



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 7, 2018 6:00 P.M.**

Members Present:

Mayor Sam Norton, Councilmembers Helen Hardman, Bruce Hoffman, Ron Larson, and Mitchell Ridley were present. Councilmember Roman Gaddis arrived at 6:10 pm.

Staff Present:

City Manager Bill Schmid, City Attorney Doug Parks, Community Development Director Kevin Herit, Finance Director Melody Marlowe, Public Works Director Mark Buchannan, Water Plant Supervisor John Jarrad and Assistant City Clerk Mary Csukas were present. Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority Jan Harris was 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 Prayer was led by Councilmember Hardman. The Pledge was led by Councilmember Hoffman.

Approval of Agenda:

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Councilmember Ridley 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.

Public Comment:

No Public Comments.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the two meeting Minutes on the agenda. Motion made by Councilmember Larson to approve April 2, 2018, Regular Council Meeting and the April 19, 2018, Work Session Meeting. Councilmember Hoffmann 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 asked Tom Gehl, the Director of Governmental Relations for the Georgia Municipal Association, to come forward to present a special recognition award from GMA.

Mr. Gehl stated that, due in part to the role of our local and city governments, the State of Georgia is ranked as the number one state to do business. Mr. Gehl stated that another integral part of this high achievement is due to the actions of State Representative Kevin Tanner. Due to Representative Tanner's consistent leadership at the Georgia State Capitol on issues that would affect local and city government, he has been selected as a recipient of the Champion of Georgia's Cities Award.

In presenting the award he said, "Representative Tanner's strong support of local government control is evident in everything he does at the Georgia General Assembly, which is partly due to his past work in county government and law enforcement; He knows the importance of a city running efficiently.

Representative Tanner sponsored legislation to establish the Atlanta Region Transit Link, an agency that will coordinate transit planning and oversee transit activity in Atlanta. This agency is one key component that shows Representative Tanner's drive to keep the State of Georgia ranked as the number one state to do business."

Representative Kevin Tanner thanked, the Georgia Municipal Association for this recognition and stressed the important work that GMA does on behalf of the local and city governments in association with him at the State Capitol.

Representative Tanner stated, "Often Representatives are asked to pass laws that override the abilities of the city and local governments." Representative Tanner confirmed, he understands the vital role that local government has with their constituents and protecting the close relationship of local government and its constituents is a vital part of his Office.

Mayor Norton expressed his thanks to Representative Kevin Tanner for taking time to answer his phone calls and listen to his concerns about issues that needed addressing, and for being available when City officials visit the State House. Mayor Norton thanked Mr. Gehl for including the City of Dahlonega in this special occasion for Representative Tanner.

Old Business:

Building Heights

Mayor Norton stated that this item, Building Heights, is a follow up from a previous Work Session at which time Community Development Director Kevin Herrit was tasked to bring more information to Council on this subject.

Director Herrit brought the requested zoning map to the Council and Mayor, to show the parcels that would be affected by these changes in Building Heights; B2 which is Business 2, R3 which is Residential 3, and OI which is Office Institutional.

Councilmember Larson stated a main reason for this change was to spur business in the City of Dahlonega; the map is to allow Council to visualize the areas in question.

Mayor Norton explained there is a process that the City of Dahlonega must follow for changes to take place in Regulations with Planning and Zoning; An item is discussed with the Planning and Zoning Commission and if approved the item would come back to Council for action as needed.

Director Herrit reiterated that this process is to allow the citizens of Dahlonega to be aware of a proposed change and have input on these actions, such as Building Heights.

Councilmember Gaddis and Ridley discussed the height measurement changes; Director Herrit stated the height recommendations are 55 feet to 65 feet which would make the City of Dahlonega competitive with other jurisdictions.

Mayor Norton and Council agreed that these changes in building heights was needed to allow economic development outside of the Historic District, since currently these districts in question are all set at 35 feet. These changes are not being requested; Council is just being proactive.

Mayor Norton and Council asked Director Herrit to keep this item moving through the process; Director Herrit stated he is on the June Work Session agenda in anticipation of action by Planning and Zoning at their next meeting.

FY-2018 Mid-Year Budget Amendment

Mayor Norton asked Finance Director Melody Marlowe to inform Council of any presentation for this Amendment; Director Marlowe stated this was the same Resolution with no change from the Work Session. Councilmember Larson made a motion to accept the FY-2018 Mid-Year Budget Amendment 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.

New Business:

Appointments to Historic Preservation Commission

Mayor Norton informed Council of two applicants, appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission, who are here with us tonight. These applicants would allow us the opportunity to fill the Commission and allow for an at-large member. The applications, for Noah Steinberg – Board Member and Sharon Thomason – At-Large Member have been sent electronically to Council and at this time we have an opportunity to act on these applications. Councilmember Ridley made a motion to approve the new members, Noah Steinberg and Sharon Thomason, to the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilmember Gaddis seconded the approval. 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.

Assistant City Clerk Mary Csukas had both applicants come to the front to be sworn in; Noah Steinberg and Sharon Thomason each read and signed the Oath of Office in front of Ms. Csukas.

Approval of Temporary Special Event Alcohol License for June 6, 2018 – Bicycle Ride Across Georgia Sale of Beer Consumption on the Premises

Mayor Norton inquired if the temporary special event alcohol license application for Bicycle Ride Across Georgia, which had been electronically submitted to Council, was complete. Assistant City Clerk Mary Csukas affirmed it was complete. Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the application as submitted. Councilmember Gaddis made a motion to approve the temporary special event alcohol license application for Bicycle Ride Across Georgia. Councilmember Hardman seconded the approval.

Councilmember Hardman stated that this organization is well respected and that she had worked positively with the organization in the past.

Mayor Norton stated he expected this event to be fun and good for Dahlonega.

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.

Lumpkin County High School – Future Business Leaders of America Representatives

April Lincoln, CTAE Department Chair Lumpkin County asked Tyler Schott, Future Business Leaders of American Region President and Scarlett Sullens, FBLA Chapter President to give an overview of achievements and honors for their FBLA Chapter.

The students being recognized for their accomplishments at FBLA State Competition are: Madaline Moore (top 10 winner/invite to Nationals), Rachel Gaston (top 10 winner) and Scarlett Sullens (Who's Who).

Mayor Norton read a proclamation proclaiming the second week in February as the National FLA-PBL Week in the City of Dahlonega.

Department Reports

The Council had no new discussion concerning these reports; Mayor Norton explained this was not an action item.

- a. City Marshal
- b. Water and Waste Water Plants
- c. Finance/Administration
- d. Public Works
- e. Community Development
- f. Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority Water and Waste Water Plants

Comments

1. City Manager Comments

City Manager Bill Schmid commended Mary Csukas for her work as Assistant City Clerk and asked Council to appoint Mary Csukas to the position of City Clerk for the City of Dahlonega. Mayor asked for a motion to approve. Councilmember Gaddis made a motion to approve Mary Csukas to the position of City Clerk of Dahlonega Georgia. Councilmember Larson seconded the approval.

Mayor Norton stated that Assistant City Clerk Mary Csukas was instrumental in the City Clerk Office and he appreciated her hard work. 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.

The Wimpy Mill sidewalk project continues, it is about two-thirds complete going downhill towards Golden Hill Apartments. In the subdivision of Skyline Drive, Kenimer Circle and Laurel Heights Drive, the paving is almost done, and speed hump work is to begin this week.

Streetscape paving is almost complete with temporary striping in place; additional minor brick work is needed.

A tree has been patented in the name of the City of Dahlonaga, named Dahlonaga Overcup Oak, with discussions ongoing with the grower to purchase some for the City of Dahlonaga.

2. City Attorney Comments

No comment from Attorney Doug Parks. Mayor Norton stated that easels with posters showing potential hotels for Downtown Main Street, are here in the Council Chambers for the public viewing. At some time soon, the City will have a Work Session to allow the public to comment on these items.

3. City Council Comments

Councilmember Gaddis praised Director Mark Buchanan and his crew for all their hard work in keeping the Streetscape project on time with very little interruption to the public.

Councilmember Larson thanked the Future Business Leaders of America for their presentation and encouraged the students to contact him through the Dahlonaga Sunrise Rotary Club for possible Service opportunities.

4. Mayor Norton Comments

Mayor Norton seconded the praise of the Streetscape project, as it was very complicated and expensive with over five crews working at various times, like a well-orchestrated symphony.

Adjournment

Councilmember Hoffman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Larson, and approved unanimously.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2018.

_____ Sam Norton, Mayor

Attest: _____ Mary Csukas, City Clerk