



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2017, 4:00 P.M.
MINUTES OF MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor McCullough called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Council Members Michael Clemons, Roman Gaddis, Bruce Hoffman, Ron Larson, Sam Norton, Mitchell Ridley and Mayor Gary McCullough were present. Staff members City Manager Bill Schmid, City Attorney Doug Parks, Director of Planning and Zoning Chris Head, Public Works Director Mark Buchanan and City Clerk Kimberly Smith were present.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mayor McCullough led the prayer and asked Council Member Clemons to lead the *Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Council Member Clemons and 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 in favor.

WORK SESSION

SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

Attorney Dana Miles addressed the Council regarding Service Delivery Strategy Agreement negotiations between The City of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County. Mr. Miles said he was chosen to be the neutral attorney between the parties in the negotiation and was pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached that will be presented to each party by their delegations.

Mr. Miles explained that Service Delivery Strategy Agreements detail how each service provided by the City and County are funded, and who provides the service. The ten-year agreement is scheduled for approval and signature by the Dahlonega Mayor and Lumpkin County Commission Chairman next month and will then be sent to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Council Member Clemons thanked Mr. Miles and his firm, City Manager Schmid and his staff, City Attorney Parks and his staff, and fellow delegates for all the hours of hard work that went into the agreement negotiations.

Council member Norton concurred with Council Member Clemons in thanking everyone involved and thanked Mr. Miles for doing a great job of unbiased mediation.

Mr. Miles complimented the City and County for working so well together to get the agreement to the point of approval.

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UPDATE TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

City Manager Schmid said the Comprehensive Plan scheduled for submission to Georgia Mountains Regional Commission in February, for preparation of submittal to Georgia Department of Community Affairs is currently being ground proofed. The process entails site visits to areas on the map to verify proper record of zoning on the map, to make sure there is no conflict with County maps and to suggest potential future use of properties.

COMPACT VEHICLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARKING ORDINANCE

City Manager Schmid explained that this amendment would provide for marking of parking spaces that will be for compact vehicles. There was brief discussion regarding how to mark the spaces to be uniform with other cities that have compact vehicle parking. Amendment 8 to Ordinance 77-1 will be on the Regular Meeting agenda for approval.

SPECIAL EVENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE RECOMMENDATIONS

City Manager Schmid stated these recommendations have come from staff review of special events held in the past couple of years. Because there is no continuity and the types of events are so varied, they are difficult to manage. The proposal suggests streamlining of the permitting process and provides three types of event permits. Mr. Schmid said that the suggestion of three types of events could be any number between one and twelve as long as there are fewer choices than currently provided. Mr. Schmid said the suggested fees account for use of parking, city staff and a new revenue stream for future parking. The sanitation deposit, to be determined would be fully refundable provided post event the property is in its original condition.

There was much discussion regarding proposed fees with comment from event sponsors for upcoming events in 2017. The major concerns regarding fees being that the budgets have already been set for the events in 2017 and possible loss of vendors for events if event sponsors have to increase booth rental fees.

The event sponsors that spoke were Letty Rayneri of Chestatee Artists, Inc. Applicant for Dahlonega Art's and Wine Festival; Renee Conaway of Bear on the Square Mountain Festival, Inc., applicant for Bear on the Square Mountain Festival; Tom Slavic, Applicant for Dahlonega First Night; and Tom Lamb of Yahoola Outdoors, Applicant for Dahlonega Trail Fest. All of the event sponsors and applicants requested no fee increases until 2018 and the opportunity to give input on changes to the permitting and fee schedule for special events.

There was discussion regarding the number of additional visitors that come to Dahlonega for Special Events and the effect of the additional visitors not causing a substantial increase in sales tax revenue; the effect of the city subsidizing events with taxpayer funds; the possibility of more than three event options; and the fact that not many Cities allow the complete closure of their Downtown for events.

A committee will be appointed to review and recommend fees for the restructured Special Events Permit procedure.

DAHLONEGA ARTS & WINE FESTIVAL – REQUEST FOR CLOSURE OF STREETS

Director of Planning and Zoning Chris Head said the request of the event sponsor is to close the square, relocation of the Dahlonega Farmers' Market and addition of one block of East Main Street to Meaders Street.

Council Member Larson asked for staff recommendations, reasons for those recommendations and said that the attendees at this festival are unique.

Ms. Head said the recommendation of staff is to not close the Square, based on past attendance suggesting a Type B event (based upon the recommended Policies and Procedures for Special Events) with the addition of South Parking Lot and North Park Street.

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Council Member Clemons indicated he is in agreement with the staff recommendations for this event.

Council Member Norton said the decision to close the Square for an event should mainly be for safety purposes.

DAHLONEGA TRAIL FEST – FESTIVAL AREA

Director of Planning and Zoning Chris Head said the event is currently under review. If no changes are proposed, the event approval will be at staff level.

APPROVAL OF QUALIFYING PERIOD AND QUALIFYING FEES FOR 2017 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to set the qualifying fees for 2017 as follows: Mayor - \$270.00, Council Member Post 1 - \$144.00, Council member Post 2 - \$144.00 and Council Member Post 3 - \$144.00. 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 in favor.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Schmid said preliminary discussion has begun with the County regarding a joint resolution from the City of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County to approach Georgia Department of Transportation regarding assistance with improvement of the intersection of Highway 19 and Oak Grove Road.

City Manager Schmid reported staff is applying for a National Historic Preservation Grant to be used to further implementation of the Historic District. The grant is a 50/50 matching grant.

Mayor McCullough asked if the city is aware what the 50% amount will be. Mr. Schmid replied no, but once the RFP for contractors is complete and bids are received, but prior to authorization, there will be a better idea of the amount.

City Manager Schmid reported that the elevator at the Chamber is under repair. The County has requested that the City participate in the cost at \$19,000.00. The funds are not budgeted for this but are available. The City, County and Chamber will share equally in the cost of the repair.

City Manager Schmid said a Community Health Partnership Grant is under consideration. Community Helping Place will apply for the grant with the City's support. As more information becomes available, Mr. Schmid will share it with Mayor and Council.

City Manager Schmid said the City has signed documentation to move forward with Skyline Road project including water and sewer line replacement and will be seeking Georgia Fund Money from Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority.

There was discussion regarding approval of this project in the past, the project being budgeted and need for a motion to move forward including funding options.

The reduced rate available from GEFA will lower the anticipated monthly payment on the funding by 50%.

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to move forward with the Skyline road project including funding options with Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority. Motion made by Council Member Clemons and seconded by

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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 in favor.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor McCullough said that City Manager Schmid and he met with Lumpkin County Special Projects Manager Charles Trammel and State Aid Administrator for Georgia Department of Transportation Terry Gable earlier this week. Mayor McCullough said, "If you see either of them, please thank them for their assistance in providing the center turn lane on Morrison Moore Parkway."

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

City Attorney Parks said he is in process of putting together several housekeeping amendments for MuniCode that will facilitate moving forward with codification.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Norton stated that the intersection of Highway 19 and Oak Grove Street is a terrible problem and the City and County need to work together to convince Georgia Department of Transportation to correct it and make safer.

Mayor McCullough reminded all that the Mayors' Day Conference is in Atlanta this weekend.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Council Member Hoffman and 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 passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2017.

_____ Gary McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Kimberly A. Smith, City Clerk