



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 20, 2016, 4:00 PM
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Dahlonaga City Council met on October 20, 2016 for a Work Session Meeting in the Council Room in Dahlonaga City Hall. Mayor Gary 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. City Manager Bill Schmid, City Attorney Doug Parks, Finance Director Melody Marlowe, Planning Director Chris Head, Public Works Director Mark Buchanan and City Clerk Kimberly Smith were present. Down Town Development Authority Director Rebecca Shirley was also present at this meeting.

Alcohol Ordinance – Discussion of Memo dated September 17, 2016

City Manager Schmid said that he memo under review shows revisions in the Alcohol Beverage Ordinance that will be on the agenda November 7, 2016 for consideration of approval.

Discussion followed the numbered points in the memo.

1. Fees and Licensure.

Discussion ensued regarding the fees not increasing in eight years; request from license holders at the time of the last fee increase requesting fee increases be done gradually over time; consideration of adoption the ordinance and fees separately; audit and enforcement deficiencies and proposed increase in fees covering added public safety or other audit and enforcement actions.

2. Using wholesale rather than retail data to determine status as an eating establishment.

Discussion ensued regarding the method being easier to audit, if audit information could be proprietary or protected information of the company audited; possibility of mock audits to use as comparison; establishments not serving food until closing; and this method not yet being used by any other jurisdiction.

3. Pouting/Server Permits.

Discussion included change of fee from \$40 to \$25; change of time frame of permit from three years to one year; and change from fingerprinting for back ground information to use of driver's license for background check as it relates to timeliness of issuance. The permit or receipt showing payment for permit being required prior to employment as a server; and enforcement methods currently used and changes to those methods.

4. Employment roster reports.

Discussion included current method of use; ease of comparing to database of permitted persons as a desk audit; and requirements for permit holders to have their permit with them while working.

5. Fines and Enforcement.

Discussion ensued regarding enforcement actions heard by the Municipal Court or the Administrative Hearing Officer (Municipal Judge) rather than by Mayor and Council; and fines, revocations or suspensions being a progressive discipline type of penalization rendered by the Judge.

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6. Hours of sale.

Discussion was regarding allowance of establishments to stay open until 1:00 a.m. on Sunday morning because Saturday is typically the busiest night; the current ordinance allowing establishments to remain open until 1:00 a.m. Monday thru Friday; and New Year's Eve falling on Saturday every 6 years.

7. Residency.

Discussion was residency elimination of requirements from the ordinance because they may no longer being legally sustainable.

Mayor McCullough directed the Alcohol Ordinance to be on the November 7, 2016 for consideration of approval.

Noise Ordinance

City Attorney Parks said this ordinance revision was at the advice of MuniCode while the codification is taking place.

City Clerk Smith reported that City Attorney Parks, MuniCode Attorney Merriman and she had a teleconference that lasted several hours to review the items and ordinances in need of modification or change for the codification underway.

There was discussion regarding distances in the ordinance; what constitutes sound being commercial advertising; use of speakers on the Square by the city for events and enforcement.

Mayor McCullough directed the Noise Ordinance to be on the November 7, 2016 agenda for consideration of approval.

Parking Committee Update

Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority Director Shirley reported that it was recommendation of the Parking Committee to remove 3-hour parking on weekend. Mayor McCullough directed this to be on the consent agenda of the meeting November 7, 2017.

Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority Director Shirley reported that communication with the downtown merchants requesting them and their employees to park as far away from the Square as they are physically able to, especially between the hours for 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority Director Shirley reported that communication with University of North Georgia regarding parking has been successful and parking by students does not seem to be as much of an issue as it has been in past years. If that situation changes when construction of the convocation center starts, the issue will be addressed properly.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Decanters

City Manager Schmid explained what WWTP decanters are, how and why they are used at the plant. City Manager Schmid said two decanters at the facility are in need of replacement, the initial estimate to do so was \$100,000 or less and was communicated earlier to Council via email. City Manager Schmid said the 5% contingency approved in the current Waste Water Treatment Plant budget is \$124,756. A firm proposal from Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc., including labor is \$57,880, so the units were ordered to avoid delay in the critical path sequence of the plant refurbishment.

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Update to Reservoir Management Plan

City Manager Schmid said the city's contractor W. K. Dickson has provided a proposal from David Ashley for \$6,000. City Manager Schmid said he will be meeting with County Manager Stan Kelley next week and recommended authorizing execution of the proposal provided Lumpkin County agrees to pay 50%.

Mayor McCullough directed this item be on the November 7, 2016 consent agenda.

Addition of Park Street into the Historic District

Discussion ensued regarding this issue coming up several years ago and going thru the necessary process up to the point of Council consideration, and going no further. Discussion continued regarding advantages to homes that are in historical districts and on historical registries having increased property value and refurbishment grant availability as well as property tax credits available for historic properties. Necessity for public hearings and notification to residents on Park Street and use of past studies that include South Park Street, part of North Chestatee Street and Jones Street were points of discussion.

City Attorney Parks said that consultants used in the past, made the suggestion to detach the Historic Preservation Commission from zoning.

Letter from Historic Preservation Commission to Mayor and Council dated September 30, 2016

Discussion ensued concerning what prompted the letter from the Historic Preservation to Council. Discussion continued concerning the need for finding of fact in motions granting appeals of decisions by the Historic Preservation Commission and the only reasonable reason for granting an appeal to a decision of the HPC being if there was abuse of power. The most recent three appeals granted by Mayor and Council were discussed.

Mayor McCullough directed the City Manager to send a letter to the Historic Preservation Commission thanking them for their hard work and service and inviting them to the City Council Work Session November 17, 2016.

Change in Dental Insurance Plan for City of Dahlonega Employees

Mayor and Council agreed to the change in dental coverage because the cost of coverage is lower, benefits are better and there is no cost to the city for the insurance.

Council Member Hoffman said he received a call from a resident concerned with the drop in the pool of the reservoir. City Manager Schmid replied that there is a drop management plan in place, but the reservoir has not dropped enough to put the plan in place at this time.

Mayor McCullough announced that the Finance Director position vacated at the City of Gainesville by Dahlonega's Finance Director Melody Marlowe, was filled by two people not one. Mayor McCullough said he feels this speaks to the caliber of employees in Dahlonega.

The Work Session Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Smith
City Clerk