p> | <p>PRESENT<br/>         City Clerk Mary Csukas<br/>         Director Melody Marlowe<br/>         City Manager Bill Schmid<br/>         Director Mark Buchanan</p> | <p>PRESENT<br/>         City Attorney Doug Parks<br/>         Tourism Director Sam McDuffie</p> |
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### CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Council Member Hardman led the Prayer, and Council Member Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Norton called for a motion to amend the agenda to include a board member's appointment to the Downtown Development Authority.

*Motion made by Council Member Taylor to amend the agenda to include an additional Downtown Development Authority Board Member, Seconded by Council Member Hardman.*

*Voting Yea: Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Larson, Council Member Ariemma, Council Member Gaddis.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Ms. Penny Sharpe of Dahlonega Walking Tours, located at 19 East Main Street, outlined her business's needs concerning the current terms of the Mt. Hope Ordinance. Ms. Sharpe invited the Mayor and Council to take an Mt. Hope Cemetery Tour.

Sam McDuffie, Lumpkin County Tourism Director, updated Council and Mayor on the recent Six Gap Bicycle Races.

- 1921 Riders participated, which was a decrease of 60 riders from the previous year 2019.
- Rider's registration was a success this year.
- We thank the Volunteers and City Manager Schmid for their assistance with the races.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

- a. Council Meeting Minutes - September 8, 2020

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Council Meeting Minutes as written

*Motion made by Council Member Ariemma to approve the Council Meeting Minutes as written, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.*

Council Member Gaddis asked for a correction of 11:00 p.m. instead of the stated time of 1:00 p.m. under meeting minutes item E.

Mayor Norton asked for approval of the minutes with the inclusion of the requested correction.

*Voting Yea: Mayor Norton, Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Ariemma*

b. Work Session Meeting Minutes - September 21, 2020

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Work Session Minutes as written.

*Motion made by Council Member Taylor to approve the Work Session minutes as written, Seconded by Council Member Hardman.*

*Voting Yea: Mayor Norton, Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Ariemma*

## RECOGNITION

3. Appointment to Dahunega Housing Authority - Darrell West

Mayor Norton called for a motion to appoint Darrell West to the Dahunega Housing Authority.

*Motion made by Council Member Gaddis to appoint Darrell West to the Dahunega Housing Authority, Seconded by Council Member Ridley.*

Council discussed the requirements of the Dahunega Housing Authority.

*Voting Yea: Mayor Norton, Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Ariemma*

## OLD BUSINESS:

4. Morrison Moore Pedestrian Bridge Engineering Services Contract, Mark Buchanan, City Engineer

Director Buchanan requested approval of dollars not to exceed \$375,000, giving authority to execute a contract with Wood Engineering to complete the sidewalk engineering aspect from Walmart to the Boat Ramp at the Reservoir under the Morrison Moore Pedestrian Bridge. The Georgia Department of Transportation will reimburse the City at 80%, which is \$300,000.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the dollars amount not to exceed \$375,000, giving authority to execute a contract with Wood Engineering to complete the sidewalk engineering aspect from Walmart to the Boat Ramp at the Reservoir under the Morrison Moore Pedestrian.

*Motion made by Council Member Ariemma, Seconded by Council Member Taylor*

*Motion made by Council Member Ariemma, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.*

*Voting Yea: Mayor Norton, Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Ariemma*

Council and Mayor discussed the many aspects of this project and the need to complete this joint project with Lumpkin County in the coming years.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### 5. 4th Quarter CY2020 Event Discussion, Mary Csukas, City Clerk

City Manager Schmid and Ms. Csukas outlined some cautionary reasons for not sponsoring the 2020 Trick or Treat.

- The CCD gave three guidelines for trick or treating, including the need not to hold large scale events in Cities.
- The City of Gainesville has closed the City Halloween Event, which may impact the crowds in the City of Dahlonega.

Council and Mayor discussed the potential needs and hazards of holding a large-scale event in Dahlonega.

- Council consensus is for the City not to sanction Trick or Treating in the Downtown Area this year. The Council understood the disappointment of the children, but safety must prevail.
- Merchants in the downtown area participated in a survey, and 75% were not in favor of a large-scale Trick or Treating in the downtown area.
- City's Marshals Office will ensure safety for families who participate in any Halloween event in the Downtown Area.

### 6. Financial Reports - June 2020, Melody Marlowe, Finance Director

Director Marlowe informed Council that the City received a large Sales Tax rebate in the amount of \$217,000. The state finalized a three-year settlement created by a large retailer's computer malfunction, which incorrectly distributed the funds.

Director Marlowe will distribute depreciation and amortization of the Water Sewer funds to Council Ariemma.

### 7. Appointment of Amy Thrailkill to the Dahlonega Downtown Authority Board

Mayor Norton called for a motion to appoint Amy Thrailkill to the Dahlonega Downtown Authority Board.

*Motion made by Council Member Hardman to appoint Amy Thrailkill to the Dahlonega Downtown Authority Board, Seconded by Council Member Taylor.*

Council praised the quality of this candidate.

Council will discuss the Dahlonega Downtown Authority's focus at the upcoming Work Session on October 19, 2020.

*Voting Yea: Mayor Norton, Council Member Hardman, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Ridley, Council Member Gaddis, Council Member Ariemma*

## COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments – no comments.

City Manager Comments – Please stop by Memorial Cemetery to view the recent improvements.

City Attorney Comments – No comments

City Council Comments: No comments

Mayor:

Lumpkin County is holding well in this COVID pandemic, with our numbers per 1000 down from 13% to 7% and only 68 COVID patients at Northeast Georgia hospital.

We have a lot to be proud of but remember to be safe.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Norton adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

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Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sam Norton, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Mary Csukas, City Clerk