



CITY OF DAHLONEGA  
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
August 16, 2018 4:00 P.M.

Mayor Norton called the Work Session to order at 4:05 p.m.

Members Present

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

Staff Present

City Manager Bill Schmid, Finance Director Melody Marlowe, Community Development Director Kevin Herrit, Public Works Director Mark Buchanan and City Clerk Mary Csukas were present. Downtown Development Director Jan Harris was present. City Attorney Doug Parks was present.

Department Reports:

a) Cemetery Committee-

Chris Worick informed Council and Mayor that the Cemetery Committee needed two at large members for the Cemetery Committee.

The Georgia Municipal Association Cemetery Conference will be meeting in Dalton Ga for a three-day seminar and the Cemetery Committee was inquiring if this was something that could be funded by the City. Chris Worick stated that the Cemetery Committee had an idea for funding raising with paid tours of Mt Hope with committee members in period costumes and would like to thank Mitchel Ridley with his assistance with the ongoing cemetery repairs.

Chris Worick informed Council and Mayor that Mr. Massey will be pledging \$1000 to the City of Dahlonega Cemetery Committee.

b) City Marshal's – No Comments

c) Community Development – No Comments

Historic Preservation Commission – No comments

d) Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority

Downtown Director Harris informed the Mayor and Council that she would research the expected time for the arrival of the Wayfinding signs. Currently she and Public Works Director Buchanan were discussing the direction of the way finding signs once they are installed.

e) Finance/Administration – No comments

f) Public Works – No comments

g) Water and Waste Water Plants – No comments

Tax Collection Effort - Rachel Pruitt, Lumpkin County Tax Commissioner

Ms. Pruitt distributed a delinquent tax payer report to the Council and Mayor outing the following:

- List of delinquent tax payers by real property, mobile homes and personal property with a total due of \$112,083.24
- Some of the delinquent taxes due are from Achasta, (Kingwood) – A Mortgage company is required to pay these taxes out of an escrow account, we expect follow up this week.
- A tax sale will be happening in September for delinquent taxes, but some delinquent taxes have payment plans. These persons are being penalized with late fees and interest charges.
- 2-year delinquency is my plan for the city of Dahlonega, I am not here to hurt home owners, but I do have a job to complete.
- Council Member Larson asked if there was anything the City can do to assist with collection of taxes and can we stop giving permits and license if taxes are not paid. Ms. Pruitt stated that would be a good idea.
- The Tax Assessor’s office will be working with City to keep each other informed about delinquent tax for persons with new license or existing license.
- Personal Property that has gone out of business still have taxes due, but it is difficult to locate these persons and the equipment is probably zero at this time and mostly likely the taxes will not be paid.
- Personal and Property taxes have been seized by Lumpkin County for non-payment taxes.
- Tax exempt properties 501c must file yearly – if not active such as churches are generally dilapidated, and the value of the land would be a Tax Assessor’s question. Another idea is they may become historical.

Mayor Norton stated that he will discuss with Council the idea of not issuing a business license, contract work and or alcoholic beverage license to persons with a delinquent tax issue.

Banking Services Contract Renewal and Authorized Signers

Finance Director Marlow informed Council and Mayor that the bank service contract from United Community Bank is set to expire October 31, 2018. United Community Bank is willing to renew on September 1, 2018 with a change in how they calculate the Interest earnings that will now be based on the Georgia Fund 1 rate currently at 1.59 %, which they will match each month. The Banking service fees will net at a saving to the City of \$30,000.

Finance Director Marlowe stated the need to include the Resolution that states who the Authorized Signers are on the city accounts, The City Manager, City Clerk and Finance Manager in the renewal of the Banking Service Contract. Mayor Norton stated that we will need to include this action item at the next meeting.

Lease Financing of New Garbage Truck

Finance Director Marlowe stated we need to proceed with the financing of the new garbage truck through GMA Lease Program at a rate of 4.25% for 5 years. We need a Resolution that Council will allow the City Manager to execute these documents.

Cemetery Committee - Proposed Cemetery Street Name Presentation

Council informed Chris Worick to have the Cemetery Committee choose the names for the roads in Mt Hope Cemetery with the Gold Theme. Memorial Park Loop name would be the choice for Memorial Park Cemetery. Mayor Norton asked Chris and Mark to make that road name change official.

City Marshal - Remedied Dilapidated & Blighted Structure Presentation

City Marshal Banyan gave a presentation to the Council and Mayor demonstrating the before and after pictures of some recently removed dilapidated structures. Included in presentation were photos of structures still in needed of demolition or repair.

Adjournment – (Meeting Minutes transcribed by City Clerk Mary Csukas)