



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Work Session Minutes

June 20, 2022, 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.

PRESENT: Mayor JoAnne Taylor

Councilmember Roman Gaddis

Councilmember Johnny Ariemma

Councilmember Ross Shirley

Councilmember Lance Bagley

ABSENT

Councilmember Ron Larson

Councilmember Ryan Reagin

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor declared the meeting open at 4:01 pm

BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

1. Cemetery Committee—May 2022

Chris Worick, Committee Chairman

2. Downtown Dahlonega Report – May 2022

Ariel Alexander, Interim Main Street Manager

Interim Manager Alexander indicated there is a full day of activities for the upcoming 4th of July celebration. She also added that the staff and Board of Downtown Dahlonega had completed six of the twenty-two tasks that the Council and DDA Board identified earlier in the year.

3. Downtown Dahlonega (Downtown Development Authority) Chair Update

Amy Thrailkill, Chair

Chairman Thrailkill indicated that the old kindergarten property is one of the more significant projects on the table. She is excited to have a committee formed to move the project forward.

TOURISM: Sam McDuffie, Tourism Director

4. Successes of the Year Presentation

Sam McDuffie, Director of Tourism

Director McDuffie informed Council that the Board was updated from 9 to 11 people. He shared that they are putting \$80,000 into the Visitor Center restrooms.

He gave an overview of the marketing and increased viewing interest on the web and discussed the Hotel/Motel Tax collection and use. He shared their accolades over the last two years. There is a steady increase in growth. He discussed the media marketing campaign and separating from the Chamber of Commerce by the end of the fiscal year. Their focus is on drawing small groups to the area. Councilmember Gaddis reminded Director McDuffie of the Dahlenega Mine Train ride at Six Flags and suggested seeing if there was an opportunity to advertise there. Councilmember Ariemma stated his business is seeing a drop due to gas prices. Director McDuffie indicated July is our third busiest month and feels we will have a good season.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

5. Dahlenega Police Department – May 2022
George Albert, Chief of Police
Mayor Taylor commented on a note regarding Officer Weeks and his assistance to motorists.
6. Finance and Administration Department – May 2022
Allison Martin, Finance Director
7. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report May 2022
John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director
Councilmember Ariemma questioned the notation on the high volume of disposable wipes at the Highland Trace Lift Station. Council discussed the need to send a public service message regarding the use of the wipes' non-biodegradability in the system to the public.
8. Community Development – May 2022
Jameson Kinley, Planning and Zoning Administrator
9. Public Works—May 2022
Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

10. Letter of Support Lumpkin County Water & Sewerage Authority
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
Mayor Taylor discussed this item and advised that the purpose was to offer support to the County as the City could not handle the wastewater of the incoming hospital.
11. Resolution 2022-12 - Authorize Changes to Georgia Fund 1 Authorized Users
Allison Martin, Finance Director
This Resolution is to make the updates to the Authorized users, which will allow changes to make investments for higher yield.
12. Resolution 2022-11 - Authorization to Use Purchase Card Program
Allison Martin, Finance Director
Director Martin explained the card program and its benefits. Director Martin estimated it would save three hours of work weekly in the department.
Mayor Taylor reminded Council of the upcoming GMA convention and hotel check-in processes.
13. Cemetery Visitation Permit - Dahlenega Walking Tours
Jameson Kinley - Planning and Zoning Administrator

Administrator Kinley gave the history of the ordinance and this business' permit request. Penny Sharpe of Dahlonaga Walking Tours has applied for a permit and agreed to the stipulations. Council discussed the application, history, and impact on tourism.

14. Housing Study Proposal

Mayor JoAnne Taylor

Mayor Taylor announced that this study would occur within the city limits and give current data to inform further development.

Council discussed the costs of the study, action steps that could come from the analysis, and the needs of current and future residents. One of the hopes is to attract developers.

15. Fleet Replacement by Enterprise

Mark Buchanan, Public Works Director

Allison Martin, Finance Director

Director Martin discussed the benefits and costs of the program and expounded that there was not enough data on electric vehicles to determine the benefit of this government program. Council asked many questions about the purchasing, financial pros and cons, capital replacement program, and other communities' experiences.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk Csukas reminded Council of the travel packet envelopes they received for their trip to GMA.

City Manager Lewis commented that he enjoys working with our very professional staff.

City Attorney Parks had no additional comments.

City Council members had no comments.

Mayor Taylor had no additional comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 5:11 pm.