



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2017
4:00 PM**

The Dahlonega City Council met at 4:02 p.m. for a Work Session.

Officials Present: McCullough, Hoffman, Larson, Norton, Ridley, Gaddis

Officials Absent: None

Staff Present: Schmid, Marlowe, Buchanan, Csukas. Parks arrived later during meeting.

Work Session Meeting Minutes May 18, 2017

No corrections or changes to Work Session Meeting Minutes.

Relay for Life Special Event Application

City Manager Schmid stated that the application, for the proposed date of April 13, 2018, was for conceptual review. Council Member Larson approved of the design idea with the fee structure left open; still to be determined. Event Chairperson Diane Kimmel stated that Hancock Park is a new location for this event, this is due to low turnout last year; previous year's attendance 300+, 2016 turnout 100 less persons. Council Member Clemons had a concern for music in Hancock Park: no issue due to the actual time of the event which is 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.; Music Ordinance is midnight. Council Member Ridley had a concern for Movie in the Park, no issue for this time period. Fire department will have a Bouncy House in Hancock Park. North Park Street will be closed for the event.

Chamber July 4th Special Event Application

Laura James and David Zunker spoke for the Dahlonega Chamber of Commerce; July 4th Event from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. No 10K due to low turnout in the past. 5K start time will be 8:00 a.m. Parade moved to 11am due to heat concerns; walkers are allowed with floats, no special application. All Booths will be in Hancock Park 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; with an hour break down for Booth owners, allowing for 6:00 p.m. street openings. Fund raising slim this year, and we have a reduction in Vendor charge-; the Fireworks cost \$10,000. Firework location changed to behind UNG Library and will begin at 9:45 pm. Patriotic Ceremony will include a performance by Nealy Webster, an 11 year old with a fantastic voice, will begin at 9:30am and last 30 minutes.

Streetscapes Advertisement

Advertisement date June 28th in Nugget with bids due on Aug 4th 2017.

Skyline Drive Water Line Replacement Project Contract Award

Discussion of City Capital Improvement Program project for water line replacement in the Skyline Drive area. Council agrees to proceed with project.

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GEFA Loan Approval – Skyline Drive Area Water Line Replacement Project

Resolution for \$1,069,000 loan through GEFA for Skyline Project. Council Member Norton discussed the use of this loan money - it must be used for this project only. Council Member Gaddis asked if Conduit was part of the project- City Manager Schmid expressed that it was not at this time but it is a good idea and would follow up with this idea.

Short-Term Overlay District for Downtown Residential Districts

City Manager Schmid explained the concept of Historic tourism communities with nightly rentals of residential homes; allows for a broader base of rooms in community for tourism. Reduction in beds for students if an investor chooses to change the property to nightly rentals. This idea would also assist with preserving older homes in town that are otherwise beyond the state of normal repair. Mayor McCullough and Council Members saw this as positive idea for Dahlonega.

Hotel Motel Tax Ordinance

Hotel Motel Tax Ordinance; tax increase from 5% to 8% to take effect Oct 1, 2017. City Attorney Parks is drafting the Hotel Motel Tax Ordinance for the July meeting for review. Larson asked for clarification of the time line for this adoption even though it has been signed into law; Bill Schmid stated that we will use the new fiscal year as the start time to give the Hoteliers time to understand and adopt this tax into action. A follow-up audit in six months with each hotel will ensure that the Ordinance is being followed by the Hoteliers.

3% H/M Tax Revenue Project List

City Manager Bill Schmid discussed the funds usage from the 3% increase as needing direction from Council. Tourism development projects will be needed for the use of these funds; upgrades to bathrooms, parking garage, Convention Center and walking trails etc. Mayor McCullough stated that a parking deck or convention center would not be viable with these funds, but a remodeled bathroom would be doable. Council Member Ridley stated that a short list would be more ideal for the use of this money. Council Member Norton stated that collaboration with Lumpkin County for the use of the funds would be beneficial to the City and the County for larger projects like a parking deck. City Manager Bill Schmid expects these funds to generate \$130,000 annually.

Update on MuniCode

City Manager Schmid stated that we are on schedule with this project and it will give convenience to cross reference the City Ordinances. Council Member Gaddis asked for go-live-date for MuniCode, City Attorney Doug Parks will make inquiry.

Discussion of City Marshal

Council Member Hoffman stated the reintroduction of the City Marshal position is to assist LCSO officers with visibility issues at festivals and code enforcement; job description is to include law enforcement and code enforcement. Council Member Larson understood that this position was on hold, while Off-duty officers from the Sherriff department have filled the position on a volunteer basis; this plan did provide the coverages needed. Council Member Norton discussed the role of this position as a Police Chief, but City Manager Schmid expressed the need to have more of a code enforcement element. Council Member Hoffman stated the position should only be used as back up to Sheriff's office on a limited basis because of the code enforcement aspect taking priority. Council Member Ridley stated this discussion is showing that the position is to wear many hats and needs to be defined more closely. Council Members and the City Manager Schmid agreed he would use the budget guidelines for filling this position going forward.

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Discussion of Ex-Officio Members for HPC

Clarification of the role of an HPC Ex-Officio Member was discussed at length to understand the purpose and role of this Member. City Manager Schmid explained that while this Ex-Officio Member can live outside of the City, they would not be able to be a HPC Member unless they moved to within the city limits. Mayor McCullough stated we had very few qualified people who lived within the City of Dahlonega. Council Member Norton expressed that while an Ex-Officio Member could not vote they would be able to assist without a vote. Council Member Clemons stated that past Ex-Officio Members had made decisions over and above the job position and expressed concern for this reason alone. Council Member Gaddis stated that with the new application process, this position would be handled correctly going forward with 2 persons allowed on the HPC Board.

Purchase of Modular Office Trailer for the City

City Manager Schmid stated the need for additional offices and meeting space at City Hall and proposed an additional double-wide trailer. Council Member Ridley stated that a possible use of downtown offices in Dahlonega for DDA offices. City Manager Schmid stated relocation was a possible option and he would explore the option.

The Work Session meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Csukas