



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Meeting Minutes

March 06, 2023, 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 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor
Councilmember Ron Larson
Councilmember Roman Gaddis
Councilmember Ryan Reagin
Councilmember Ross Shirley
Councilmember Lance Bagley

ABSENT

Councilmember Johnny Ariemma

PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mayor Taylor asked Councilmember Larson to lead the Prayer, and Councilmember Gaddis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the March 6, 2023, agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Shirley, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve January 3, 2023, City of Dahlonega Public Hearing Minutes, February 6, 2023, City Council Meeting Minutes, and February 20, 2023, City Council Work Session Minutes.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Reagin.

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

- a. City of Dahlonega Public Hearing - January 3, 2023, Mary Csukas, City Clerk
- b. City Council Meeting Minutes - February 6, 2023, Mary Csukas, City Clerk
- c. City Council Work Session Minutes - February 20, 2023, Mary Csukas, City Clerk

APPOINTMENT, PROCLAMATION & RECOGNITION:

1. Oaths of Office for new appointees to the DDA, JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
Deb Rowe read the Oaths of Office to Mayor Taylor.

Mayor Taylor states that Autry Moore's Oath of Office will occur at the March 20, 2023, Meeting at 4:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Taylor states that Johnny Ariemma has served on the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission for the last year as a representative of the City of Dahlonega. The City Council appreciates his service and support of that organization.

Mayor Taylor announced that there was National Recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association for excellence in financial reportage. She congratulated City Manager Martin for all her hard work over the last year.

CITY REPORTS:

2. Financial Report - January 2023, Allison Martin, City Manager

City Manager Martin states that the Tax Commissioner mailed the annual property tax bills on October 1st with a December 1st due date. Today, March 6, 2023, 96.64% of the 2022 taxes budgeted have been collected.

Sales tax collections are 11.53% greater than FY22.

The annual revenue for Insurance Premium Tax is \$545,246.95 this year, which is 24% greater than last fiscal year.

Alcoholic Beverage Tax and License revenue are slightly more significant than the prior year.

Permit revenue collected is greater than the previous year's collections. Department expenditures are aligned with budget expectations.

DDA operational results are on schedule with the budget.

Hotel/Motel Tax revenue is 0.69% more in FY23 than FY22 and 70.89% higher than pre-pandemic collections. One is the change to the law regarding collection by third-party online booking agencies, and the other is the new hotel.

Water and sewer sales are trending along with budget projections. Revenue from water sales and sewer charges is 16.77% more than last year and 11.07% greater than pre-pandemic numbers. All department expenses are aligned with the budget.

Refuse Collection Charges and Revenues are 0.43% less than the prior year. Expenses are meeting budget expectations.

Stormwater utility charges were first billed in January 2021 and met budget expectations.

After City Manager Martin presented Financial Reports, a discussion was had on the percentages between city council members.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

No new ordinances and resolutions.

CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS:

No new warranties and agreements.

OTHER ITEMS:

3. New Alcoholic Beverage License – Dahlonga Brew Pub, Doug Parks, City Attorney; Mary Csukas, City Clerk

City Attorney Parks read the Dahlonga Brew Pub Alcohol Beverage License Application, which is strictly for distilled spirits consumption. He believes the subsequent application submitted is forthcoming but still going through the process.

City Clerk Csukas states that the subsequential application is still going through the process of being approved. Once the application has been approved and sent back to the City of Dahlonga from the Department of Revenue Portal, then the application can start being worked on.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the Dahlonga Brew Pub Alcohol Beverage License for Distilled Spirits Consumption at Dahlonga Brew Pub.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Reagin

4. Asphalt Leveling and Resurfacing City Streets LMIG Project #2023-001, Vince Hunsinger, Capital Projects Manager

Capital Projects Manager Hunsinger discusses the Asphalt Leveling and Resurfacing City Streets LMIG Project. With a low bid of \$205,127.60, Manager Hunsinger requests permission to pave the asphalt leveling and resurfacing city streets near Calhoun Road (LMIG Project #2023-001).

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the Asphalt Leveling and Resurfacing City Streets LMIG Project #2023-001.

A discussion was had about prices between City Council and Capital Projects Manager Hunsinger.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis, Seconded by Councilmember Larson.

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

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

City Clerk comments

City Clerk had no comments.

City Manager Comments

With the proposal, we have been looking into housing needs assessment. City Manager Martin states that Councilmember Reagin will serve as the nonvoting councilmember for DDA. The Head House Open House will be on March 20, 2023, from 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. The groundbreaking for the Lumpkin County Recreation and Aquatic Facility is March 24, 2023, at 10:30 A.M.

City Attorney Comments

City Attorney Parks states that there is an amendment to the professional services agreement consuming the pedestrian bridge. He is requesting to execute this amendment and add it to the agenda for discussion at the Special Called Meeting on March 20, 2023.

City Council Comments

Councilmember Shirley states that you must attend GMA Training as a councilmember. Speaking with other council members at his training, and hearing their stories, made him more appreciative of Dahlonega.

Councilmember Gaddis thanked City Manager Martin for her leadership and the weekly updates she provides for the Councilmembers.

Councilmember Larson had no comments.

Councilmember Reagin said GMA training was good and hopes to see the Lumpkin County Women's Basketball team go back-to-back at their basketball game Friday, March 10, 2023.

Councilmember Bagley said the GMA training was fantastic. He wished the Lumpkin County Women's Basketball team good luck at their basketball game and hopes to see them win back-to-back Friday, March 10, 2023. He also states that the UNG Men's Basketball team made it to the division.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor suggested watching Paul Milligan's Visit to Dahlonega Segment.

5. Executive Session - Litigation

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to move into Executive Session at 6:22 P.M.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Reagin.

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

Mayor Taylor resumed the council meeting at 7:41 P.M.

No action was taken at the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 P.M.

Motion made by Councilmember Larson, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

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