



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 5, 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, City Marshal Jeff Branyon, Public Works Director Mark Buchannan, Community Development Director Kevin Herrit, Water Plant Supervisor John Jarrard, Capital Projects Manager Vince Hunsinger, Cemetery Committee Chairman Chris Worick and City Clerk Mary Csukas were present. Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority Jan Harris and City Attorney Doug Parks were present.

**Call to Order and Welcome**

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

**Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag**

The Pledge was led by Ms. Charlie Mae Smith. The Prayer was led by Council Member Hardman.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Council Member Larson 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 both sets of Meeting Minutes, Special Called Joint Meeting – September 25, 2018, 4:00 p.m. and Regular Council Meeting – October 1, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

Motion made by Council Member Gaddis to approve both sets of Meeting Minutes, Special Called Joint - Meeting September 25, 2018, and Regular Council Meeting – October 1, 2018, 6:00 p.m. Council Member Hardman 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**

#### **Recognition – Stephanie Meierotto UNG Student Government President**

Mayor Norton praised Stephanie Meierotto for her role as President of the University of North Georgia Student Government and presented her with a plaque for her dedication as the presiding leader of the UNG Student Government. Mayor Norton reiterated that he and the Council looked forward to working with this student body government now and in the future.

#### **Appointment to Downtown Development Authority Committee - Eddie Wayne**

Mayor Norton informed Council that Eddie Wayne, an outstanding citizen in the community with previous dealings in other capacities with the City, is being suggested as an appointment to the Downtown Development Authority.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the appointment of Eddie Wayne to the Downtown Development Authority.

Motion made by Council Member Ridley 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.

Mayor Norton stated that serving on a committee is a person's highest civic duty, as a person serves willingly with no compensation. Mayor stated that this is a reminder that citizens do run our government.

#### **Recognition – Council Member Roman Gaddis**

Mayor Norton praised Council Member Gaddis for achieving a Certificate of Achievement through the Harold F Holtz Training Institute of Government at the Carl Vinson Institute of Training. Mayor Norton pointed out that this training takes time and makes each one of us a better leader.

**Public Hearing: Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 48-13-6 – Public Hearing regarding amendment of the Code of the City of Dahlonega, Georgia: Chapter 30: Taxation, Article III: Occupation tax, Section 30-62: Tax levied; Restrictions, Subsection (c): Occupation tax schedule, regarding occupation tax rates by adopting a new schedule.**

Mayor Norton asked City Attorney Parks to handle the process of this Public Hearings.

City Attorney Parks opened the Public Hearing at 6:10 p.m.

City Attorney Parks informed Mayor and Council this public hearing deals with an amendment to the schedule of fees/taxes under our Occupational Tax Ordinance. City Attorney Parks asked Finance Director Marlowe to present a review of these proposed changes.

Finance Director Marlowe informed Council that a version of tax table recommendation provided in your agenda packet had been presented previously at the October 18, 2018, Work Session; the tax table was a result of surveys completed with data from neighboring jurisdictions. Finance Director Marlowe explained, that at the requested of the Council, the amounts in this tax table had been scaled back by 50% of the original recommended tax table.

City Attorney Parks asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak regarding this amended business tax ordinance, either in favor, opposed or some other type of comment.

As, no comments were made, City Attorney Parks concluded the Public Hearing at 6:12 p.m.

Mayor Norton informed that that the original staff recommendation to increase the business license scheduled fees had been reduced by Council to allow for a gradual increase in this tax over time.

City Attorney Parks and City Manager Schmid informed Mayor and Council that this amendment will be discussed for a vote at the next Council Meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **Temporary Special Event Alcohol License – Veterans Appreciation Weekend, November 10-11, 2018 at Hancock Park.**

Downtown Development Authority Director Harris informed Council and Mayor that the Veterans Association would be hosting a Veterans Day Observation in Downtown Dahlenega with a 5K & 10K run, food and events in Hancock Park on November 10th. The Veterans Association was asking the Downtown Development Authority to partner with them to include alcoholic beverages at the upcoming event.

Mayor Norton asked Ms. Csukas if the application for this temporary special event alcohol license was completed.

Ms. Csukas informed Council and Mayor that the Alcoholic Beverage License application for the Temporary Special Event for the Veterans Appreciation Weekend was in order and had Staff approval.

Mayor Norton called for a motion to approve the temporary special event alcohol license for the veteran's appreciation event.

Council Member Larson asked if the event had been changed to a one-day event on November 10<sup>th</sup> only. Director Harris agreed that the event would now only be on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Motion made by Council Member Hoffman and seconded by Council Member Larson. 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.

Consideration of Approval of New Alcoholic Beverage License for Nicholas Alicea, The Yard Bar LLC dba The Yard, 51 Main Street for Class D, Retail Liquor by Drink, Class E, Retail Beer by the Drink, and Class F, Retail Wine by the Drink.

Mayor Norton asked Ms. Csukas if the application for this alcoholic beverage license was completed.

Ms. Csukas informed Council and Mayor that the Alcoholic Beverage License application for the Yard Bar LLC dba The Yard was in order and had Staff approval.

Mayor Norton called for approval of the Alcoholic Beverage License for The Yard Bar LLC dba The Yard for Class D, Retail Liquor by Drink, Class E, Retail Beer by the Drink, and Class F, Retail Wine by the Drink - Consumption on Premises.

Motion made by Council Member Ridley and seconded by Council Member Hoffman. 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**

Clerk's Office-

Ms. Csukas informed Mayor and Council that all restaurants, except Hickory BBQ, renewing their Consumption on Premise Alcohol Beverage License had returned applications with payment and all had been approved by Staff.

Mayor Norton asked Ms. Csukas if the process in the previous year had produced the same results, Ms. Csukas informed Council that in the 2017, six restaurants had been late in returning their applications and payments.

Council Member Larson and Ms. Csukas agreed that personal property taxes were not an issue with this renewal process, at this time.

Cemetery Committee – No Comments

City Marshal – No Comments

Community Development- No Comments

Historic Preservation Commission- No Comments

Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority – No Comments

Finance/Administration- No Comments

Public Works-No Comments

Water and Waste Water Plants- No Comments

## **Comments**

### **City Manager Comments**

City Manager Schmid discussed how well Halloween progressed with the extra lighting provided this year and informed Council that the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be the day after Thanksgiving. City Manager Schmid informed Council and Mayor that the City has informed the Public of the recent purchase of the Head House located at Choice Street and South Park Street. City Manager Schmid informed Council that at his discretion he has signed a 3-year agreement with Pictometry for continuation of aerial mapping services, in conjunction with Stan Kelly from Lumpkin County.

### **City Attorney Comments**

No Comments

### **City Council Comments**

Council Member Larson about the status of the one-way street to a two-way street conversion on Hawkins Street. Mayor and Council discussed this issue and determined that this street was in use as directed but will be reviewed again at the next work session.

Council Member Taylor praised the Finance department for their excellent work on making the budget process and reports understandable.

### **Mayor Comments**

Mayor Norton stressed his appreciation to the Student Government of the University of North Georgia for attending this Council Meeting. Mayor Norton stated that he and this Council looked forward to future endeavors with the County and the University of North Georgia.

Mayor Norton reminded everyone of the continued fiber optic work being completed by the North Georgia Network in and about town and how this project was a cumulation of the work begin with the Streetscape project this past year.

## **Adjournment**

Councilmember Hoffman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilmember Larson. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sam Norton, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Mary Csukas, City Clerk