



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## Council Work Session Minutes

March 18, 2024, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

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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.

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### OPEN MEETING

Mayor Taylor called the March 18, 2024, City Council Work Session meeting to order at 4:03 P.M.

Mayor Taylor stated that the public hearing was canceled.

### PRESENT

Mayor JoAnne Taylor  
Councilmember Roman Gaddis  
Councilmember Johnny Ariemma  
Councilmember Ryan Reagin  
Councilmember Ross Shirley  
Councilmember Lance Bagley  
Councilmember Daniel Brown

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Taylor made a motion to amend the agenda and move the presentation to the beginning of the meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember Shirley to amend the agenda and move the presentation to the beginning of the meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Reagin.

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

### PRESENTATION

#### 9. Lumpkin County School System - Sharon Head

Sharon Head, School Superintendent

Strategic Priority - Communication

Sharon Head, School Superintendent, went over the presentation with the Mayor and Council.

There was a discussion about the presentation between the mayor, council members, and Lumpkin Schools Staff.

Mayor Taylor thanked them for coming and for keeping them informed about the school system.

## BOARD & COMMITTEES

1. Cemetery Committee—February 2024

Quataunda Armstrong, Dahlonaga Cemetery Committee

City Manager Martin stated that Committee Member Armstrong was unable to make it to the meeting tonight.

2. Dahlonaga Downtown Development Authority/Main Street – February 2024

Ariel Alexander, Downtown Development Director

Downtown Development Director Alexander answered questions for the Mayor and Council about the DDA staff report.

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

3. City of Dahlonaga Police Department – February 2024

George Albert, Chief of Police.

4. Community Development Report - February 2024

Allison Martin, City Manager

5. Finance and Administration Department – February 2024

Kimberly Stafford, Finance Manager

6. Public Works—February 2024

Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer

7. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report February 2024

John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director

Councilmember Bagley asked about the 27% non-revenue water and how that relates to other people's waters.

City Manager Martin, the Council, and the Mayor discussed the item in detail.

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

8. Discussion Board of Ethics Appointment

Mary Csukas, City Clerk

Strategic Priority - Communication

Mrs. 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.

There was a discussion about this topic between the Mayor, Council, and City Clerk Csukas.

## ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

10. 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

City Attorney Parks states this is a Resolution for Participation in the Certified City of Ethics Program and associated documents. The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) offers a Certified City of Ethics program to Georgia cities that agree to and uphold certain government ethics standards. The City of Dahlonega has participated since 2004. GMA recertifies each “Certified City of Ethics” every four (4) years to ensure compliance with regulations to continue in this prestigious program. The City of Dahlonega was recertified in 2023. When there is an election of a new member of the council or the appointment of a new manager, updating the information with GMA is required. This item is before the council as we have a newly elected member who has completed the required training, and we must verify with GMA. It is the recommendation of the staff to approve the resolution and associated documents.

The Mayor, Council, City Attorney Parks, and City Manager Martin discussed this topic.

11. Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement

Doug Parks, City Attorney

Strategic Priority - Communication

City Attorney Parks discussed the Restatement of the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan with the Mayor and Council. It was recommended that it be approved.

## AGREEMENTS & CONTRACTS:

### OTHER ITEMS:

12. Charles Abbott and Associates - review of services to date

Allison Martin, City Manager

Strategic Priority - Communication

City Manager Martin discussed Charles Abbott and Associates with the Mayor and Council.

There was a detailed discussion about Charles Abbot and Associates.

13. CPL - review of services provided

Allison Martin, City Manager

Strategic Priority - Communication

City Manager Martin discussed the services provided by CPL with the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Taylor thanked City Manager Martin for the detailed item.

## COMMENTS – PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments

Ms. Csukas, City Clerk, had no comments.

City Manager Comments

City Manager Martin had no comments.

City Attorney Comments

City Attorney Parks had no comments.

#### City Council Comments

Councilmember Gaddis had no comments.

Councilmember Ariemma asked if there could be a recap of the vehicles.

Councilmember Reagin stated that he enjoyed going to the game and encouraged everyone to go. He then asked about a sign in Hancock Park.

Councilmember Shirley stated that the City Staff is doing a great job and complimented their work for the city. He wondered if the City has pushed back on removing trees, as they do a great job communicating to everyone about the removal process.

Councilmember Bagley voiced his excitement about the UNG basketball team and wished them luck at the next game.

Councilmember Brown stated he was excited about the UNG basketball game.

#### Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor thanked the staff for all their work on the many projects. She also stated that she had just returned from a GMA meeting and that the fund was in great condition and highly diversified.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor called for a motion to adjourn at 5:21 P.M.