



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 6:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Mayor Sam Norton, Council Members Helen Hardman, JoAnne Taylor, Bruce Hoffman, Ron Larson, and Mitchell Ridley were present.

Staff Present

City Manager Bill Schmid, City Marshal Jeff Branyon, Community Development Director Kevin Herrit, Public Works Director Mark Buchannan, Finance Director Melody Marlowe, Water Plant Supervisor John Jarrad, Cemetery Committee Chairman Chris Worick and City Clerk Mary Csukas were present. Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority Jan Harris and City Attorney Doug Parks were present.

Call to Order and Welcome

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

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

The Pledge was led by Council Member Taylor. The Prayer was led by Council Member Larson.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Council Member Hoffman and seconded by Council Member 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

Catherine Ariemma praised the City Square flowers; they look fabulous. Ms. Ariemma asked that the City keep Business's informed with upcoming road closures and Downtown Director Harris stated she would keep the Pubic and Business's informed as requested. Ms. Ariemma asked if there was an update on the demolition of the Park Buildings and City Manager Schmid stated that there was no date for demolition of the Parks Building, but the City would keep the Business's informed as requested.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve all seven sets of Meeting Minutes, July 17, 18, 19, 25, 2018 Budget Work Sessions, July 19, 2018 – Work Session, July 19, 2018 – Special Called Meeting, August 6,

2018 – Regular Called Meeting, August 13, 2018 – Work Session, August 16, 2018 – Special Called Meeting and the August 16, 2018 – Work Session.

Motion made by Council Member Larson to approve all seven sets of meeting minutes, July 17, 18, 19, 25, 2018 – Budget Work Sessions, July 19, 2018 – Work Session, July 19, 2018 – Special Called Meeting, August 6, 2018 – Regular Called Meeting, August 13, 2018 – Work Session, August 16, 2018 – Special Called Meeting, August 16, 2018 – Work Session.

Ms. Csukas informed Mayor and Council that ten sets of Meeting Minutes had been presented for approval. Mayor Norton asked Mr. Larson to amend the approval of the Meeting Minutes to ten sets of Meeting Minutes to be approved.

Council Member Larson amended his motion for the approval of all ten Meeting Minutes being presented for approval. Council Member Hoffman seconded the motion. 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 thanked Greg Finan Jr. from The Nugget for his dedication to the continual coverage of all sporting events in the City of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County, as this takes a toll on his family life.

Mayor Norton read the Proclamation for the University of North Georgia Women's Softball Team outlining their outstanding 2018 season. Mayor Norton asked the Team and Coach to please come forward for a Photo Session.

Mayor Norton asked that we reschedule the recognition of Stephanie Meierotto, the UNG Student Government President, to a future Council Meeting, as she had been unable to attend this Meeting. Mayor Norton informed Council and the Public that City Hall and the University of North Georgia were working together to understand the government bodies of each establishment.

Mayor Norton asked that Jimmy Anderson please come forward to be sworn in as a Member of the Cemetery Committee by the City Clerk. Ms. Csukas asked that Mr. Anderson read and sign the Oath of Office and then presented Mr. Anderson with his Certificate of Appointment to the Cemetery Committee.

Old Business:

Banking Service Contract Renewal- Finance Director Melody Marlowe asked Council and Mayor for approval of this renewal contract with the United Community Bank to take effect September 1, 2018. This contract will match the interest earnings on the Georgia Funds One on the Account Balances.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the Banking Service Contract Renewal. Motion made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member 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.

Resolution 2018-06 Authorization Signers- Finance Director Melody Marlowe asked Council and Mayor to approve authorization of City Manager, City Clerk and Finance Managers as authorized signers on all City Bank Accounts.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Resolution 2018-06 Authorized Signers. Motion made by Council Member Larson and seconded by Council Member 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.

Resolution 2018-07 Resolution for Supplemental Lease (Garbage Truck) - Finance Director Melody Marlowe Mayor asked for approval of the Lease Financing of a Garbage Truck through the GMA Lease Financing program at a rate of 4.25 % with terms at 5 years. Finance Director Marlow further asked that Council consider City Manager Schmid to execute all documents pertaining to this Lease Financing Program.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Resolution 2018-07 Resolution for Supplemental Lease. Motion made by Council Member Ridley and seconded by Council Member Taylor.

Council Member Hoffman asked for clarification of this lease purchase program. Finance Director Marlow explained that the approval of the purchase of the truck was completed through the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget and this approval is for a lease payment of the Garbage Truck that will end with the City owning the Garbage Truck.

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 2018-11 – Update of Definitions to Land Development- Community Development Director Herrit explained that this Ordinance will keep the City updated with State Law on this matter. Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-11 – Update of Definitions to Land Development. Motion made by Council Member Hardman and seconded by Council Member 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.

Ordinance 2018-12 – Reserve of Section 3.5 of the Land Development Code - Community Development Director Herrit explained that this Ordinance will reserve Section 3.5 for future usage.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-12 – Reserve of Section 3.5 of the Land Development Code. Motion made by Council Member Ridley and seconded by Council Member 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.

Ordinance 2018-13 – Update of Building Height Limitations - Community Development Director Herrit explained that this will allow heights not to exceed 55 feet and allow for varying heights on the ground and upper floors of buildings in the B2 and OI Zoning Districts. Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the change. Motion made by Council Member Taylor to accept the motion with a change in the height limitation for S Park Street and, Chestatee Street to remain at 35 feet and seconded by Council Member Hoffman.

Council Member Hardman and Larson asked if this change would have any impact on pending projects and Community Development Director Herrit stated that it would not affect pending projects. City Manager Schmid and Mayor Norton stated that the Ordinance was to protect the Downtown Area while encouraging growth in the B2 and OI Zoning Districts.

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 with the height limitations for B2 and OI along S Park Street and, Chestatee Street to remain the same.

Ordinance 2018-14 – Update to Platting Specification for Land Development Code - Community Development Director Herrit stated this Ordinance will keep the City updated with State Law on this matter.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-14 – Update to Platting Specification for Land Development Code. Motion made by Council Member Ridley and seconded by Council Member 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.

New Business:

Consideration of Approval for an Alcohol Beverage License- Knuckle’s Sandwich Shop- Beer and Wine Consumption on Premises. Ms. Csukas stated the Alcohol License application was in order, but approval is contingent on the establishment receiving their Certificate of Occupancy from the Planning Department. Mayor Norton called for approval of the Alcohol Beverage License- Knuckle’s Sandwich Shop- Beer and Wine Consumption on Premises. Motion made by Council Member Ridley to accept approval contingent on the establishment having the approved Certificate of Occupancy and seconded by Council Member 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.

Department Reports

Cemetery Committee

Cemetery Committee Chairperson Worick informed Council and Mayor that the Cemetery Committee had chosen names for unnamed roads in Mt Hope and Memorial Park Cemetery. In Mt Hope the names chosen were Old Cedar Circle and Gold Ridge Circle, with Memorial Park Cemetery choice to be Memorial Park Circle. Cemetery Committee Chairperson Worick asked Council to approve these names as a point of record. Mayor Norton asked for a motion for this action item. Motion made by Council Member Larson to accept the Cemetery Report of the renaming of the streets as presented and seconded by Council Member 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.

Council Member Hoffman asked if a grave in Dahlongega was searchable online at Find a Grave Website. Cemetery Committee Chairperson Worick stated that a list is available within the Lumpkin County Georgia Cemeteries Book, but he would inquire on the process for making graves searchable online. Ms. Csukas informed Council and Mayor that the City did have a searchable list of interned persons at Mt. Hope and Memorial Park listed by name and location review at City Hall.

Cemetery Committee Chairperson Worick informed Council that the Cemetery Committee was working on the cost for a possible Columbarium and possible fencing around Mt. Hope.

Cemetery Committee Chairperson Worick informed Council of a \$2000.00 donation given to this committee to assist with the clean up of the cemeteries.

City Marshal

No new comments for the reports

Community Development/Historic Preservation Commission/Planning Commission

No new comments

Dahlongega Downtown Development Authority

Downtown Director Harris informed Council and Mayor that three strong candidates had been chosen for the final interviewing process for the position of DDA Coordinator and the position should be filed by the end of next week. Downtown Director Harris informed Council and Mayor that a Wayfinding Pole was ready to install in the downtown area with a planned photo shoot of an honorary Post Hole Event with Mayor and members of the DDA and the DDBA this coming Monday.

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

- o Happy Hollow Road has been slated for paving this week
- o Wimpy Mill Turn Lane only needs stripping
- o Crosswalk flashing lights on North Grove Street to be installed by GDOT
- o The Water Wheel parking area and adjacent turn lane project are underway to make the corner more cohesive. Mayor Norton asked to have a Ribbon cutting with Steve Gooch in conjunction with the Wimpy Mill turn Lane project and Council Member Hoffman asked to include Ellen Butler.
- o Wimpy Mill Picnic Area is still a work in progress.

Water and Waste Water Plants

No new comments for the reports

Comments

City Manager Comments

City Manager Schmid commended Public Works Director Buchanan for his efforts on the Grant Application with GDOT, for a conceived project, of a pedestrian bridge on Morrison Moore Parkway at the Lake Reservoir, with sidewalks all the way to Walmart. The project totals \$2.65 million dollars and was superior piece of work by Mr. Buchanan.

City Manager Schmid stated that Staff is working on another Grant project for updating the Restrooms at the Lumpkin County Visitors Center.

City Attorney Comments

No Comments at this time

City Council Comments

Council Member Larson praised Chris Worick and the Cemetery Committee for their outstanding job at the Cemeteries. Council Member Larson also inquired with Staff if action was being taken to support Rachel Pruitt with delinquent taxes in the City. Mayor Norton stated that this was a policy decision that needed to be reaffirmed at the next Work Session since it would have negative repercussions, while at the same time would be effective. Council Member Larson stated that he understood that this had been discussed at a previous Work Session and was looking for followed up to that Work Session Meeting.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Norton asked that we acknowledge the people working downtown with praise for their hard work, as these projects are improving the Downtown Area.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Council Member 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.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2018.

_____ Sam Norton, Mayor

Attest: _____ Mary Csukas, City Clerk