



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

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Mayor Pro Tempore Bruce Hoffman called the March 6, 2016 Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council Members Michael Clemons, Roman Gaddis, Ron Larson, Sam Norton, Mitchell Ridley and Mayor Pro Tempore Bruce Hoffman were present. Mayor Gary McCullough was absent. City Manager Bill Schmid, City Attorney Doug Parks, Director of Planning and Zoning Chris Head, Finance Director Melody Marlowe, Public Works Director Mark Buchanan and City Clerk Kimberly Smith were present. Also in attendance at this meeting was Downtown Development Authority Director Rebecca Shirley.

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

The prayer was led by City Manager Schmid. Council Member Larson led the *Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*.

**Agenda Approval**

Mayor Pro Tempore Hoffman called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Council Member Norton, seconded by Council Member Larson and approved with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present at this meeting.

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

Resident Earl Lawson spoke in protest of the sanitation fees for residents in the City. Mr. Lawson said he pays as much for one month in Dahlonega as he paid for three months in Douglas County. He checked with the City of Cleveland and the City of Helen and their rates are much lower and the service is not mandatory as it is in Dahlonega. Dahlonega does not give you a choice. Sanitation pickup is mandatory if you want water. Mr. Lawson said it is just him and his 11 year old son that live at his residence and he could take their trash to the land fill for about \$5.00 per month. Mr. Lawson asked the City to re-consider their position that residents have to have trash pickup. He appreciated the consideration and hopes the matter is resolved soon.

Marissa Pyle, Lumpkin County resident and Co-organizer of a group named Indivisible Lumpkin said she was present to comment on the recent actions regarding a KKK sign in Dahlonega. Indivisible Lumpkin circulated a petition asking the Mayor, City and County to put out a strong statement that unequivocally denounces the actions of Roberta Green. Ms. Pyle said that she read the statement issued by the City of Dahlonega and did not feel it is strong enough to denounce what she considers a white supremacist group. Ms. Pyle asked the City to consider revising their statement to strongly denounce these actions.

Judy Kreps, Dahlonega resident and member Shalom b'Harim addressed the Council. Ms. Kreps said she would like to applaud what Marissa Pyle said and would like to again urge the City, the Mayor and the County Commissioners to publicly and unequivocally denounce the KKK for this sort of action.

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Ms. Kreps read from the statement on the City of Dahlonega's Website, "At no time have we been home to an active group of known white supremacists" and said that is not correct. Ms. Kreps referred documentation printed off the web regarding white supremacist that are in Dahlonega. Ms. Kreps said she feels marginalized and does not feel safe in her city and does not feel that it is a stretch for elected officials to denounce hate groups.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bruce Hoffman asked Ms. Kreps to give the copy of documents she presented to City Manager Schmid.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hoffman introduced Sam McDuffie the new Site Manager for the Dahlonega Gold Museum.

Mr. McDuffie said he is hopeful that good news will come from the Gold Dome confirming renovations of the museum will be forthcoming soon. Mr. McDuffie said he is excited to be a member of the community and is looking forward to meeting everyone and providing assistance.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hoffman presented a certificate of appreciation and recognition from the City of Dahlonega to Council Member Sam Norton for achieving the Certificate of Distinction for striving for excellence and receiving The Harold L. Holtz Certificate of Distinction. This achievement is the highest level of training certification available to an Elected Official in Local Government.

**Rushton & Company – Presentation of Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2016**

Partner Chris Hollifield of Rushton & Company presented the Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2016 to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Hollifield thanked the City for allowing Rushton & company to perform the audit again this year. Mr. Hollifield said the audit and CAFR have been presented to Georgia Finance Officers Association and he anticipates the City Receiving the Award of Excellence in Financial Reporting again this year.

Mr. Hollifield highlighted the following portions of the Audit and CAFR: The Auditor's Opinion Letter; Statement of Net Position; Statement of Activities; General Fund revenues and expenditures; Water and Sewage Fund revenues and expenditures; and Report on Internal Control Compliance.

Mr. Hollifield gave review of General Fund revenues and expenditures for the past 5 years; Net Position and Change over the last five years; General Fund fund balance for the past 5 years; and closed his presentation with a review of Government Accounting Standards Board Statements 72 and 77.

Mr. Hollifield said that the Finance Department did an excellent job of reporting that resulted in a clean audit with no findings.

**Consideration of Approval of Alcohol Beverage Licenses**

There was discussion regarding the alcohol licenses applied for by Kaitlyn Vanhoff, Jody Meldon and Tyler Barnes of Four Country Vineyards d/b/a Accent Cellars for Farm Winery Manufacturing and Farm Winery Tasting Room.

Due to the need for more information from the applicants, City Attorney Parks asked for this item to be deferred to the City Attorney's portion of the agenda.

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Mayor Pro Tempore Hoffman called for a motion to approve the temporary special event alcohol license for Bear on the Square Mountain Festival for sale of beer, wine and cider by the drink and beer, wine and cider package. Motion made by Council Member Ridley, seconded by Council Member Larson and approved by a unanimous vote in favor by the Council Members in attendance.

**Minute Approval**

Mayor Pro Tempore Hoffman called for a motion to approve the minutes. Council Member Norton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for February 6, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, February 16, 2016, 4:00 p.m. Work Session and February 16, 2016, 4:30 p.m. Special Called Meeting. Motion seconded by Council Member Michael Clemons and approved by a unanimous vote in favor by the Council Members in attendance.

**Departmental Reports**

Mayor Pro Tempore Hoffman asked if there were any questions regarding Departmental Reports. Council Member Gaddis asked if the denial that was rendered by the Historic Preservation Commission would be or is under appeal. Director of Planning and Zoning Head replied, "Yes". Council Member Clemons asked if the appeal is due to the Historic Preservation Commission not following guidelines or because the applicant was not happy with their decision. Ms. Head replied, "That determination will be made appeal hearing which has yet to be scheduled."

**Change in Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Dates and Times**

Mayor Pro Tempore Hoffman called for a motion to approve the change in meeting dates and times from the first Monday of the Month at 6:00 p.m. to the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. for the Historic Preservation Commission. Motion made by Council Member Larson, seconded by Council Member Norton and approved by a unanimous vote in favor by the Council Members in attendance.

**2017 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant Bid Award**

City Manager Schmid said page 66 of your agenda packet is a recommendation to award the contract to Colditz Trucking for an amount not to exceed \$114,355.

Council Member Norton asked if this was paving in downtown. Public Works Director Buchanan replied, "No this is for several smaller projects all over Dahlonega. The Downtown area will be paved later this year."

Council Member Norton made a motion to approve a notice of award and authorization for contract execution with Colditz Trucking of an amount not to exceed \$114,355 for the Dahlonega 2071 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant paving project. Motion seconded by Council Member Gaddis and approved by a unanimous vote in favor by the Council Members in attendance.

**Resolutions**

Mayor Pro Tempore Hoffman called for a motion for ratification of Joint Resolution of The Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners, Resolution Number 2017-22 and City Council of Dahlonega, Georgia, Resolution Number 2017-05, Requesting Improvements of Auraria Road. Motion made by Council Member Larson, seconded by Council Member Clemons approved by a unanimous vote in favor of the Council Members in attendance.

**City Manager Comments**

City Manager Schmid said he would like to express appreciation for the public's patience during the replacement of sewer and water lines on the Square. The lines replaced were installed in 1929. Mr.

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Schmid said the city will be rebuilding the island and replacing sidewalks removed for this project in the near future.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hoffman asked when the paving would be completed. Public Works Director Buchanan said he anticipates patching to be completed in three weeks conditioned upon the asphalt plant's ability to produce asphalt.

Council Member Larson asked when the full paving project on the Square would be completed. Public Works Buchanan said he anticipates August or September. City Manager Schmid said the schedule for that paving is controlled by the Department of Transportation.

**Mayor Comments**

None.

**City Attorney Comments**

City Attorney Parks said he would like to revisit agenda item 6. a. Consideration of approval of alcohol licensee for Four Country Vineyards. Mr. Parks said the applicants need Federal, State and City licensing, so his recommendation is to approve the licenses this evening and then place on the agenda again for ratification at the next Regular Council Meeting April 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Council Member Clemons made a motion to approve the alcohol beverage licenses for Kaitlyn Vanhoff, Jody Meldon and Tyler Barnes of Four Country Vineyards d/b/a Accent Cellars for Farm Winery Manufacturing and Farm Winery Tasting Room. The Motion was seconded by Council Member Norton and approved with a unanimous vote in favor of the Council Members in attendance.

**City Council Comments**

Council Member Gaddis asked the status of codification of the City's ordinances with MuniCode. City Clerk Smith replied that the City Attorney has a memo on this subject that is an item on the Work Session agenda March 16, 2017.

Council Member Ridley asked if discussion of early retirement benefits will be on the March Work Session. City Manager Schmid replied it will.

Michael Clemons asked if discussion of allowing of alcohol in Hancock Park will be on the Work Session since there are festivals coming up. City Manager Schmid said this can be expedited if necessary and will be on the Work Session agenda March 16, 2017.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hoffman said the Sheriff's Office is in planning and would like to know if the City plans on discussing law enforcement options. City Manager Schmid replied that this is an item on the Work Session for March 16, 2017.

Council Member Gaddis said that he appreciated Public comments at the meeting this evening and commended the City staff for their quick action regarding the banner on the Parks building. Mr. Gaddis said he understands the public's concerns with the statement issued by the City regarding this issue. However, elected officials must be silent on issues at times to be able to vote on those issues at a later time.

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**Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tempore Hoffman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Council Member Ridley, seconded by Council Member Larson and approved with a unanimous vote in favor by the Council Members in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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

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

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