



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2016
4:00 P.M.**

The Dahlonega City Council met in a scheduled work session on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at City Hall. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Council Members present were Bruce Hoffman, Ron Larson, Sam Norton, Mitchell Ridley and Mayor Gary McCullough. Council Members Michael Clemons and Roman Gaddis were absent. City Attorney Doug Parks, City Manager Bill Schmid, Planning Director Chris Head, Public Works Director Mark Buchanan, DDA Director Joel Cordle and Intern Aaron McKeithan were present at this meeting.

Mayor Gary McCullough asked for a motion to amend the agenda by removing item 3. Trench Roller Purchase Discussion from the agenda. Motion made by Council Member Ron Larson, seconded by Council Member Mitchell Ridley. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor of the motion to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried with a unanimous vote of the four Council Members present.

Council Member Roman Gaddis arrived at the meeting at 4:02 p.m. Council Member Michael Clemons arrived at the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Pre-Review of Audit of Fiscal Year Ending September 20, 2015

Finance Manager Sabrina Cape gave a summation of the draft audit of the City of Dahlonega's finance for fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. Ms. Cape said the city's auditor, Rushton and Company, would give the official audit report at the next regular Council meeting March 7, 2016. Cape commended city staff for their great communication with the auditors; the audit process went smoothly; there were some statistical reporting changes due to the bond reissuance and four of the five adjustments made were due to changes in Governmental Accounting Standards Board reporting that changed reporting of pension funds.

Dahlonega-Lumpkin Chamber and Visitors Bureau Quarterly Report to Mayor and Council

Communications Coordinator Kristin Iodice and Tourism Director David Zunker collectively gave the quarterly report of the Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber and Visitors Bureau for the quarter ending December 31, 2016. The report included statistical information for 2015, strategic goals for 2016 and a report of bed tax revenue for the past seven years.

Trench Roller Purchase Approval Discussion

Agenda amended to remove this item

Discussion of Bear on the Square Festival to extend road closings and add alcohol sales

Jim White and Tom Lamb addressed Mayor and Council regarding street closing changes and possible addition of a wine tasting tent to the 2016 Bear on the Square Festival. There was discussion regarding traffic direction and parking; addition of wine tasting to the festival for all three days in addition to the wine served at the auction and dinner on the first evening. Further discussion included the possibility of set-up of the main then being quicker so as not to block the parking lot for so long; and the possibility of some streets opening earlier if vendors leave early.

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City Attorney Doug Parks said there may be issue with the wine tasting regarding licensing and that he would research those issues prior to the regular meeting March 7, 2016.

Mayor McCullough directed the City Clerk to place approval of Bear on the Square Festival for 2016 on the consent agenda March 7, 2016 and asked the City Attorney to research any questions regarding alcohol service prior to that date.

City Manager Comments - Review of Draft Fund Balance Policy

City Manager Schmid referred Mayor and Council to the draft policy that was included in the agenda package. Schmid said the purpose of the proposed policy is to preserve the funds Dahlonega has currently as well as to create a capital projects program to plan for funding of capital improvements.

Council Member Larsen said since the fund balance policy used to be 50% and is now 25% why the proposed policy was not increasing the amount higher than 30%. Schmid replied that the policy is two part including a plan for capital projects that will require additional fund balance over 30%.

Council Member Hoffman referred to re-striping of a parking area at Main Street and Court House Hill creating additional parking spaces. Hoffman asked that the additional spaces be marked on visitor and tourism maps.

Council Member Hoffman asked if the Willow Trace buyer has retracted their offer on the property. Planning Director Chris Head said she was not aware of that, but there may be withdrawal and resubmission of the application currently on the table for that property.

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion for adjournment of the work session. Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Gaddis made a motion to adjourn the work session, seconded by Council Member Sam Norton. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor of the motion to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Smith
City Clerk