



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2018 6:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Mayor Sam Norton, Council Members Helen Hardman, JoAnne Taylor, Bruce Hoffman, Ron Larson, Roman Gaddis and Mitchell Ridley were present.

Staff Present

City Manager Bill Schmid, Finance Director Melody Marlowe, Community Development Director Kevin Herrit, Public Works Director Mark Buchanan, City Marshal Jeff Branyon, Water Plant Supervisor John Jarrard, and City Clerk Mary Csukas were present. Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority Jan Harris was present. Cemetery Committee Chairman Chris Worick was present. City Attorney Doug Parks was present.

Call to Order and Welcome

Mayor Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

The Pledge was led by Council Member Hoffman. The Prayer was led by Council Member Larson.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Norton called for a motion to amend the agenda to include Ordinance 2018-19-Hawkins Street under Old Business. Motion made by Council Member Gaddis to amend the agenda to include Ordinance 2018-19-Hawkins Street under Old Business and seconded by Council Member Taylor. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

No Comments

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Work Session Meeting Minutes, October 18,2018. Motion made by Council Member Gaddis to approve Work Session Meeting Minutes, October 18,2018. Council Member Larson seconded the motion. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Recognition

Mayor Norton and Council Member Ridley recognized the achievements of the Mountain Region Youth Football league at Super Bowl II; 11U Lumpkin County Indians Super Bowl II Champions, 7U Lumpkin County Indians Super Bowl II Runner-Up, 10U Lumpkin County Indians Super Bowl II Runner-Up and 7U Lumpkin County Indians Cheer Squad.

Mayor Norton and Council Member Ridley recognized the achievements of the Lumpkin County Youth Association Youth Baseball League at Super Bowl II, 12U Lumpkin Miners Falls Season

Mayor Norton recognized Lumpkin County High School Academic Team for 10 years of Competitions:

- ❖ 8 Sub-Region titles
- ❖ 4 State Tournament in-invites - achieving the Top 10 status in 2 Tournaments
- ❖ Skills USA Tournaments - achieving Regional Winners 7 of 10 years in completion.
- ❖ Skills USA Georgia State Tournament – achieving the Top 3 status in 5 Tournaments
- ❖ National Tournament Qualification in 2017 – Finishing 287th
- ❖ High Q invite to compete with 32 schools and qualified for the High Q completion on February 13th

Mayor Norton praised the Teams and Coaches for their achievements and let them know how impressed and proud the City and Council is for their representation of Dahlonega.

Old Business

Stormwater Management

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve continuation of the Stormwater Management Study into the next Phase. Motion made by Council Member Ridley and seconded by Council Member Hardman. Mayor Norton opened this topic to Council discussion.

Council Member Gaddis asked for clarification of the next Phase of the Stormwater Management Study.

Public Works Director Buchanan, at the request of City Manager Schmid, informed Council that Staff is asking Council to approve Phase II, Tasks 5-10, of the Stormwater Management contract that is in the Council agenda packet. Public Works Director Buchanan stated that approval of this step will allow Staff to educate the Public and Council on the details of the Stormwater Study up to the point of Councils vote and adoption of a Stormwater Rate Resolution and Ordinance.

Mayor Norton asked Staff for the cost of Phase II of the Stormwater Management Study. Public Works Director Buchanan informed Mayor and Council the cost of Phase II would be \$51,000. Mayor Norton inquired if Public Hearings are aspects of Phase II. Public Works Director Buchanan stated that Phase II has a baseline of tasks including public hearings, accounting programs and rate and ordinance education.

Council Member Taylor asked if GIS data will be provided as part of Phase II Stormwater Study to the City. Public Works Director Buchanan informed Council that great study examples have been provided throughout Phase I and will continue into Phase II of the Stormwater Study.

Mayor Norton addressed the public outcry, shown during the recent election, which asked for a broader base of entities to participate in paying stormwater management issues.

- Stormwater issues are paid solely through property taxes and these fees will have the ability to bring in some entities that are typically excluded from that solution since they are exempt from property tax.
- Stormwater is not a payment in lieu of taxes, but an opportunity to help with the solution by including the entities that do not necessarily pay property tax but who are big contributors to stormwater management.

Council Member Hoffman stated that SPLOST has been designated to assist with payment of Stormwater Management. Council Member Hoffman followed that once started Studies such as this one, will now have life of its own and will finalize into an Ordinance.

Mayor Norton stated that Council may be able to discuss and vote to roll-back the millage rate overtime, since this user fee may off-set the need to raise property taxes.

Council Member Larson stated stormwater fees are like SPLOST as everyone who is a user of the service is paying.

Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved with a vote of 5 in favor and 1 opposed. Council Members Hardman, Taylor, Larson, Gaddis and Ridley voted in favor and Council Members Hoffman opposed the vote.

Columbarium

Public Works Director Buchanan asked for Council approval to move forward with the design and construction of a Columbarium. Council Member Hoffman clarified with Public Works Director Buchanan that this was approval for the RFP process for a Columbarium design and construction and Director Buchanan agreed.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the RFP process for the design and construction of a Columbarium at Memorial Park Cemetery. Motion made by Council Member Hoffman and seconded by Council Member Larson.

Mayor Norton asked Cemetery Committee Chairman Worick to review a possible Columbarium at Mt. Hope Cemetery for Veterans.

Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ordinance 2018-19-Hawkins Street

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-19 - Hawkins Street to make directionality two-way. Motion made by Council Member Ridley. Council Member Hoffman seconded the motion. Mayor Norton called for a vote of those in favor to signify so by saying aye, like sign for those opposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Department Reports

City Clerk

Gold City Growlers presented a renewal application for 2019 and has been approved.

Cemetery Committee

Chairman Worick issued an invitation to everyone to view a presentation at the UNG Technical Library on Tuesday December 19th from 4-5 p.m. on the restoration progress of the Mt. Hope Cemetery.

City Marshal

City Manager Schmid commended City Marshal Branyon for the recent undercover purchase operation, in Dahlonga at local retail establishments, that resulted in complete compliance.

Community Development/Historic Preservation Commission/Planning Commission

No comment

Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority

Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority Jan Harris commended Staff for their hard work on the recent Holiday set-up.

Finance/Administration

No comments

Public Work and Cemetery Committee

Public Works Director Buchanan commended Staff for all their extra work this past week in the City with the Holiday set-up

Water and Waste Water Plants

No comments

Comments

City Manager Comments

City Manager Schmid informed Council that an outside contractor is assuring the winterization of the Head House Project.

City Attorney Comments

City Attorney Parks informed Council that the Head House purchase is recorded and complete.

City Council Comments

Council Member Larson inquired into the progress of the installation of the Hancock Park Playground and if the project will meet the approved timeline. Downtown Development Authority Director Harris stated the timeline of the Hancock Park Playground is still in place and completion is expected this Summer. Council Member Larson stated that completion of the Hancock Playground is essential to tourism this coming summer.

Council Member Hoffman inquired into the next step in the Head House project. City Manager Schmid informed Council that there are three phases, short-term, intermediate and a long-range plan that is still in discussion. City Manager Schmid stated first and foremost is to secure the property from infestation and winterization.

Mayor Norton stated that the expectation is to have Council walk through the Head House property to see and understand the needs of the Project and to then secure a committee to discuss the final determination of the Head House property.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Norton thanked Council Member Taylor for attending the meeting with the Kiwanis Club in his absence. Mayor Norton informed Council that GDOT has approved funding of \$28,000 or 70% of the project, to assist with repairs of Calhoun Road.

Adjournment

Councilmember Hoffman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2018.

_____ Sam Norton, Mayor

Attest: _____ Mary Csukas, City Clerk