



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2016
4:00 PM**

The Dahlonega City Council met in a scheduled Work Session on Thursday, January 21, 4 PM at City Hall. Members present were Mayor Gary McCullough, Roman Gaddis, Michael Clemons, Bruce Hoffman, Sam Norton, Mitchell Ridley and Ron Larson. Mayor McCullough called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

SOLUTIONS FOR TRASH PICKUP ON ROADSIDES AS PROPOSED BY MR. BOB CENNA:

In Mr. Cenna's absence, City Manager Bill Schmid reported in the past the City has used trustees to assist with extra litter pickup but currently the City is receiving less assigned to us. Mayor McCullough expressed the biggest need being at the entry points in Dahlonega but a police presence would be essential for everyone's safety. Mayor McCullough asked Mr. Schmid to submit an article in the paper requesting volunteers and/or groups interested in assisting with roadside clean up to contact the City. Councilman Hoffman commented a University contact mentioned he believed many student organizations would be willing to adopt a road. Mr. Hoffman will share the point of contact with Mr. Schmid to follow up on. Councilman Gaddis said the first step is to determine what roads are adopted and are those current organizations still interested in participating in the program. Councilman Ridley commented that Mr. Cenna would be the perfect individual to assist with coordinating a grassroots effort to get citizens involved. Mr. Schmid said he would follow up with Mr. Cenna about his role. Hearing no additional comments, staff will coordinate with the Nugget & University to request volunteers, get a list of the current roads adopted and determine interest from those groups, map out the roads in need of litter pickup and to follow up with Mr. Cenna on his leadership role.

PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH LOUDOUN COMMUNICATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE OF TORNADO SIRENS:

Mr. Schmid reported this is an existing contract staff is proposing to renew with Loudoun at \$80/month or \$960/year and the contract material is the same as previously adopted. Councilman Ridley commented it may be time for the City to look at extended the locations of the sirens as the City has grown. Hearing no additional comments, staff will follow up on the locations of the sirens in comparison to the most populated areas. The item will be added to the February 1, 2016 Regular Council Meeting agenda for approval.

TYPE OF LED LIGHTS TO BE USED BY GEORGIA POWER FOR STREET LIGHTS:

Mr. Schmid reported there is nothing more to report on this item except confirmation the proposed lights are at a higher cost for the City. Georgia Power will not charge up front for the fixtures but the City will pay more overtime than previously. Mr. Schmid will work to negotiate the light to a warm light versus the blue light selected from Georgia Power. Councilman Norton and Councilman Gaddis agreed a warm light is more appealing and should be done if there is not too much added costs. Hearing no additional comments, the Mr. Schmid will proceed with coordinating with Georgia Power.

DISCUSSION OF WINE GARDEN PERMIT BY DAHLONEGA ARTS & WINE FESTIVAL:

Ms. Letty Rayneri spoke on behalf of the applicant, Chestatee Artists, for the Dahlonega Arts & Wine Festival. The event will have jazz, wine garden and high quality arts and crafts. Ms. Rayneri reported the group is currently working with the wineries and tasting rooms for a wine garden. If the wineries do not have the proper licenses, the group will work with a caterer that has an off-site catering license permit. It is proposed the 20x50 tent be located on Warwick & Park Street, adjacent to Hancock Park. The full parameters of the security measures and entry/exit points are included in the Council packet for review and meet the requirements at the staff level. Ms. Head said she will email the full special event application packet, to include the road closures, since it was not included in this packet. Mayor McCullough asked if there had been any parameters added to the special event permit to ensure the location is fully cleaned up afterwards? Instead of the florescent orange construction fencing, staff asked if there could be another way to create the barrier that is less ugly and still complies with the ordinance. Ms. Rayneri said they will present a proper barrier that is more attractive looking and will share the information with staff to pass along to Council. Hearing no additional comments, with all of the proper license documentation provided to the City Clerk, this item will be added to the February 1, 2016 Regular Council Meeting agenda for approval.

PROPOSED FISCAL BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015:

Finance Director Sabrina Cape reported Georgia state law requires any fund governmental in nature is to make sure expenditures do not exceed the budget. This is the final budget adjustment completed after audit entries. If Council does NOT do this final budget amendment, the City will be issued a finding and there will have to be an explanation as to why the City did not do the amendment. Ms. Cape described each line item in more detail for Council. Council asked that amendments be brought to them on a more frequent basis moving forward versus at the end of the fiscal year. Council also asked to be made of aware of items that are contracted out and cause more expenses in a department. Ms. Cape commented staff can provide more frequent amendment requests to keep Council more informed. Ms. Cape & Mr. Schmid recommended since Council has typically done once a year, begin a 6-month budget amendment process. Ms. Cape can also identify the accounts that are frequently going over budget so Council can consider increasing that particular line item in the next budget cycle. The 6-month budget amendments will also better tie projects and programs back to the resolutions and the actual expense. Hearing no additional comments, this item will be added to the February 1, 2016 Regular Council Meeting agenda for approval.

Mayor McCullough adjourned the Work Session at 5:00 PM.

Rebecca Shirley, Acting City Clerk