



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2016, 6:00 P.M.  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Dahlonega City Council met in regular session Monday, January 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Members present were Michael Clemons, Roman Gaddis, Bruce Hoffman, Ron Larson, Sam Norton, Mitchell Ridley and Mayor Gary McCullough. City Manager Bill Schmid, City Attorney Doug Parks, Planning Director Chris Head, Special Projects Coordinator Rebecca Shirley, DDA Director Joel Cordle and City Clerk Kimberly A. Smith were also present. Mayor Gary McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Payer was led by Mayor Gary McCullough and the Pledge to the American Flag was led by Councilman Elect Ron Larsen.

**OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Mayor Gary McCullough requested that all newly elected officials come forward to be sworn into office. The Oath of Office was administered to Council Members Ron Larsen, Sam Norton and Bruce Hoffman by City Clerk Kimberly Smith.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor Gary McCullough called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion to approve made by Council Member Gaddis, seconded by Council Member Larson. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor of the motion to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2016**

Mayor Gary McCullough called for a motion to approve the dates for Council meetings for 2016. Motion to approve made by Council Member Norton, seconded by Council Member Ridley Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor of the motion to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

**CITIZENS**

City Attorney Doug Parks directed the Council that a public hearing is scheduled for this time and date to seek comment from the public regarding the application of Roberta Garret for re-zoning and plan approval for multiple tracts totaling 17.52 to PUD Planned Unit Development with density of 11.92 units per acre. Attorney Parks said that John Gaston is present on behalf of the property owner to answer any questions. Parks asked for comment or questions from the public.

Adjacent property owner Daryl West spoke with concern regarding the curb cut that is currently closed on the property and said he would prefer it remain closed due to the potential of it being used by students as a cut through.

Planning Director Chris Head stated that the recommendation from the Planning Commission is for approval of the plans with the curb Mr. West has concern with remaining closed.

There was no further comment from the public. Attorney Parks said the matter of approval of the rezoning is now ready for council action.

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There was discussion amongst the Council, Mr. West and staff regarding the following: requirement of sidewalks as part of the development being discussed prior to the plans being submitted for approval by the Planning Commission; potential additional vehicles being 20% more due to density change; the curb cut that is closed being open for emergency vehicle use only; the closed curb cut being used for exiting traffic only; there being no other development in the city with more than one entrance/exit; possibility of use of speed tables if closed curb cut were to be opened; city design standards requiring sidewalks in developments as opposed to PUD zoning allowing the developer to suggest what is needed in the development; council having the power to require standards in a PUD as part of approval of rezoning; property owner certification having one typed name and a different signature and that being amendable; Phase 4 of Streetscapes, which is unfunded, having some sidewalks planned for the area around the development; and requesting that the property owner provide revised plans showing sidewalks.

Council Member Norton made a motion to table the rezoning request until the regular meeting February 1, 2016. Motion seconded by Council Member Roman Gaddis. Mayor McCullough called for a vote asking all in favor to raise their hand and say aye, like sign of those opposed. The motion carried with Council Members Clemons, Gaddis, Hoffman, Larson and Norton voting aye and Council Member Ridley voting in opposition.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

Mayor McCullough called for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting December 7, 2015 and the Work Session Meeting December 17, 2015. Council Member Michael Clemmons made the motion, second 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.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Mayor McCullough stated that the department reports were included in the agenda packages and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

**AGREEMENT FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BETWEEN DAHLONEGA-LUMPKIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE CITY OF DAHLONEGA**

Mayor McCullough called for a motion for approval of the agreement for tourism development services between Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber Of Commerce and the City Of Dahlonega. Motion made by Councilmember Ridley made the motion, second by Council Member Clemons. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor of the motion to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

City Manager Bill Schmid reported that the New Year's Eve event Dahlonega First Night was well attended with approximately two thousand attendance badges sold.

Schmid said he would discuss departmental reports with any Council Member.

Schmid told the Council that he answered a series of questions from the *Dahlonega Nugget* regarding the water issues and he would share his answers with the Council if they wished for him to do so.

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Schmid reported that utility bills will now have a yellow highlighted area on them for announcements such as holiday notices with schedule changes.

Council Member Mitchell Ridley said he would like to know more about the management comment regarding the sanitation fund being down. City Manager Schmid replied that it is due to the fund not being self-supporting because costs are higher than the revenues. Schmid said it will be one of the items discussed in detail at the council retreat in February.

**CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

City Attorney Parks reported that his office is moving through tasks required tasks for property acquisitions necessary for the Streetscapes project.

**MAYOR COMMENTS**

None

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member Hoffman asked that Lumpkin County's agenda for their regular and work session meetings be added to the end of the electronic agenda for Dahlonega's work session meeting. City Clerk Kimberly Smith replied that she would do so.

Council Member Clemons asked when council could submit suggestions for the retreat. City Manager Schmid replied that he would be happy to take any suggestions from council at any time.

Mayor McCullough asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by council Member Gaddis, seconded by Council Member Clemons. Mayor McCullough asked for all in favor of the motion to say aye, all opposed like sign, motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

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

Attest:

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

