



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Work Session Minutes

June 17, 2024, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council Chambers, Dahlongega 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 – Dahlongega will be the most welcoming, thriving, and inspiring community in North Georgia

Mission Statement - Dahlongega, 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.

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor called the June 17, 2024, City Council Work Session to order at 4:43 P.M.

She thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the agenda as written.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin to approve the agenda as written, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

BOARD & COMMITTEES

1. Appointment to the Ethics Board

JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

Strategic Priority - Communication

Mayor Taylor asked everyone on the Ethics Board to come to the front and be sworn in. She said that the City of Dahlongega was awarded a certificate as a Certified City of Ethics. She stated that transparency and ethical behavior are significant in government. She thanked everyone who accepted the invitation to join the Ethics Board.

Mayor Taylor administered the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Ethics Board members Liz Teal, Sam Norton, Casey Moye, Pat Jones, Cindy Williams, Sally Bell, Dave Baker, and Ron Larson.

2. Cemetery Department Report - May 2024

Quataunda Armstrong, Dahlongega Cemetery Committee

3. Dahlongega Downtown Development Authority/Main Street – May 2024

Ariel Alexander, Downtown Development Director

Councilmember Ariemma stated that he liked the band at the first Friday concert this month. He asked Downtown Development Director Alexander if they had a program for people could sponsor the bands.

Downtown Development Director Alexander stated that they have a sponsorship program for all their events. She said the information for sponsoring events is on the DDA's website.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AVAILABLE AT: <https://dahlonega.gov/category/department-reports/>

4. City of Dahlonega Police Department - May 2024.
George Albert, Chief of Police.
5. Community Development - May 2024
Allison Martin, City Manager
Councilmember Ariemma asked if the 18 residential permits issued in May were new homes or remodels. City Manager Martin stated there was a mixture of permits.
6. Finance and Administration Department – May 2024
Kimberly Stafford, Finance Manager
7. Public Works—May 2024
Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer
8. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report May 2024
John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director
Councilmember Shirley asked a question about the Hydrogen Sulfide levels. Manager Martin responded that this issue is not due to new construction. It is due to the new design of the lift station.
Councilmember Ariemma asked a question about the Barlow Lift Station. Manager Martin responded that there is a design flaw and there is ongoing work by the engineers and installer to correct the situation. One solution is an air gap between components.

APPOINTMENT, PROCLAMATION & RECOGNITION : (Vote at Council Meeting)

9. Discussion of Historic Preservation Commission Appointment – Penny Sharp
Sarah Waters, Assistant City Clerk
Strategic Priority - Effectively Manage Growth
Mayor Taylor introduced the item to the council, and she stated that they are pleased to bring forward a historically minded individual to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission.
Councilmember Gaddis suggested putting it on the consent agenda.
Councilmember Bagley thanked Ms. Sharp for volunteering.
10. Discussion of Appointments Cemetery Committee – Valerie Green
Mark Buchanan, Director of Public Works
Strategic Priority - Effectively Manage Growth
Mayor Taylor introduced this item to the council.
Councilmember Reagin suggested moving this to the consent agenda.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Taylor took a moment to thank Officer Kyle Kupari for everything he has done for the City during his time with the Police Department. Mayor Taylor and Councilmembers stated how much he will be very missed.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

11. Ordinance 2024-05 Amending HPC Regulations
Doug Parks

Councilmember Gaddis asked if HPC asked for this change. He stated that some of the items are considered maintenance.

AGREEMENTS & CONTRACTS:

12. Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement

Doug Parks, City Attorney

Strategic Priority - Communication

City Attorney Parks stated that the renewal of the Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement is coming up. The annual event is a highly efficient way to manage Indigent Defense, and staff highly recommends it.

City Manager Martin stated that the county is set to vote on it and they will forward us the contract once it is completed.

Mayor Taylor suggested this item be put on the consent agenda.

OTHER ITEMS:

13. Alcoholic Beverage License - Retail Application - BC One Group Inc. dba KKMart

Doug Parks, City Attorney & Sarah Waters, Assistant City Clerk

Strategic Priority - Communication

In the absence of the City Clerk, it was unsure if this application was complete. BC One Group Inc. dba KKMart will be voted on at the next meeting in July.

14. Alcoholic Beverage License - Retail Application - Tayco Ventures LLC dba Dahlongega Tasting Room

Doug Parks, City Attorney & Sarah Waters, Assistant City Clerk

Strategic Priority - Communication

Assistant City Clerk Waters stated that Tayco Ventures LLC dba Dahlongega Tasting Room's application was complete.

Mayor Taylor suggested moving this item to the Consent Agenda.

15. City Manager's FY25 Proposed Budget

Allison Martin, City Manager

City Manager Martin reviewed the FY25 Proposed Budget presentation with the Mayor and Council.

Manager Martin and Finance will begin sending the individual funds to the council to give an overview of budget requests for FY25.

Councilmember Ariemma asked about the bond for the water plant and whether it was separate from the treatment plant. He also asked if we would have to replace the Crown Mountain water tank.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments

Assistant City Clerk Waters reminded everyone that the Mayor and council members will attend the GMA conference from June 20th to June 23rd.

City Manager Comments

City Manager Martin thanked Officer Kyle Kupari for everything he has done and said he will be missed.

City Attorney Comments

City Attorney Parks thanked Officer Kyle Kupari for everything he has done for the City and wished him the best of luck.

City Council Comments

Councilmember Ariemma thanked Officer Kyle Kupari for all he did for the City.

Councilmember Bagley said Officer Kyle Kupari would be missed and thanked him for everything. He also complimented the Public Works team on all the great things they do in town.

Councilmember Brown had no comment.

Councilmember Reagin said Officer Kyle Kupari would be missed and wished him the best of luck.

Councilmember Gaddis thanked Officer Kyle Kupari for everything and said he would be missed. He also congratulated Assistant City Clerk Waters on her recent marriage.

Councilmember Shirley wished Officer Kyle Kupari the best of luck.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor thanked all the staff for all the hard work put into this meeting tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn at 5:20 P.M.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin to adjourn, Seconded by Councilmember Brown.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin,
Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley, Councilmember Brown

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!
