



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 3, 2017, 6:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

The Dahlonega City Council met Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room in City Hall. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Council Members Michael Clemons, Roman Gaddis, Bruce Hoffman, Ron Larson, Sam Norton, Mitchell Ridley and Mayor Gary McCullough were present. City Manager Bill Schmid, City Attorney Doug Parks, Director of Planning and Zoning Chris Head and City Clerk Kimberly Smith were present. Also present were Downtown Development Director Rebecca Shirley and Special Projects Coordinator Danielle Bell.

**Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag**

Council Member Larson led the prayer. Council Member Hoffman led the *Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*.

Mayor McCullough announced that Item 11. Consideration of Purchase of Tag Reader for Lumpkin County Sheriff's Department for use in Dahlonega will be postponed until the February 6, 2017 Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. so Sheriff Jarrard can be present to answer questions.

**Agenda Approval**

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve the agenda with removal of Item 11. Motion made by Council Member Ridley, seconded by Council Member Norton. Mayor McCullough called for a vote of those in favor to signifying so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Announcements – Public Comments (please limit to three minutes)**

Gerald Lewy addressed the Mayor and Council. Mr. Lewy said it was his understanding that the proposed purchase of a tag reader would be funded solely by the City, but also used in the county. Mr. Lewy said the City is getting double dipped, by the County again.

Mayor McCullough thanked Mr. Lewy for his comments.

**Consideration of Approval of Alcohol Beverage License for Hickory Prime BBQ, Karen Ansell, Owner, for Beer, Wine, Distilled Spirits for Consumption and Sunday Sales.**

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve the Alcohol Beverage License for Hickory Prime BBQ, Karen Ansell, Owner, for Beer, Wine, Distilled Spirits for Consumption and Sunday Sales contingent upon receipt of the results of fingerprints and background investigation. Motion made by Council Member Clemons, seconded by Council Member Larson. Mayor McCullough called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Public Hearings**

City Attorney Parks said Item 6. a. Annexation and Rezoning Application submitted by City of Dahlonega on behalf of owner James C. Parks is continued.

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City Attorney Parks said Items 6. b. Rezoning Application submitted by City of Dahlonega, on behalf of Owner James C. Parks for rezoning from a) O-I with conditions to O-I with conditions replacing prior conditions and revised site plan; and b) rezoning from R-1 with conditions to R-1 with conditions replacing prior conditions and revised site plan and Item 6. c. Application for subdivision approval submitted by City of Dahlonega, Owner James C. Parks for Final Subdivision Approval for two new lots, initiated by the City are consistent with prior actions of the City.

City Attorney Parks said there would be a condition that there be no access to the property from Sky Country Road on the rezoning applications submitted by City of Dahlonega, on behalf of Owner James C. Parks.

City Attorney Parks said the application for subdivision approval submitted by City of Dahlonega, Owner James C. Parks for final subdivision approval for two new lots reduces the number of lots from four to two.

City Attorney Parks asked if anyone was present who wanted to speak in favor of or opposition to either the rezoning application or subdivision approval.

There were no comments.

Director of Planning and Zoning Chris Head reported that the Planning Commission recommended approval of both rezoning applications with the condition of no access to the property from Sky Country Road, as submitted and in accordance with the court settlement. The Planning Commission recommended approval of subdivision reducing four lots to two as submitted and in accordance with the court settlement.

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve the rezoning application submitted by City of Dahlonega, on behalf of Owner James C. Parks for rezoning from a) O-I with conditions to O-I with conditions of no access to property from Sky Country Road and revised site plan; and b) rezoning from R-1 with conditions, to R-1 with condition of no access to the property from Sky Country Road replacing prior conditions and revised site plan, as submitted and in accordance with the court settlement. Motion by Council Member Norton, seconded by Council Member Hoffman. Mayor McCullough called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve the application for subdivision approval submitted by City of Dahlonega on behalf of Owner, James C. Parks for final subdivision approval for two new lots as submitted and in accordance with the court settlement. Motion by Council Member Norton, seconded by Council Member Ridley. Mayor McCullough called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Minute Approval**

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve the minutes of Regular Council meeting December 5, 2016, 6:00 p.m. and the Work Session meeting December 15, 2016, 4:00 p.m. as submitted. Motion by Council Member Larson, seconded by Council Member Hoffman. Mayor McCullough called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Departmental Reports**

Mayor McCullough said the departmental reports were included in the agenda packet and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

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**DDA Marketing and Promotions Update**

Special Projects coordinator Danielle Bell gave a presentation of DDA Marketing and Promotions for the fourth quarter of 2016. Ms. Bell reported on the number of viewers of the first run of *Christmas in Homestead* on Thanksgiving Day and the marketing reach that resulted from the movie. Ms. Bell showed examples of the advertising for Old Fashioned Christmas; reported on the marketing reach being attained by the nine social media pages maintained by the DDA for marketing and promotion of Dahlonega; and marketing projects such as social media marketing aps. Ms. Bell reported that the *City Limits* newsletter has a circulation of over 1,500 and the *Business Merchant* newsletter has 120 subscribers on distribution.

**Dahlonega Lumpkin County Chamber & Convention and Visitor's Bureau – Report of Merchant Support of Christmas Lights**

Downtown Development Authority Director Shirley reported that the funding for Old Fashioned Christmas has a short fall of \$2,700. Because of the short fall in funds, the recommendation of Old Fashioned Christmas Chairperson Angelina Wilson is to turn off the lights January 15, 2017. Ms. Shirley reminded everyone that Old Fashioned Christmas is funded solely by donations and fundraising efforts.

**Consent Items**

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve consent items:

Change in parking at Choice Street to 3 hour Monday through Thursday

Approval of purchase of \$80,000 in materials for water line replacement in Streetscape Lite Zone

Approval of purchase of \$70,000 in materials for sewer line replacement in Streetscape Lite Zone

Motion made by Council Member Clemons, seconded by Council Member Larson.

Discussion ensued regarding why three hour parking would be different in only one area, the issue of managing one lot with different 3 hour parking days and the lack of benefit of changing the signage at the Choice Street lot for one day.

Council Member Clemons rescinded his motion to approve the consent items as one action. Council Member Larson rescinded his second to that motion.

Council Member Norton made a motion to vote on the consent items individually, seconded by Council Member Hoffman. Mayor McCullough called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve a change in parking at Choice Street to 3 hour Monday through Thursday. Council Member Clemons made a motion to keep all three hour parking throughout the City uniform Monday thru Friday. Council Member Norton seconded the motion.

There was discussion regarding Mayor and Council not upholding decisions and recommendations of Committees and Commissions and how that could cause persons to not want to serve on Commissions and Committees.

Mayor McCullough called for a vote of those in favor of leaving the Choice Street parking lot three hour parking as it is now to raise their hand, like sign for those opposed Council Members Norton, Hoffman and Larson raised their hands to leave Choice Street Parking hours as they are now. Council Members Clemons, Gaddis and Ridley raised their hands in approval of the recommendation of the Parking Committee to change the three-hour parking at the Choice Street Lot to Monday thru Thursday. The vote resulted in a tie. Mayor McCullough stated he would break the tie by asking the Parking Committee to bring the issue back at the February 6, 2017 meeting with more recommendations.

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve purchase of \$80,000 in materials for water line replacement in Street Scape Lite Zone. Motion made by Council Member Ridley, seconded by Council Member Norton. Mayor McCullough called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve purchase of \$70,000 in materials for Sewer line replacement in Streetscape Lite Zone. Motion made by Council Member Larson, seconded by Council Member Hoffman. Mayor McCullough called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Consideration of Purchase of Tag Reader for Lumpkin County Sheriff's Department for use in Dahlonega**

Continued until February 6, 2017.

**City Manager Comments**

City Manager Schmid reported to Mayor and Council that the Development Agreement with Highland Trace is moving forward; the Comprehensive Plan will be coming before them in February for approval and the rehabilitation of the wastewater facility is on schedule and on budget.

City Manager Schmid reported that the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Panel Discussion on the filming industry in Georgia that Downtown Development Authority Director Shirley participated in at the Fox Theater was sold-out. The panel discussion resulted in an article in the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* that included Ms. Shirley's photo.

City Manager Schmid said a feasibility review of the wastewater pump stations is forthcoming to identify and reduce flow from the downtown area. An inflow infiltration study will be performed to determine if storm water is affecting the amount of wastewater.

**Mayor Comments**

Mayor McCullough thanked the newer Council Members for working so well together with the longer standing Council Members.

**City Attorney Comments**

City Attorney Parks said he has gotten to know many City Attorneys, elected officials and staff member from other cities over the years and has heard many stories that show just how blessed Dahlonega is.

**City Council Comments**

Council Member Clemons said he was sworn in as a Council Member for the first time on this date in 2001.

**Adjournment**

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Council Member Larson, seconded by Council Member Ridley. Mayor McCullough called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_ Gary McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_ Kimberly A. Smith, City Clerk