



CITY OF DAHLONEGA WORK SESSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 2018 4:00 P.M.

Mayor Norton called the Work Session to order at 4:02 p.m.

Members Present

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

Staff Present

City Manager Bill Schmid, City Clerk Mary Csukas, Community Development Director Kevin Herrit, Public Works Director Mark Buchanan, and City Marshal Jeff Branyon were present. Downtown Development Director Jan Harris was present. Chairman of the Dahlonge Cemetery Committee Chris Worick was present. City Attorney Doug Parks was present. Assistant Finance Director Kimberly Stafford arrived at 4:05 p.m.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater Management is a topic discussed in a previous Work Session and this follow-up discussion, per City Manager Schmid, allows Council an opportunity to review more information for Staff direction. Ms. Reich's presentation will follow the outline of the Phase I Stormwater Management Memo given to Council last Friday.

Ms. Reich, Council, Mayor and Staff discussed the proposed stormwater management program outlined for Dahlonge. The following is a summation of the mutual discussions:

- Aging Infrastructure – Life span is based on staff and crews available
- Professional Review – Dahlonge is an older city with an undersized stormwater system due to growth. The city-wide drainage system is repair based at this point. The need to understand the system is essential to identify potential projects. Stormwater run-off flood plains are available with Stormwater services.
- 16 Flooding Hot Spots were identified during review with Public Works Director Buchanan.
- Potential Funding Needs– A Stormwater department and budget is needed. Currently the City is spending \$565,000 through General Funds each year for upkeep and repair of Stormwater issues. Spending recommendation to achieve an acceptable level of service would be \$840,000 a year.
- Funding of the stormwater services has two payment options, a user fee based on 1000 square feet or to install a tier per unit area program. This aspect of the project would be decided during Phase II.
- Exemptions – The Stormwater system is based on credit policies not exemptions. The owner of a property could appeal the assessment of a property and the appeal could garner a credit. Properties with detention ponds would be assessed and given a credit for a portion of the property. Public Works Director Buchannan would handle this aspect of the program.
- Revenues using either funding program would garner the same revenue and the credits would

generally be around 15% of total revenue.

- In Georgia, the University systems understand and expect a user fee based on a stormwater system within a city and would not be exempt from the fees. With a stormwater user fee, UNG would pay into this new program and generate new revenue for the City and our stormwater program.
- Private sector at this moment do not receive credits, but that issue will be discussed with the City Attorney. A follow up list of credits will be given to the City for review but the monthly payment for this program for a single-family home will only be \$5.00 a month, so credit would be minimal.
- A Stormwater fee, as opposed to property taxes, allows a more equitable spread of payment for the stormwater program being proposed.
- Phase II, the next step in the process, will involve Public Meetings, Mailings, and other plans to inform the public of the proposed project. Involved in this step will be the need for more staff to handle this project.

At the direction of Mayor and Council, City Manager Schmid will present, at the next Regular Council Meeting, the proposed cost for the stormwater program. The Council will use this information to give staff recommendation for the next step in this process.

Department Reports:

- a) Cemetery Committee - No comment
- b) City Marshal's – No comment
- c) Community Development- Historic Preservation Commission - No comment

d) Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority

Councilmember Ridley inquired concerning the progress of the Wayfinding Sign installation as the business community is frustrated with the progress at this point. Downtown Development Director Harris informed Council that staff is continuing to install signs as time allows.

- e) Finance/Administration- No comment
- f) Public Works

Public Works Director Buchanan informed Council that due to main water break we had road closures this past week, but the repair is in progress. Public Works Director Buchanan updated the Council on the following projects:

- Wimpy Mill Picnic area has two additional picnic tables being installed.
- TAP Grant of 2.7 million approved for Reservoir sidewalk and bridge project.
- ADA compliance work is being completed throughout the City.
- Hawkins Street change to two-way needs direction.
- City Manager Schmid informed Council that the Lighting aspect of the School project is underway with Georgia Power, but lighting will not be installed at the Wimpy Mill project at this time.

- g) Water and Waste Water Plants – No comment

Columbarium

Mr. Worick, Chairman of the Dahlonega Cemetery Committee, stated a Columbarium has been a main objective of the Cemetery Committee and Mr. Al Richardson has a proposal for a potential location and design of a Columbarium in Dahlonega.

Mr. Richardson distributed, to Council and Mayor, a proposal of possible Columbarium designs that are

relevant to the area of Dahlonega. Mr. Richardson stated that with the increase in cremations, from 20% to 50% in the last 20 years, the need for this service has increased. Currently, Cumming GA has the closest Columbarium to Dahlonega. Mr. Richardson recommended placement of a pre-assembled, 48 niche Columbarium at the Memorial Park Cemetery with a design created to blend with the current style of the Cemetery that would allow for expansion in the future.

City Manager Schmid informed Council that the City has budgeted for the installation of a Columbarium. Mayor Norton stated that Council would review the information presented and anticipated a staff recommendation for the next step in this process.

Mayor Norton called to reconvene the Special Called Meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Mayor Norton reconvened the Work Session at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Work Session was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.