



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## City Council Public Hearing Minutes

June 03, 2024, 6:00 PM

Gary McCullough 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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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Taylor called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 P.M. for Ordinance 2024-03.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

### *Public Hearing:*

#### 1. Ordinance 2024-03 Amending Sign Regulations

Doug Parks

Mayor Taylor turned the public hearing over to City Attorney Doug Parks for discussion.

City Attorney Parks stated that this Public Hearing is about Ordinance 2024-03 and will address the proper treatment of murals and inflatables, which will be voted on June 17th. The amendments to the 2009 sign ordinance, which deregulate inflatables in all districts, define murals as wall signs, call for HPC review of wall signs, and adjust the total wall sign percentage to five percent, are still under review. He stated there will be no action taken at this meeting. City Attorney Parks opened the floor to public comments.

Mr. Garrick, owner of Grateful Days, questioned some issues with other types of signs, but City Attorney Parks stated that this public hearing was only for the specific issues of the inflatable and murals. Todd asked if inflatables in his window were an issue, and City Attorney Parks stated that the plan was to deregulate this type of sign.

Ms. Zaiko, representing the HPC, had an issue with the size of the wall sign being 5%, which is too small for a mural sign. City Attorney Parks stated that the size is a staff regulation and will be reviewed at the meeting on the 17th. The HPC will need an update on the size issue, and it can be addressed with a phone call to City Attorney Parks.

Mr. Owens expressed an issue with the size of the mural at 5% that needs to be addressed for business owners in town. City Attorney Parks believed he could use the wall at his establishment to test a mural larger than 5%.

Mr. Pucket states that his bicycle shop, which is in the city limits, is having an issue with his wall sign not being large enough to be seen by the public. , His wall sign is 10%, and can he keep it if the ordinance changes. City Attorney Parks explained the definition of a wall sign is difficult to understand and the staff will be able to best address this question.

Councilmember Bagley asked how the meeting on the 17th would address these sign questions. City Attorney Parks said we would address these issues tonight at the work session.

Mr. Gibbons felt the buildings were historical in our town, and it seems a good idea to use a planning commission for our town, not just consultants, as they do not know the area.

Councilmember Gaddis stated that the signs reviewed by HPC in the past seemed to be a problem, but City Attorney Parks reminded him that the HPC does have some controls over the Historic District and variances are brought to the BZA.

Councilmember Ariemma questioned some information in agenda memo for this item. City Attorney Parks pointed out that the ordinance already addressed his questions. The language in the ordinance is reviewed by the city attorney to make sure the language in the Municode library, which houses the codes, is accurate.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taylor adjourned the June 3, 2024, Public Hearing at 6:35 P.M.

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

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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!

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Approved this 8th day of July, 2024.

DocuSigned by:  
*Mayor JoAnne Taylor*  
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JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

Attest: *Sarah Waters*  
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Sarah Waters, City Clerk.