



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Meeting Minutes

July 08, 2024, 6:00 PM

Gary McCullough Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for Council meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 706-864-6133.

Vision – Dahlonega will be the most welcoming, thriving, and inspiring community in North Georgia

Mission Statement - Dahlonega, a City of Excellence, will provide quality services through ethical leadership and fiscal stability, in full partnership with the people who choose to live, work, and visit. Through this commitment, we respect and uphold our rural Appalachian setting to honor our thriving community of historical significance, academic excellence, and military renown.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Taylor called the July 8, 2024, City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor

Councilmember Roman Gaddis

Councilmember Ryan Reagin

Councilmember Ross Shirley

Councilmember Lance Bagley

Councilmember Johnny Ariemma

ABSENT

Councilmember Daniel Brown

Mayor Taylor called on Councilmember Johnny Ariemma to lead the invocation and Councilmember Ross Shirley to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor stated the agenda needed to be amended to remove Ordinance 2024-05 and add Administer Oath of Office to the HPC Appointee, Penny Sharp. Mayor Taylor called for a motion. Councilmember Ryan Reagin made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of Ordinance 2024-05 and the addition of the Administering of the Oath of Office to Penny Sharp, seconded by Councilmember Ross Shirley.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Bagley

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Gaddis made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Bagley

1. Discussion of Historic Preservation Commission Appointment – Penny Sharp
JoAnne Taylor Mayor

- Strategic Priority – Effectively Manage Growth
2. Discussion of Appointments Cemetery Committee – Valerie Green
Mark Buchanan, Director of Public Works
Strategic Priority – Effectively Manage Growth
 3. Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement
Doug Parks, City Attorney
 4. Alcoholic Beverage License - Retail Application - Tayco Ventures LLC dba Dahlonga Tasting Room
Doug Parks, City Attorney & Sarah Waters, Assistant City Clerk
Strategic Priority - Communication

PUBLIC COMMENT – FOUR MINUTE LIMIT

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Council Meeting Minutes - June 3, 2024
Sarah Waters, Assistant City Clerk
- b. City Council Public Hearing - June 3, 2024
Sarah Waters, Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Councilmember Gaddis made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2024, Council Meeting and Public Hearing, seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Bagley

APPOINTMENT, PROCLAMATION & RECOGNITION:

1. Appointment to the Ethics Board
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
Strategic Priority - Communication

Mayor Taylor administered the Oath of Office to the remaining Ethics Board appointees. Carol Lucker, Wes Pirkle, Michael Feagin, and Joe Mirakovits each took and signed their Oath of Office.

- 2.. Oath of Office – Penny Sharp
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
Strategic Priority - Communication

Mayor Taylor administered the Oath of Office to the newest member of the Historic Preservation Commission, Penny Sharp. Ms. Sharp took and signed her oath of office.

The Mayor and Council joined the newly sworn volunteers on the chamber floor for a group photo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Taylor recognized Dylan Henschen and welcomed him to the meeting. Mr. Henschen is the newest staff writer for The Dahlonga Nugget.

CITY REPORTS:

2. FY23 Audit Report
Chris Hollifield, Managing Partner, Rushton & Company

3. Financial Report - April 2024
Allison Martin, City Manager
4. Financial Report - May 2024
Allison Martin, City Manager

Mayor Taylor asked Manager Martin to introduce the auditor. Manager Martin first thanked the Finance Department for their work and diligence in completing the annual audit. She then introduced Chris Hollifield, Managing Partner, Rushton and Company and thanked him and his staff for their work on the city's audit and the support of staff. Mr. Hollifield made his presentation, which was placed on file with the City Clerk's Office. Mr. Hollifield stated that the city's audit was clean and gave an overview of net position, discussed the single audit of the American Rescue Plan Act funds, and provided an overview of future changes to accounting and auditing standards.

Mayor Taylor called on Manager Martin to review the financial reports. Manager Martin stated the April 2024 report was provided for transparency. Manager Martin reviewed the May 2024 Finance Report. The city's revenues remain strong, and expenditures are in line with budgetary expectations.

Councilmember Gaddis made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Councilmember Reagin.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Bagley

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

5. ~~Ordinance 2024-05 Amending HPC Regulations~~
~~Doug Parks~~

This item was removed from the agenda via a motion, second, and vote to amend this meeting's agenda.

CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS:

OTHER ITEMS:

6. Written Decision Regarding 27 on Park
Doug Parks, City Attorney

Mayor Taylor called on City Attorney, Doug Parks, to review this agenda item. Attorney Parks provided a recap of the issues surrounding this item and explained to the council, and audience, the letter presented to council for consideration regarding 27 on Park's appeal. Mr. Parks explained that this property could qualify for a Master Sign permit and the council should consider this along with the fine that is recommended in the written decision.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion.

Councilmember Gaddis made a motion to deny the appeal, allow a master sign at this location, and issue a \$1,000 fine for erecting a sign without a permit per the proposed written decision, seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

The council then had a discussion on this item. Councilmember Gaddis thanked the operators of 27 on Park for their patience. What is presented will allow them to keep their sign but also recognizing that they had no application or permit to put up a sign all of this is a retroactively looking at what was installed. Mr. Gaddis strongly suggests that they seek reimbursement from their sign company for the cost of the fine. The use of the master sign clause in the ordinance will allow them to have the sign for their business. Councilmember Ariemma reminded the operators that they have a responsibility to make sure their

contractors comply with ordinances. The fine is miniscule and hopefully procedures will be followed in the future, and he wishes them the best of luck in their business venture. Councilmember Bagley echoed those comments and is excited to have them here in Dahlonega. He hopes in the future they will come and speak with staff prior to making changes. Mayor Taylor thanked the operators and said that regulation of signs in the historical district is important and if you visit other towns, you will see that something so small makes a huge difference in the look of a downtown area. Councilmember Reagin stated he appreciated their contribution to Dahlonega.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Bagley

7. Review of FY25 Proposed Budget

Allison Martin, City Manager

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments

The clerks were absent.

City Manager Comments

City Manager Martin had no comments.

City Attorney Comments

City Attorney Parks had no comments.

City Council Comments

Councilmember Bagley stated the 4th of July celebration was great and a job well done.

Councilmember Reagin thanked everyone for making the 4th great.

Councilmember Gaddis thanks the staff for their work.

Councilmember Shirley said great job by staff on the 4th.

Councilmember Ariemma had no comments.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor had no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn at 7:30 P.M. Motion made by Councilmember Bagley, seconded by Councilmember Reagin. Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley, Councilmember Ariemma

Guideline Principles - The City of Dahlonega will be an open, honest, and responsive city that balances preservation and growth and delivers quality services fairly and equitably by being good stewards of its resources. To ensure the vibrancy of our community, Dahlonega commits to Transparency and Honesty, Dedication and Responsibility, Preservation and Sustainability, Safety and Welfare ...for ALL!
