



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Work Session Minutes

December 18, 2023, 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 – Dahlonega will be the most welcoming, thriving, and inspiring community in North Georgia

Mission Statement - Dahlonega, a City of Excellence, will provide quality services through ethical leadership and fiscal stability, in full partnership with the people who choose to live, work, and visit. Through this commitment, we respect and uphold our rural Appalachian setting to honor our thriving community of historical significance, academic excellence, and military renown.

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor called the City Council Work Session of December 18th, 2023, to order at 5:24 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor
Councilmember Johnny Ariemma
Councilmember Ryan Reagin
Councilmember Ross Shirley
Councilmember Lance Bagley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

BOARD & COMMITTEES

1. Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority/Main Street – November 2023, Ariel Alexander, Downtown Development Director

Director Alexander thanked everyone for attending Dahlonega's 190th Birthday.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AVAILABLE AT: <https://dahlonega.gov/category/departments-reports/>

Mayor Taylor read a list of everything the City Council has accomplished this year. The list of accomplishments is incorporated as an attachment to these minutes.

Councilmember Ariemma stated that the police department is doing a great job. He asked if there was a way to have more City Police Officers patrolling the Downtown area between 8:00 P.M. and 12:00 AM. He stated there was a lot of traffic and activity in that period.

City Manager Martin stated she would discuss this request with Police Chief Albert.

APPOINTMENT, PROCLAMATION & RECOGNITION: (Vote at Council Meeting)

2. Reappointment to Housing Authority - Janet Tolbert, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

City Manager Martin went over Janet Tolbert's reappointment to the Housing Authority. Councilmember Bagley asked what the requirements are to be a part of the Housing Authority. City Manager Martin responded that there must be one resident member, the executive director must be a member, and the remaining members are comprised of those who live within the city limits.

3. Discussion of Appointment to Downtown Development Authority, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
Director Alexander reviewed the two Downtown Development Authority applications with the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Taylor stated that the Downtown Development Authority suggests people with a background in real estate and business experience.

4. Discussion of Appointment to Cemetery Committee, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
City Engineer Buchanan reviewed the Cemetery Committee applications with the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Taylor asked if the by-laws should be changed. Director Buchanan will review with the committee.

Councilmember Reagin told the cemetery committee they are doing a great job.

Councilmember Bagley asked about the time they have to wait to get back on the committee. Director Buchanan stated the time is one year.

Councilmember Shirley asked if there were any requirements to be on the Cemetery Committee and if he could read the by-laws for each committee and commission. City Manager Martin will send the requested by-laws.

Councilmember Reagin asked if the college would still be involved with the Cemetery Committee. Mayor Taylor stated that they would only be getting volunteers from UNG.

5. Appointment to Historic Preservation Commission, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

City Manager Martin reviewed the Historic Preservation Commission applications with the Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Reagin asked if there is anything put on social media or in the newspaper about these openings. City Manager Martin stated that the applications are on the City of Dahlonega website.

6. Appointment to the Planning Commission, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

City Manager Martin reviewed the Planning Commission applications with the Mayor and Council. She recommends from staff that these appointments only be for one year. This can be revisited next year after reviewing zoning ordinances.

Councilmember Shirley asked if boards could be changed into committees.

City Manager Martin stated that there are laws that require a quorum but that this could be looked into.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk Ms. Csukas had no comments.

City Manager Martin had no comments.

City Attorney Parks complimented the City Council on their accomplishments this year.

City Council Comments-

Councilmember Ariemma stated that he hopes everyone has a Merry Christmas and has much to be thankful for.

Councilmember Reagin stated that everyone has done a great job this year.

Councilmember Shirley complimented staff on Christmas in Dahlonga and how they are doing amazingly.

Councilmember Bagley complimented Jane on a well-done Christmas, and the city staff is doing great.

Mayor Taylor thanked the council for everything they have done this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the City Council Work Session meeting at 5:47 P.M.

Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma, Seconded by Councilmember Reagin.

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