



CITY OF DAHLONEGA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 6, 2018 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order and Welcome

Mayor Norton called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Members Present

Mayor Sam Norton, Councilmembers Helen Hardman, JoAnne Taylor, Roman Gaddis, Bruce Hoffman, and Ron Larson were present.

Staff Present

City Manager Bill Schmid, Finance Director Melody Marlowe, Community Development Director Kevin Herrit, Public Works Director Mark Buchanan, Water Plant Supervisor John Jarrad and Assistant City Clerk Mary Csukas were present. Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority Jan Harris was present. City Attorney Doug Parks was present.

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

The Pledge was led by Councilmember Gaddis. The Prayer was led by Councilmember Hardman.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Councilmember Larson and seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

No Public Comments

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes together, June 04, 2018 – Regular Council Meeting, June 20, 2018 – Work Session, June 20, 2018 – Special Called Meeting and the July 02, 2018 – Regular Council Meeting. Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis to approve the Meeting minutes for the June 04, 2018 – Regular Council Meeting, June 20, 2018 – Work Session, June 20, 2018 – Special Called Meeting and the July 02, 2018 – Regular Council Meeting. Councilmember Hardman seconded the motion. Mayor Norton informed Council that these were amended minutes with a few small amendments within the wording. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Recognition

Mayor Norton stated that an appointment to a committee or commission was one of the most important roles a citizen can do by taking a role in government. Mayor Norton asked Joe Henderson, and Ellen Markovits to please step forward to be recognized and appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Norton asked Council to approve the acceptance of Joe Henderson as a voting member and Ellen Markovits, as a member at-large to the Historic Preservation Commission. Motion made by Councilmember Taylor and seconded by Councilmember Hardman. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Csukas issued the Oath of Office to Joe Henderson and Ellen Markovits for the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Norton informed Council that Mr. Jimmy Anderson will be joining the Cemetery Committee, as a member. Mr. Anderson has been vetted as a member of other committees with the City of Dahlonge and we welcome him to the Cemetery Committee.

Public Hearing

City of Dahlonge Fiscal Year 2019 Budget:

City Manager Schmid outlined key points in the in the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget and informed the Council and Mayor of a few minor changes requested by Staff and Council to the 2019 Budget; these requests had been made since Council last viewed the document. Reference notes were added for the rate increase of 4% on water-sewer, no increase on solid waste, and a roll back on property taxes, so the anticipated impact on customers will be \$3.15 per month. City Manager Schmid further informed Council and Mayor of a few clerical mistakes that were corrected as needed in the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget.

Council Member Taylor thanked City Manager Schmid and Staff for the Budget that was a clear document with no increase in debt.

City Manager Schmid responded to Council Members Taylor's comment by informing Council and Mayor that the plan was for early retirement of GEFA debt at rate of \$40,000 a year that will begin in 2019.

Council Member Larson and Mayor Norton seconded the praise of City Manager Schmid and Staff. Action will be taken on this issue at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Change in Plat Specifications for Development Regulations-Appendix A, Article VI, REZN06-18-0002:

Community Development Director Harris opened the Public Hearing and informed Council and Mayor that the purpose of this amendment is to update the platting requirements to match state codes.

Mayor Norton turned the Public Hearing over to City Attorney Parks who called for Public Comments on this issue, either in favor or adversely- No comments.

City Attorney Parks asked Community Director Herrit if there were any further recommendations by the Planning Commission. Community Director Herrit stated that the Planning Commission and his department recommended approval.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Plat Specifications for Development Regulations-Appendix A, Article VI, REZN06-18-0002. Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis and seconded by Councilmember Hoffman. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Change in Height Regulations – Appendix B, Article VII, Section 703 of the Zoning Ordinance – REZN-06-18-003.

Community Director Herrit opened the Public Hearing for an amendment to the height limitations section of the Zoning Ordinance in the B2 and OI districts.

Mayor Norton turned the Public Hearing over to City Attorney Parks who called for public comments on this issue in favor or adversely.

Mr. Joe Markovits asked the current height requirement and the proposed height requirement, as well as the reason for the change in these requirements.

Community Development Director Harris stated that the height requirements are currently 35 ft – 36.2 ft. with the proposed height requirement at 65 ft. The reason for the change to the height requirement is to spur development in Highway Business Districts and Office and Industrial districts.

Mr. Joe Markovits asked if this change will affect the Old School Yard location to which Community Development Director stated not at this time.

Council Member Gaddis stated that the location in question, the Old School Yard was under zoning review to change to a PUD which may allow a change in height limitations and the public should be informed.

Community Development Director stated that the Old school Yard was an open case and not one for discussion at this time.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Change in Height Regulations – Appendix B, Article VII, Section 703 of the Zoning Ordinance – REZN-06-18-003. agenda. Motion made by Councilmember Hoffman and seconded by Councilmember Larson. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

City Attorney Parks requested that Mayor Norton close the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Hearing.

Mayor Norton called for motion to close the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Hearing. Motion made by Councilmember Taylor and seconded by Councilmember Larson. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Ordinance 2018-07 – Zoning Map Amendment Parcel #061-047, Torrington Rd. From (B1) Neighborhood Business to (R3) Multi Family-Residential – Council Member Gaddis recused himself from voting on this issue.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-07 – Zoning Map Amendment Parcel #061-047, Torrington Rd. From (B1) Neighborhood Business to (R3) Multi Family-Residential. Motion made by Councilmember Taylor and seconded by Councilmember Larson. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved with an affirmative vote of five Council Members. Council Member Gaddis recused himself.

Ordinance 2018-08 – Amending Zoning Definitions, Uses and Parking Requirements. Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-08 – Amending Zoning Definitions, Uses and Parking Requirements. Motion made by Councilmember Larson and seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ordinance 2018-09 – Amending Zoning, for PUD, Required Contiguous Acreage. Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-09 – Amending Zoning, for PUD, Required Contiguous Acreage. Motion made by Councilmember Larson and seconded by Councilmember Gaddis. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consensus to Authorize Storm Water Feasibility Study - Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Consensus to Authorize Storm Water Feasibility Study. Motion made by Councilmember Taylor and seconded by Councilmember Larson. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Approval of Georgia Wines Inc Farm Winery Tasting Room License Relocation

Mayor Norton asked Ms. Csukas if all materials were in order, to which Ms. Csukas stated all documents were approved. Mayor Norton asked if a site inspection had been completed, to which Ms. Csukas informed Mayor and Council that Planning, and Zoning needed to fulfill this requirement.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Georgia Wines Inc Farm Winery Tasting Room License Relocation to be contingent on the physical location requirements. Motion made by Councilmember Hoffman contingent on the physical location requirements and seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement

City Attorney Parks informed Mayor and Council that this agreement was a renewal agreement, and it was identical to last year's agreement. Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement. Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis and seconded by Councilmember Hardman. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Department Reports

City Marshal

Mayor Norton informed Council that City Marshal Branyon was giving a presentation on Forensics tonight at the Science Club. No new comments for the reports.

Community Development/Historic Preservation Commission/Planning & Zoning Commission

No new comments

Dahlongega Downtown Development Authority

Downtown Director Harris informed Council and Mayor that the first Friday in the Park Concert was a big hit with the alcoholic beverage addition to the festival.

Finance/Administration

No new comments for the reports

Public Work and Cemetery Committee

Public Works Director Buchanan discussed the following items that are being worked on by his staff:

- Hawkins Street between Meaders and Park will have electric work being completed
- Wimpy Mill Picnic Area bids were too high, so the work will be completed in-house.
- North Grove and Boyd Circle crosswalks waiting on striping and flashing lights.
- Morrison Moore turn lane should be underway soon according to GOT, this is thier project.
- Happy Hollow paving will begin after Morrison Moore- same contractor
- Wimpy Mill turn lane has approval, this project will begin soon.
- Morrison Moore Parkway traffic light and side walk- The traffic light should be a month out and the side walk should come up to the Convocation Center.
- Streetscape only has punch list items to be completed
- NGN is running fiber underground around the Square and we do get right of way fees from NGN

Water and Waste Water Plants

No new comments for the reports

Comments

City Manager Comments

City Manager informed Council and Mayor that there will be an operational change to parking on Maples Street between Chestatee and Park to 3-hour parking. City Manager commented a favorable advertising by MSN and Readers Digest, showcasing Dahlongega as a majestic mountain town.

City Attorney Comments – No comments

City Council Comments

Council Member Taylor informed Council that she is having a Tourist Gold Trail Guide Map created with assistant from the Chamber of Commerce. The trail will begin at the Stamp Mill, to the Gold Museum and finally to Price Memorial.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Norton informed Council that City Manager Schmid will be researching a proposed courtesy car for tourist and Business person who are in our Downtown area. The courtesy car would shuttle these individuals from the Downtown area to their cars.

Mayor Norton welcomed Dr. James Connelly the Director of Student Affairs at the University of North Georgia.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Hoffman with a second by Councilmember Taylor. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2018.

_____ Sam Norton, Mayor

Attest: _____ Mary Csukas, City Clerk