



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

Council Meeting Minutes

April 01, 2024, 6:00 PM

Gary McCullough 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.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Taylor called the April 1, 2024, City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor

Councilmember Roman Gaddis

Councilmember Johnny Ariemma

Councilmember Ryan Reagin

Councilmember Ross Shirley

Councilmember Lance Bagley

Councilmember Daniel Brown

PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mayor Taylor asked Councilmember Shirley to lead the prayer and Councilmember Reagin to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to remove item #3 from the agenda tonight due to the absence of the person being sworn in.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin to approve the removal of item #3, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

Mayor Taylor asked the council if there were any items they wanted to move to the consent agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis to move items #6 and #4 to the consent agenda, Seconded by Councilmember Ariemma.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis to approve the items on the consent agenda, Seconded by Councilmember Brown.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Bagley

Councilmember Bagley requested to remove the February 2024 financial report from the consent agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Brown to amend the consent agenda as councilmember Bagley stated to move the financial report back to the agenda, Seconded by Councilmember Reagin. Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma, Councilmember Reagin, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley, Councilmember Brown

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA SPECIFIC / THREE MINUTE LIMIT

Mayor Taylor opened the floor to public comments.

Jim Gribben stated that he appreciated his prayer to open the meeting. He stated that he wrote a letter to the nugget about the possibility of a parking deck and wanted to come before the council to correct his letter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There were no minutes to approve.

APPOINTMENT, PROCLAMATION & RECOGNITION:

1. Appointments to the Board of Ethics

Mary Csukas, City Clerk

Strategic Priority - Communication

Ms. Csukas, City Clerk stated that the board of ethics of the city shall be composed of five residents of the city to be appointed as provided in subsections (a)(2) and (3) of this section. Each member of the Board of Ethics shall have been a resident of the city for at least one year immediately preceding the date of taking office and shall remain a resident of the city while serving as a member of the Board of Ethics. No person shall serve as a member of the board of ethics if the person has, or has had, within the preceding one-year period, any interest in any contract, transaction, or official action of the city. The mayor and councilmembers shall each designate two qualified citizens to provide a pool of 14 individuals who have consented to serve as a member of such board of ethics and who will be available for a period of two years to be called upon to serve in the event a board of ethics is appointed.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve the ethics board members.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin to approve the listed appointees to the Board of Ethics for the City of Dahlenega, Seconded by Councilmember Bagley.

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

2. Oath of Office - Tree Committee

Mark Buchanan, Director of Public Works

Strategic Priorities - Effectively Manage Growth

Mayor Taylor swore in Chirs and Kimberly Mihok to the Tree Committee.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone who volunteers to the committees and commissions in our community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CITY REPORTS:

4. Financial Report - February 2024

Allison Martin, City Manager

City Manager Martin went over the February 2024 Financial Report with the Mayor and Council.

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis to approve the February 2024 Financial Report, Seconded by Councilmember Ariemma.

There was a discussion between the Mayor, Council, and City Manager Martin.

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

5. Resolution 2024-02 Resolution for Participation in the "Certified City of Ethics" Program & Updated "City's Principles of Public Service Ethics"

Allison Martin, City Manager

Strategic Priority - Communication

Resolution 2024-02 Resolution for Participation in the "Certified City of Ethics" Program & Updated "City's Principles of Public Service Ethics"

City Manager Martin stated that when there is an election of a new member of the council or an appointment of a new manager, there is a requirement to update the information with GMA. She went on to say that all items have been completed, and it is ready for the council to vote on this.

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-02.

Motion made by Councilmember Brown to approve Resolution 2024-02 for Participation in the "Certified City of Ethics" Program and the City's Principles of Public Service Ethics to include Councilmember Daniel Brown, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

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

6. Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement

Doug Parks, City Attorney

Strategic Priority - Communication

Mayor Taylor stated that this item was approved on the consent agenda. She thanked City Attorney Parks for all of his work on this item.

CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS:

OTHER ITEMS:

7. 27 on Park Application for Alcohol License

Allison Martin, City Manager

Strategic Priority - Communication

Mayor Taylor called for a motion on this item.

Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma to table this item for discussion purposes, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

There was a discussion between council members, the mayor, and staff about this item.

Motion made by Councilmember Ariemma, Seconded by Councilmember Gaddis.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma

Voting Nay: Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Bagley, Councilmember Brown

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Reagin

Motion made by Councilmember Gaddis a motion for administrative approval of the license may be issued after full compliance with all codes and ordinances, Seconded by Councilmember Ariemma.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gaddis, Councilmember Ariemma

There was a discussion between council members, the Mayor, and staff about this item.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Bagley

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Reagin

8. Executive Session - Real Estate

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin to adjourn the Executive Session, Seconded by Councilmember Brown.

No action was taken.

COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments

City Manager Comments

City Attorney Comments

City Council Comments

Mayor Comments

Ms. Csukas, the City Clerk, had no comments.

City Manager Martin Parks Street Project started, and the East Main project is finished. She also stated that bids are coming in for the plaza, and they are moving to the North Square project.

City Attorney Parks had no comments.

Councilmember Gaddis thanked the applicants for everything they had done and reminded them that they wanted them to be successful in their business. He went on to caution the council about making certain comments and to trust and refer to staff when appropriate.

Councilmember Reagin suggests looking into the public comments section of meetings. States that alcohol, at a state level, is very hard to understand and praised staff for making this as fair as possible.

Councilmember Shirley thanked everyone for coming today and stated that they wanted to be as fair as possible to all businesses.

Councilmember Bagley praised staff and councilmembers for the Veterans Memorial Ceremony and is very happy that he is from a City that has events like this.

Councilmember Brown stated that he also wants things to be fair for other businesses and thinks it is important to get this right.

Councilmember Ariemma stated that this is the most heated debate he has participated in. He said they may not always agree but still respect each other and think they made the right decisions.

Mayor Taylor thanked the staff for all of their hard work. She stated that she feels very lucky to live in a town like Dahlonega.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn the April 1, 2024, City Council Meeting at 7:45 and go into Executive Session.

Motion made by Councilmember Reagin to go into Executive Session, Seconded by Councilmember Shirley.

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

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2024.

_____ Roman Gaddis, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest: _____ Sarah Hunsinger, Assistant City Clerk.