



# CITY OF DAHLONEGA

## Council Work Session Agenda

January 21, 2025, 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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### BOARD & COMMITTEES

1. Cemetery Committee - December 2024

Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer

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

2. Community Development Report - December 2024

Allison Martin, City Manager

3. Finance and Administration Department - December 2024

Kimberly Stafford, Finance Manager

4. Police Department - December 2024

George Albert, Chief of Police

5. Public Works - December 2024

Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer

6. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report - December 2024

John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director

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

### PRESENTATION

### ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

7. Ordinance 2025-01 Clerk Ordinance

Doug Parks, City Attorney

8. Amend Sec. 103-19 to reflect 2023 National Electrical Code with no amendments

Allison Martin, City Manager

Strategic Priority - Effectively Manage Growth

### AGREEMENTS & CONTRACTS:

### OTHER ITEMS:

9. Consideration of City Council Code of Conduct

JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

[10.](#) Upgrades to Council Chamber Technology Systems

Allison Martin, City Manager

[11.](#) Reservoir Management Plan Revision

Allison Martin, City Manager

[12.](#) Discussion of a 2nd Liquor Store

Allison Martin, City Manager

COMMENTS - PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES

Clerk Comments

City Manager Comments

City Attorney Comments

City Council Comments

Mayor Comments

ADJOURNMENT

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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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## Department Report

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Report Title: Cemetery Committee—December 2024  
Report Highlight: No activity for the month.  
Name and Title: Quataunda Armstrong, Dahlonega Cemetery Committee

Recently Completed:

- The Committee discussed and unanimously agreed that its official position regarding the Dahlonega Ghost Tours is as follows: *The Dahlonega Cemetery Committee does not support the continued permitting of any after-hours tours within Mount Hope or Memorial Park Cemeteries. These activities provide little to no benefit to our cemeteries, the loved ones of those interred, the citizens of Dahlonega or the City in general. The Committee does support a denial of an extension of the existing permit that is soon to expire.*
- Conversations with multiple Greek organizations at UNG regarding upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Underway:

- Discussion of proposed Mount Hope shed to house equipment for volunteers. The City has made a commitment to provide the shed at a suitable location using in-house manpower.
- There are still discussions regarding a decorative barrier around Mt. Hope. City staff is looking into recent budget requests for potential funding for a first phase of an iron & brick (or stone) fence.

Near term:

- There are still discussions regarding a decorative barrier around Mt. Hope. City staff will include a budget request for FY2026 for this item.



## Department Report

Report Title: Public Works—December 2024  
Name and Title: Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer

Recently Completed:

- Removal of Christmas decorations throughout the city.



Ongoing:

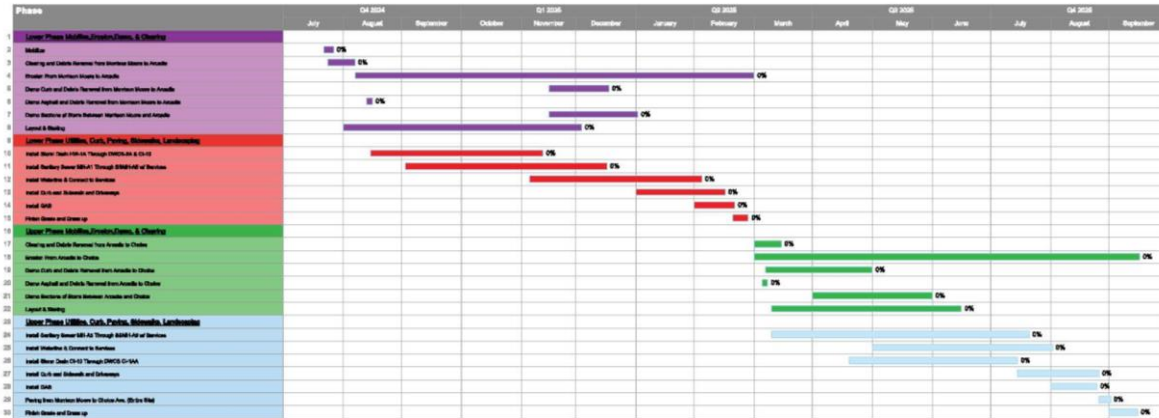
- The standard day-to-day operations by our Streets/Park/Cemeteries Department, Solid Waste team and Water Distribution/Sewer Collection guys. Please don't forget this dedicated group of men, many of whom arrive as early as 5:00AM and work in all kinds of conditions. They also frequently work late into the evening, regularly on weekends and are on-call at all hours. Due to the difficulty and discomfort of all of these positions, employee turnover results in vacancies that are covered by the department supervisors and short-handed employee groups. The beauty of our city, the near flawless delivery of city-provided utilities and the day-in/day-out removal of solid waste is an incredibly difficult task. It requires long hours of hard work and sacrifice and the Public Works guys make it look easy.



- Park Street Utilities Project.



STRICKLAND & SONS PIPELINE, INC.



Stop by Mark's office if you'd like to see a larger, paper version.

- Morrison Moore Pedestrian Bridge & Sidewalk. Bids were received and a contractor was selected. Staff is performing necessary GDOT steps in preparation of Notices to Award and Proceed.



- Golden Avenue storm drain. Coordination with neighboring property owners regarding necessary easements is ongoing. Georgia DOT is conducting the preliminary design of the Yahoola bridge near this location. Staff are also coordinating with them to ensure a seamless transition between these two neighboring projects.
- Design and bid services for Phase 2 of the North Grove sidewalk project from Subway to Skyline Drive. Plans are currently under review by GDOT.

Upcoming (these projects are currently either in concept, design or construction phase):

- Installation of 3 solar-powered speed alert signs.
- Selected portions of the Arcadia Street water and sewer main project/Mechanic Street to Morrison Moore sidewalk.
- North Grove Phase 2 sidewalk construction.



# Ordinances and Resolutions

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**DATE:** 1/21/2025  
**TITLE:** Ordinance 2025-01 Clerk Ordinance  
**PRESENTED BY:** Doug Parks, City Attorney  
**PRIORITY:** Strategic Priority - Communication

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## AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

Ordinance 2025-01 Clerk Ordinance.

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## HISTORY/PAST ACTION

None.

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## FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

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## RECOMMENDATION

Approval.

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## SUGGESTED MOTIONS

Motion to approve at the February Council Meeting.

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## ATTACHMENTS

Current draft of Ordinance 2025-01.

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**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01**

**TO ENUMERATE AND DEFINE THE POWERS AND DUTIES  
OF THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF DAHLONEGA**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Dahlonega (“City”) is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia, and is authorized by Section 2.16(c) of the City Charter to by ordinance assign additional functions to any of the offices, agencies and departments expressly provided for by the Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is authorized by Section 3.13 of the City Charter to define what powers and duties are vested in the City Clerk; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is empowered by the State of Georgia to exercise certain home rule powers, as codified in O.C.G.A. § 36-35-3; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and the City Council find that the enumeration and definition of the powers and duties of the City Clerk of the City of Dahlonega is necessary and shall be adopted with the consent of the Mayor and City Council.

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DAHLONEGA HEREBY ORDAINS**

**SECTION 1. Duties and Powers of the City Clerk**

Specifically, as per the Charter, the City Clerk shall keep the minutes of the proceedings of the city council, maintain in a safe place all records and documents pertaining to the affairs of the city, serve as treasurer of the city, and perform such other duties as may be required by law or as the council may direct, and more specifically as follows:

- A. Assume management responsibility for all services and activities of the City Clerk's Office including preparation and recording of the activities and decisions of the City Council, and codification and maintenance of official City records.
- B. Manage and participate in the development and implementation of goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for assigned programs.
- C. Recommend and administer policies and procedures for the office of City Clerk.
- D. Assign work activities, projects, and programs to other members of the Clerk’s staff.
- E. Review and evaluate work products, methods, and procedures.
- F. Meet with staff to identify and resolve problems.
- G. Select, train, motivate, and evaluate assigned personnel.



- H. Provide or coordinate staff training.
- I. Participate in the forecast of funds needed for staffing, equipment, materials, and supplies.
- J. Serve as Executive Secretary to the City Council.
- K. Supervise and coordinate the preparation and distribution of agendas and support materials for City Council and other meetings as needed.
- L. Attend meetings of the City Council and Board of Zoning Appeals, and record minutes of those meetings.
- M. Ensure accurate up-to-date filing of City ordinances, agreements, resolutions, and minutes of City Council, commissions, and committees.
- N. Sign and certify official City documents.
- O. Ensure City agreements, contracts, and other legal documents are signed and recorded, associated records and documents are obtained, and public notices and ordinances are published.
- P. Oversee and supervise all open records requests.
- Q. Oversee and manage the City's records management program including developing procedures for records management, retrieval and disposal, and preserve official city documents and records including resolutions, ordinances, deeds, Council minutes, agreements, and reports in accordance with legal requirements.
- R. Supervise the storage and protection of the City's permanent records.
- S. Serve as the liaison for the City Clerk's Office with other divisions, departments, outside agencies and the general public.
- T. Administer the alcohol ordinance.
- U. Work in tandem with the city attorney to achieve best practices in ordinance adoption, codification, insurance claims reporting and related matters.
- V. Perform other tasks as directed and supervised by the city manager.

**SECTION 2.** Binding Effect. This shall be binding on the City, Mayor and the City Council and all agencies, boards, department divisions, appointees, courts, employees and contractors of the City until replaced or amended.

**SECTION 3.** Codification. This ordinance shall be codified in a manner consistent with the laws of the State of Georgia Municode is given express authority to adjust this ordinance contents to its numbering system.

**SECTION 4.** Approval of Execution. The Mayor is hereby authorized to sign all documents necessary to effectuate this Ordinance. The City Clerk is authorized to execute, attest to, and seal any document which may be necessary to effectuate this Ordinance.

**SECTION 5.**

A. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that all sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this ordinance are and were, upon their enactment, believed by the City Council to be fully valid, enforceable and constitutional.

B. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is severable from every other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance. It is hereby further declared to be the intention of the City Council that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, no section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is mutually dependent upon any other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

C. In the event that any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of the City Council that such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, not render invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases of the ordinance and that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, all remaining Sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases of the ordinance shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable, and of full force and effect.

**SECTION 6.** Repeal of Conflicting Provision. Except as otherwise provided herein, all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Except as modified herein, The Code of the City of Dahlonega, Georgia, is hereby reaffirmed and restated. The codifier is hereby granted editorial license to include this amendment in future supplements of said Code by appropriate section, division, article or chapter. The City Attorney is directed and authorized to direct the codifier to make necessary minor, non-substantive corrections to the provisions of this Code, including but not limited to, the misspelling of words, typographical errors, duplicate pages, incorrect references to state or federal laws, statutes, this Code, or other codes or similar legal or technical sources, and other similar amendments, without necessity of passage of a corrective ordinance or other action of the Mayor and Council. The City Clerk shall, upon the written advice or recommendation of the city attorney and without the necessity of further council action, alter, amend or supplement any non-codified ordinance, resolution or other record filed in his or her office as necessary to effect similar non-substantive changes or revisions and ensure that such public records are correct, complete and accurate.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Dahlonega, and it is ordained by authority of the same, that if any portion of this Ordinance is for any reason found to be invalid or unconstitutional by the final decision of any tribunal of competent jurisdiction, it is the intention

of the City Council of Dahlonega that the remainder of this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect.

SO ORDAINED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2025.

**THE CITY OF DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, City Clerk

[SEAL]



# City Council Agenda Memo

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**DATE:** 1/14/2025  
**TITLE:** Amend Sec. 103-19 to reflect 2023 National Electrical Code w/no amend.  
**PRESENTED BY:** Allison Martin, City Manager  
**PRIORITY:** Strategic Priority - Effectively Manage Growth

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## AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

Amend Sec. 103-19 to reflect 2023 National Electrical Code with no amendment

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## HISTORY/PAST ACTION

From time to time, the State of Georgia will adopt new building codes. Depending on how the City's code is written, a change to the local code can be required. Section 103-19 currently reflects the National Electrical Code – 2020 edition and will need to be updated to reflect the change to the 2023 National Electrical Code which became effective January 1, 2025. Our code does not need to be updated for the IBC as our code has the correct year and allows for amendments as adopted by state minimum code.

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## FINANCIAL IMPACT

n/a

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## RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of staff to update the City of Dahlonega's Code of Ordinances to reflect this state mandated change.

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## SUGGESTED MOTIONS

n/a

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## ATTACHMENTS

DCA memo

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GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
*of* COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Building Officials  
State Codes Advisory Committee  
Industrialized Buildings Advisory Committee  
Industrialized Building Manufacturers and Third-Party Inspectors  
Interested Parties

**FROM:** Ted Miltiades, Director  
Office of Construction Codes and Industrialized Buildings

**DATE:** December 2, 2024

**SUBJECT:** New Georgia Code and Amendments- Effective January 1, 2025

The Department of Community Affairs has adopted one mandatory State Minimum Standard Code and one new Georgia State Amendment which will become effective on January 1, 2025. The new code and amendment are as follows:

**New Mandatory Code and Amendment Effective January 1, 2025:**

2023 National Electrical Code with no amendments  
2025 Amendments to the 2018 International Building Code

The new Georgia State Code and Amendment will become effective on January 1, 2025. Copies of the current Georgia State Amendments are available on DCA's webpage at:

<https://dca.georgia.gov/community-assistance/government-authority-reporting/construction-codes/current-state-minimum-codes>

If you need further assistance regarding these changes, please contact the Department of Community Affairs, Office of Construction Codes and Industrialized Buildings, at 404-679-3118 or by email at [codes@dca.ga.gov](mailto:codes@dca.ga.gov).





# City Council Agenda Memo

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**DATE:** 12/30/2024  
**TITLE:** Consideration of City Council Code of Conduct  
**PRESENTED BY:** JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

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## AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

A city council code of conduct is a set of guidelines outlining expected behaviors and ethical standards for elected officials on a city council. It emphasizes principles like integrity, transparency, accountability, and respect for the public while avoiding conflicts of interest and improper influence in their decision-making process.

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## HISTORY/PAST ACTION

No History.

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## FINANCIAL IMPACT

No Impacts.

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## RECOMMENDATION

There are no staff recommendations.

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## SUGGESTED MOTIONS

There are no suggested motions.

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## ATTACHMENTS

Code of Conduct outline

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A city council code of conduct is often a set of guidelines outlining expected behaviors and ethical standards for elected officials on a city council, emphasizing principles like integrity, transparency, accountability, and respect for the public, while avoiding conflicts of interest and improper influence in their decision-making process.

Key elements typically included in a city council code of conduct:

- **Integrity and ethics:** Acting with honesty, fairness, and avoiding personal gain from their position.
- **Conflict of interest disclosure:** Reporting any personal interests that could potentially influence their votes on city matters.
- **Respectful conduct:** Treating colleagues, staff, and the public with courtesy and professionalism.
- **Transparency:** Disclosing relevant information and decision-making processes to the public.
- **Public decorum:** Maintaining appropriate behavior during council meetings and public events.
- **Compliance with laws and ordinances:** Adhering to all applicable city regulations and legal requirements.
- **Confidentiality:** Protecting sensitive information obtained during their official duties.
- **Campaign finance compliance:** Following all rules regarding campaign contributions and spending.



# City Council Agenda Memo

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**DATE:** 1/10/2025  
**TITLE:** Upgrades to Council Chamber Technology Systems  
**PRESENTED BY:** Allison Martin, City Manager  
**PRIORITY:** Strategic Priority - Communication

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## AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

Upgrades to Council Chamber Technology Systems

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## HISTORY/PAST ACTION

The technology in the council chambers is antiquated and does not lend itself to upgrades or to providing options for meeting our technological needs as we look to expand communications in accordance with the strategic priority established by the council. Staff were tasked to explore options to upgrade the sound and technology in the room. A survey was completed by a professional firm that specializes in meeting room technology.

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## FINANCIAL IMPACT

This is not budgeted. Council could use reserves or choose to implement over multiple years and include a portion in future budgets.

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## RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of staff to proceed with the additional sound panels and make changes to the sound/av equipment less the new displays. Any other options would be at the direction of council.

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## SUGGESTED MOTIONS

n/a

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## ATTACHMENTS

Quote sound/av; quote sound panels; phased approach document

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# Nisewonger Audio Visual Center

1125 Cripple Creek Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Voice: 770-338-0335  
Fax: 770-338-9897

# QUOTATION

Quote Number: Q-120324-3A

Quote Date: Dec 3, 2024

Page: 1

www.nisewongerav.com  
navc@nisewongerav.com

Quoted To:
DAHLONEGA CITY HALL 465 RILEY ROAD DAHLONEGA, GA 30533

ShipTo:
DAHLONEGA CITY HALL 465 RILEY ROAD ATTN: ALLISON MARTIN DAHLONEGA, GA 30533

Customer ID	Good Thru	Payment Terms	Sales Rep
304003	45 Days	Net 30 Days	Adam Yates

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Amount
	DAHLONEGA CITY HALL COUNCIL MEETING ROOM AV UPGRADE PROJECT MAIN ROOM DISPLAYS		
4.00	LG 75" Commercial LED Displays for council members and audience; Includes swivel/tilt wall mounts	1,786.25	7,145.00
	COUNCIL MEMBER DISPLAYS		
11.00	LG 22" commercial LED displays with small adjustable monitor mounts	692.35	7,615.85
	KRAMERAV CONTROL SYSTEM		
1.00	Kramer control brain for entire control system	633.75	633.75
2.00	Kramer 8" table mounted control tablets	1,155.00	2,310.00
1.00	Netgear AV Network switch for all devices and AVIP	2,720.51	2,720.51
	AVIP DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM		
20.00	Kramer AVIP distribution system for all devices (Inputs and outputs); Includes all required encoders and decoders for video distribution	637.50	12,750.00
	PTZ CAMERA SYSTEM FOR CONFERENCING		
2.00	Vaddio Roboshot 12E Onelink HDMI system	4,973.35	9,946.70
	CONFERENCING MIC SYSTEM AND OTHER AUDIO		
12.00	Audix MG15 condenser podium style microphones with cardioid mic element; Includes shockmount base with mute button	418.50	5,022.00
1.00	Audix AP42 dual wireless mic system with 2 HH mics	951.30	951.30
2.00	Kramer AVIP Decoders for audio	637.50	1,275.00
	AUDIO DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSING SYSTEM		
1.00	Symetrix Radius 12x8 Dante enabled DSP with 4-channel input card, auto echo canceling and analog to Dante adapters	5,388.45	5,388.45
	COLUMN ARRAY SPEAKERS FOR FULL ROOM COVERAGE		
6.00	FBT Column Array speakers with adjustable wall bracket; 100 W each; 4 for audience and 2 for council members	660.00	3,960.00
	POWER AMPLIFICATION FOR SPEAKER SYSTEM		
1.00	Powersoft Quattrocanali 1204 4-channel power amp for multiple output zones	1,989.15	1,989.15
	CONFERENCING BRIDGE SYSTEM		
1.00	Vaddio AV Bridge 2x1 conferencing bridge	2,733.60	2,733.60
2.00	AVIP Decoders for conferencing bridge	637.50	1,275.00
1.00	Conferencing output system for content PC or guest laptop; Includes 2	1,613.50	1,613.50

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>C</b>
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# Nisewonger Audio Visual Center

1125 Cripple Creek Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Voice: 770-338-0335  
Fax: 770-338-9897

# QUOTATION

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Page: 2

www.nisewongerav.com  
navc@nisewongerav.com

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DAHLONEGA CITY HALL 465 RILEY ROAD DAHLONEGA, GA 30533

ShipTo:
DAHLONEGA CITY HALL 465 RILEY ROAD ATTN: ALLISON MARTIN DAHLONEGA, GA 30533

Customer ID	Good Thru	Payment Terms	Sales Rep
304003	45 Days	Net 30 Days	Adam Yates

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Amount
	HDBT receivers, distribution and USB capture WIRELESS PRESENTATION SYSTEM		
1.00	Alfatron UC1 Wireless presentation system including HDMI and USB-C dongles for laptops	1,329.05	1,329.05
	ASSISTED LISTENING SYSTEM		
1.00	OWI KSTM Assisted Listening System; Includes receiver, 2 bodypacks and earpieces	1,550.00	1,550.00
2.00	OWI KSTM LR4200IR IR bodypack and earpiece	450.00	900.00
	AV RACK SYSTEM FOR ALL AV COMPONENTS		
1.00	AV Floor Rack with rack drawer, accessories, UPS power supply and power distribution	2,265.24	2,265.24
	SYSTEM CABLING / WIRING		
1.00	Complete system wiring and cabling including all patch cabling, breakout cabling, etc...	3,605.00	3,605.00
	COMPLETE SYSTEM INSTALLATION		
1.00	Complete system installation including all programming, training, commissioning, technical support	17,070.00	17,070.00
	Nisewonger AV warranties complete system for a maximum of 3 years. This includes all hardware and technical support during this period of time.		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	

Benton Brothers Solutions, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 801245  
 Acworth, GA 30101  
 770-429-9880 / fax: 770-429-0787  
[www.bentonbrotherssolutions.com](http://www.bentonbrotherssolutions.com)



# PROPOSAL

TO Adam Yates  
 COMPANY Nisewonger AV  
 1125 Cripple Creek Drive  
 Lawrenceville, GA 30043  
 PHONE 770-338-0335  
 EMAIL [adam@nisewongerav.com](mailto:adam@nisewongerav.com)  
 FROM Dale Benton

DATE 12/10/2024  
 PROJECT # A-19605  
 JOB NAME Dahlonega City Hall  
 JOB LOCATION Dahlonega, GA  
 Firm (30 days)  xx  
 For your Review  xx  
 Budget   
 Please Comment

**WE PROPOSE TO SUPPLY THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS:**

Furnish Only  Furnish & Install

**SCOPE OF WORK**

**2" Acousticore Ceiling Panels**

BBS proposes to furnish and install approximately 28 panels (448 sq/ft).  
 Panels will be installed directly to the ceiling with exposed fasteners,  
 painted to match the selected fabric color.


*Price is installation during normal business hours (M-F, 8-5) using an electric indoor scissor lift.*

	<u>Acousticore</u>						
Substrate:	2" 6pcf Fiberglass		<table border="1"> <tr><th>TERMS</th></tr> <tr><td><b>50% Deposit is required</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>before any materials are ordered. Balance is due</b></td></tr> <tr><td><b>30 days from completion.</b></td></tr> </table>	TERMS	<b>50% Deposit is required</b>	<b>before any materials are ordered. Balance is due</b>	<b>30 days from completion.</b>
TERMS							
<b>50% Deposit is required</b>							
<b>before any materials are ordered. Balance is due</b>							
<b>30 days from completion.</b>							
Edge Detail:	Resin Hardened - Beveled						
Attachments:	Stick Pins & Painted Locking Collars						
Fabric:	Guilford of Maine FR701/2100						
Color:	To be selected						

**PRICE: Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Six Dollars: \$ 13,356.00**

NOTES:

- 1) Fabric(s) must be approved by Benton Brothers Solutions, Inc. - Based on one color fabric, unless otherwise noted.
- 2) White (224) and other light color fabric selections may require a liner fabric at an additional charge.
- 3) **This quote does not include Sales & Use Tax - Customer is Exempt.**
- 4) This proposal is based on square cuts only, unless noted. Out of square panels will reflect a price increase.
- 5) Price is based on one continuous installation unless otherwise noted.

*Dale Benton*      12/10/2024  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Authorized by      Date  
 Benton Brothers Solutions, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Authorized by      Date  
 Nisewonger AV

If payment is not received when due, customer agrees to pay interest at the rate of 1-1/2% per month and all collection costs including, but not limited to reasonable attorneys fees.

### AV System Essential Upgrade Package

- New display system (75" displays and mounts x4) = \$7,145.00
- Kramer control system and control tablet hardware = \$5,665.00
- AVIP Distribution System (future proof) = \$12,750.00
- Conferencing Mic system = \$7,250.00
- Audio Processing and Amplification = \$7,380.00
- New speaker system full room = \$3,960.00
- Wireless presentation = \$1,330.00
- Assisted Listening System = \$2,450.00
- AV Rack and all Wiring = \$5,870.00
- System Installation = \$15,000.00

Total AV System = \$68,800.00

Acoustical Paneling = \$13,356.00

### Added Benefits

- Council Member personal monitors = \$8,615.00
- PTZ Cameras and conferencing system = \$16,570.00

Other things to consider:

- Keep existing displays in place - \$7,145.00 savings
- No wireless option - \$1,330.00 savings



# City Council Agenda Memo

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**DATE:** 1/10/2025  
**TITLE:** Reservoir Management Plan Revision  
**PRESENTED BY:** Allison Martin, City Manager  
**PRIORITY:** Strategic Priority - Communication

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## AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

Reservoir Management Plan Revision

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## HISTORY/PAST ACTION

The city previously submitted a reservoir management plan to the EPD. The submitted plan was not approved by EPD. City staff recommends revising the plan and resubmitting it for consideration of approval by EPD. The plan was sent for comment to council, staff, and the county. Comments have been received from the city and county. City staff does not recommend a swim beach/swimming due to the cost of testing and liability. The reservoir could still be used for events with limited swimming. The county had no major changes but would like the draft to consider a new definition of development as the existing development master plan is being amended/not constructed as planned. Both entities would like to see fishing piers and accessibility to those structures in the final document. Should the council have any additional comments, please provide those for inclusion in the draft document.

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## FINANCIAL IMPACT

n/a

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## RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of staff to revise the current draft and resubmit it for consideration of approval by EPD. The next steps are to draft the document and have the council and county adopt by resolution prior to sending to EPD.

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## SUGGESTED MOTIONS

n/a – staff needs consensus from council to proceed with new draft

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## ATTACHMENTS

Reservoir Management Plan Draft

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# Yahoola Creek Reservoir Management Plan

January, 2019



## Table of Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Definitions.....	3
Background.....	4
Watershed Description.....	7
Objectives.....	8
Education.....	12
Buffer Restrictions.....	13
Appendices:	
A. Detailed Maps of Reservoir.....	14
B. Security/ Maintenance Plan.....	17
C. Current RMP Ordinance 2005-4.....	20
D. Draft 2019 RMP Ordinance.....	23

**Definitions** (Taken from City of Dahlonega RMP Ordinance, 2005-4, Amd. 1)

*Buffer* means a natural or enhanced vegetated area with no or limited minor land disturbances, such as trails and picnic areas.

*Corridor* means all land within the buffer areas.

*Impervious Surface* means a man-made structure or surface that prevents the infiltration of stormwater into the ground below the structure or surface. Examples include buildings, roads, driveways, parking lots, decks, swimming pools, or patios.

*Reservoir Boundary* means the edge of a water supply reservoir defined by its normal pool elevation. The reservoir boundary of the Yahoola Reservoir shall be at approximately 1238 NGVD (National Geodetic Vertical Datum, formerly known as mean sea level).

*Reservoir Property* means all of the water supply reservoir plus adjacent lands owned by the City.

*Perennial Stream* means a stream that flows throughout the whole year as indicated on a USGS 1:24000 Scale Quad map.

*Utility* means public or private water or sewer piping systems, water or sewer pumping stations, electric power lines, fuel facilities, telephone lines, roads, driveways, bridges of all types, river/lake access facilities, stormwater systems, rail roads, and other utilities identified by the City.



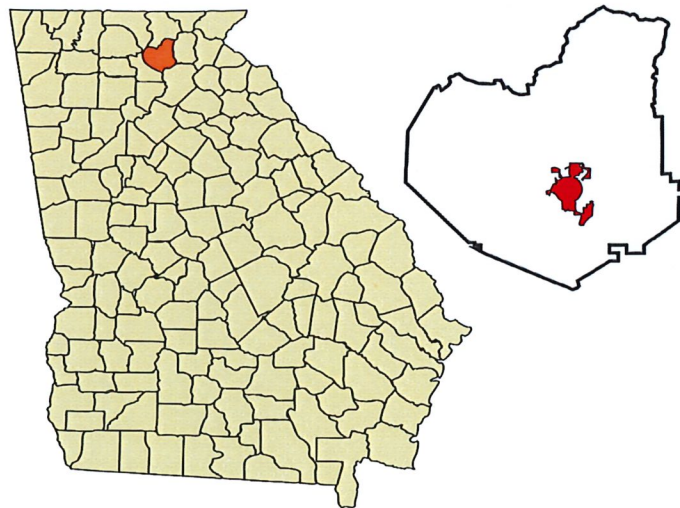
## Background

The City of Dahlonega began as a frontier gold rush town in 1833 shortly after the discovery of gold by settlers in northeast Georgia. The region produced enough gold for the US Mint to establish a branch mint here at the same time it did in New Orleans, LA and Charlotte, NC. Before railroads were built and despite its remoteness, the population of Dahlonega was larger than Atlanta and Chicago combined (1840).

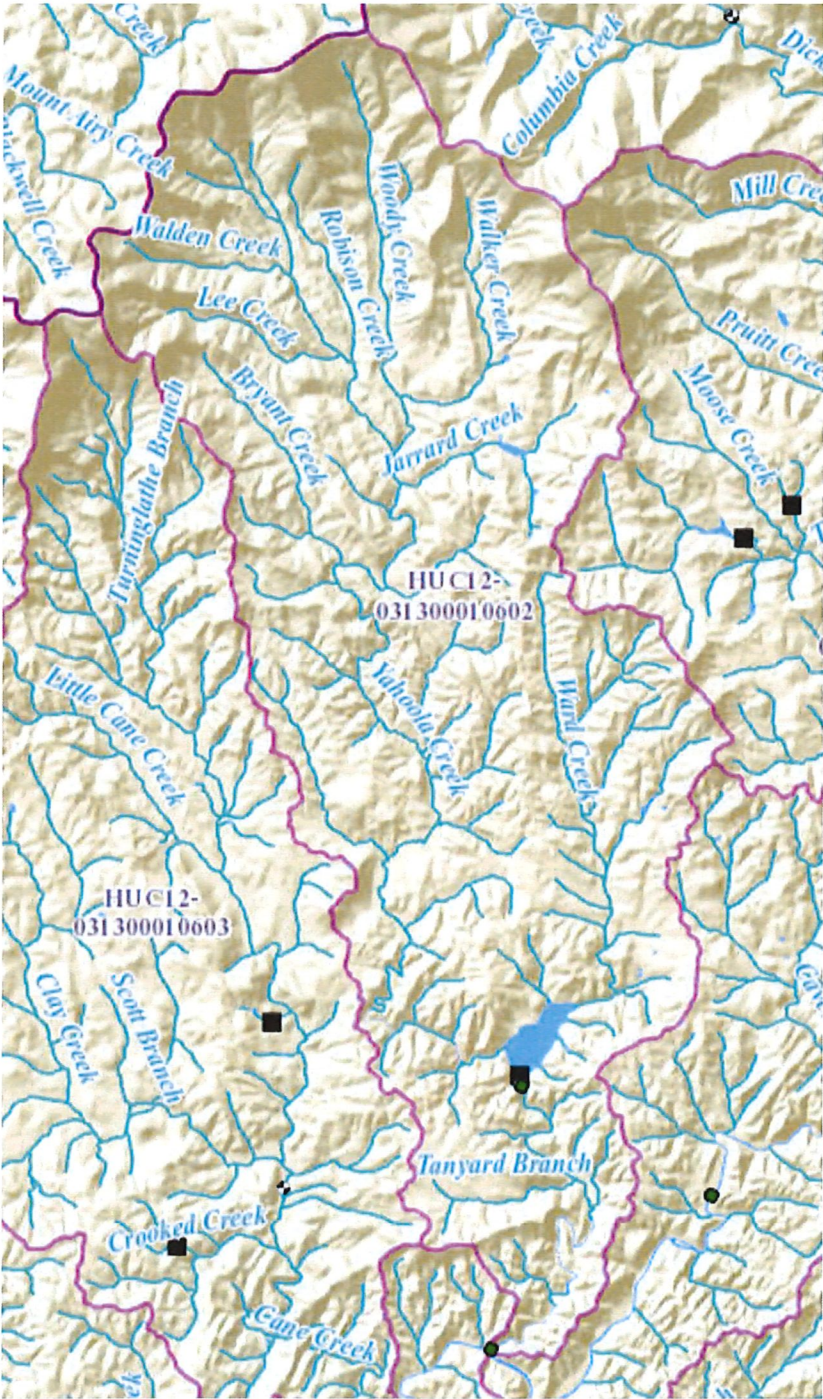
Until 1927 the City did not have a public water supply or transmission system. Residents, businesses, mines and the North Georgia Agricultural College (former site of the Mint and now the University of North Georgia) were dependent on wells or diverted surface water. Since then the City has constructed and operated three water treatment plants in proximity to Yahoola Creek.

Dahlonega is the county seat and sole municipality in Lumpkin County. Today the City has permitted water treatment capacity of 6 million gallons per day provided by a state-of-the-art filter membrane treatment (Pall) plant. It serves over 7,000 residents in the City. It also supplies bulk treated water to the Lumpkin County Water & Sewer Authority for resale and distribution to its customers. The City is one of the top 10 cities in Georgia in terms of percentage rate of population growth from 2010 to the present. Because of the future growth, the water facility was designed for a maximum treatment capacity of 12 MGD. This expansion can easily be accomplished by adding more filters, larger pumps and an additional clearwell. The current footprint of the facility will not have to be increased.

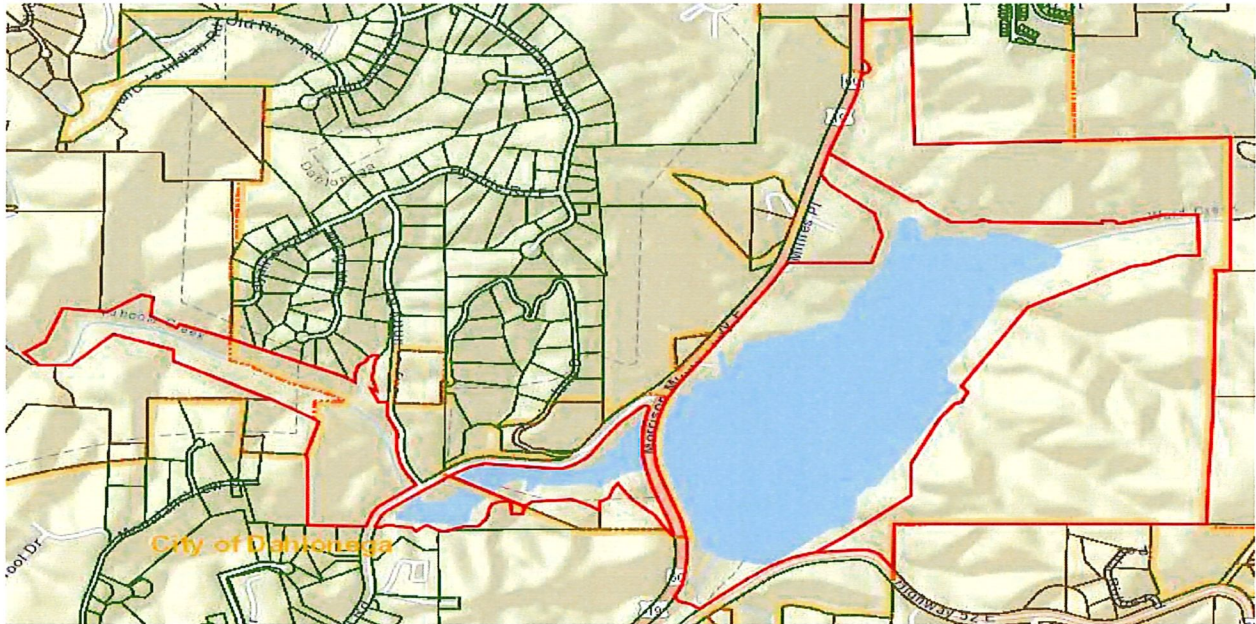
The Yahoola Creek Reservoir project (also known as Lake Zwerner) officially began in 1992 with approval from the US Army Corps of Engineers to build a 141-acre impoundment of Yahoola Creek northeast of the City of Dahlonega in central Lumpkin County.



The Yahoola Creek Reservoir is the collective catchment point for approximately 20,500 acres in the Yahoola Creek Watershed (HUC # 031300010602) which lies completely in Lumpkin County. It is a rural area marked by low density development. There are no other cities, towns or densely populated areas existing or planned above the Reservoir. There are also no railroads, landfills or significant potential hazard sources in the basin.



The construction of the Reservoir started in 1999 and was completed in 2003. During that time frame, a raw water intake structure was built as well. This project became a joint venture of the City of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County after the State of Georgia suspended plans for a state park with recreational lake. The City and County borrowed money to buy the area of the proposed lake, the entire shoreline and the majority of property within 500 feet of the lake surface from the State. Construction of the reservoir dam resulted in making the then-existing award winning second treatment plant (charcoal/sand filters) obsolete. City and/or County land ownership in proximity to the reservoir are outlined in red below.



For many reasons Dahlonega is a popular tourist destination. It attracts well over a million visitors and guests year-round because of its rich history, award-winning Square, the draw of the mountains, its active recreational opportunities, film opportunities, AVA Dahlonega Plateau wine region designation, popular festivals and events, and hosts over 500 weddings a year, along with hundreds of University athletic, military, arts and academic programs. These visitors seek things to do while in the area and Lake Zwerner is an attractive, but under-utilized resource.

The new Reservoir Management Plan is intended to build on the City's excellent reputation for high water quality while at the same time achieving balanced recreational uses of the lake. It is based on twelve years of successful practice with the existing RMP, consultation with other water resource professionals in Georgia, and review of practices from several existing RMPs for other reservoirs in the state. It recognizes that one size does not fit all and balances concerns that are unique to the watershed, the location and desires of the community.

## **Watershed Description**

The creek watershed and associated waters is designated by the United States Geological Survey as sub-watershed HUC 031300010602, is named the Yahoola Creek sub-watershed, and drains an area of approximately 34 square miles north of Dahlonega. Bryant Creek to the west and Ward Creek to the northeast drain areas to either side of Yahoola Creek by picking up several unnamed branches each before joining the Yahoola.

Yahoola Creek rises at the confluence of Walden Creek and Walnut Cove Creek in north-central Lumpkin County, approximately 2 miles southeast of Suches, and south of State Route 60, in the southern portion of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. The creek heads south for under a mile before picking up Lee Creek from the west and Robison Creek from the northeast, then continues south for another mile before being joined by Woody Creek from the north, which rises north of and runs parallel to Yahoola Creek until their confluence. Just a third of a mile further, the creek picks up Jarrard Creek from the east, then continues south and picks up two unnamed branches, before making a sharp westerly curve to meet with Bryant Creek, and turning back to the south. Yahoola Creek continues south for approximately 4.5 miles, exits the national forest, then meets Ward Creek after covering another 3.2 miles, just after crossing U.S. Route 19/State Route 60, where the two creeks form Lake Zwerner just north of Dahlonega. The creek exits Lake Zwerner to the south, and picks up Tanyard Branch after 1.6 miles, then joins the Chestatee River approximately 3 miles further south right as the waters again meet U.S. Route 19 and State Route 60 south of Dahlonega.

Although it is located in the northeast Georgia Mountains region, the valley location selected for the reservoir near the City resulted in it being relatively shallow. This has required the City of Dahlonega to be vigilant and proactive to ensure the quality of the water is kept in its highest natural form. Four Solar Bee Reservoir Circulators were installed at strategic locations to help alleviate nutrient build-up in the lake. Appropriate prohibitions and restrictions were implemented consistent with state criteria to help maintain this objective as well. Limits in public entrances, types of motorized boats, and buffer zones are just a few of the activities that have helped maintain the quality of the water in the reservoir. Water quality testing has shown that the steps the City of Dahlonega has taken in the past has kept the natural environment of the lake at its highest quality.

The Reservoir's estimated storage capacity of 850 Million gallons was and is intended by the City and County to ensure that the City, unincorporated County and surrounding communities would have a reliable source of water for the foreseeable future. Day to day operations of the Reservoir is overseen by the City with the County maintaining the hiking trail that runs the entire perimeter of the lake. Since 2006 the City and County have operated Lake Zwerner under an existing Reservoir Management Plan approved by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division since 2006. Please see Appendix B for the existing RMP.

## Objectives

The primary objective of this revised plan is to continue to preserve and protect the quality of water in the Yahoola Creek Reservoir. Secondary objectives are to maintain or improve the quality of the natural environmental conditions while accommodating the safe and healthful use of the Reservoir and its lands for limited recreational purposes by the general public. These objectives can be met through a series of Prohibitions, Restrictions, Public Education and Buffer Restriction measures. These build upon existing measures from the 2005 RMP. Security and Maintenance is incorporated as part of this plan.

As required by the State Criteria for Water Supply Watersheds (Section 391-3-16-.01 (8b) of the Environmental Planning Criteria) prohibitions or restrictions will be enforced on the following activities:

- Swimming
- Fishing
- Boating
- Docks
- Public Access
- Other Activities

The following activities are prohibited or allowed on a restricted basis as described. Please note all proposed improvements mentioned in the prohibitions and restrictions are optional. None shall be specifically required to be constructed.

- SWIMMING
  - Prohibitions—The general public shall be prohibited from the following on property within the boundaries of the Reservoir:
    - Swimming shall be prohibited November through March, unless held in conjunction with a Triathlon or similar supervised event.
  - Restrictions—The following swimming and wading related activities are allowed but restricted as described below:
    - Shall be allowed only in areas assigned and contained for these activities during designated times of day and seasons.
    - Bodily contact other than incidental contact during human-powered boating events such as canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, and sculling are restricted to seasonal days and hours to be determined.



- Construction of private docks shall be prohibited.
  - Restrictions—The following floating and pier mounted docks and structures related construction and installation are allowed but restricted as described below:
    - Construction or improvements within the reservoir boundary is restricted to local, state, and federal government agency projects. Examples of typical projects may include floating docks, limited to a maximum of three (3), with a maximum footprint of 625 square feet each and/or up to three (3) reservoir pier mounted docks. Construction of piers, abutments or any other structures necessary for support of pedestrian bridges and other structures described herein shall be allowed.
- PUBLIC ACCESS
  - Prohibitions—The general public shall be prohibited from the following on property within the boundaries of the Reservoir:
    - Public access to the reservoir intake facilities, the dam weir/labyrinth, spillway and any other water containment or release facilities other than the earthen dam, its approach trail and the pedestrian footbridge over the spillway shall be prohibited.
    - Pedestrian visitors shall be prohibited on any City-owned land within the boundary of the reservoir specifically fenced, gated, or posted (not including those locations described above prohibiting public access).
  - Restrictions—The following access related activities are allowed but restricted as described below:
    - Vehicle parking shall be restricted to four designated gravel parking areas (three existing, one future and the expansion of one of the three existing) only.
    - Public restroom facilities may be located at Morrison Moore Parkway Boat Ramp parking area, the reservoir swim beach and/or Wimpy Mill Road parking area. Public use shall be restricted to these facilities.
    - Public access shall be restricted to rails, docks, picnic areas, “zip-line” access point(s), boat ramps, parking areas or any other access facilities constructed by the City for the purpose of public recreation.

- OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Prohibitions—The general public shall be prohibited from the following on property within the boundaries of the Reservoir:
  - Littering or dumping.
  - Discharge of any pollutant.
  - Feeding of wildlife.
  - Additional prohibitions determined by the City over time to be necessary or prudent.
- Restrictions—The following activities are allowed but restricted as described below:
  - The City may implement additional restrictions over time as it deems reasonable and prudent.



## Education

The City will conduct a public education campaign to educate the public on preserving their natural resource in various ways:

- City Website/Social Media will be used to encourage our citizens and visitors to the Reservoir to practice good stewardship of the reservoir and its environment.
- No less than annually, the City will encourage/assist the local newspaper in writing an informative article to involve the public, including University of North Georgia students in voluntary duties at the Reservoir. This will not only ask their assistance in daily clean-ups of the lake but also to report any environmental problems that may occur naturally or by means of man.
- The Lumpkin County School System will be encouraged to stimulate students to explore the natural habitats that surround the lake. The City will volunteer their time and expertise to this program.
- Signage will be used in key locations to educate the public in pollution awareness, prohibitions, restrictions and other matters that may affect the quality of our precious resource.

## Buffer Restrictions

There shall be a Reservoir buffer zone around the entire Reservoir boundary. The buffer distance around the Reservoir shall be one hundred fifty (150) feet horizontally from the Reservoir Boundary, with the exception of City facilities described under "Objections" above.

Buffer restrictions for perennial streams within the reservoir watershed and within the City Limits of Dahlonga shall be the lesser of the following:

- 100 feet for perennial streams
- The distance measured horizontally from the water's edge to a point at which natural ground contours direct stormwater AWAY from the reservoir.

There shall be no new additional impervious surfaces placed within the buffer not specifically described under "Objections" above.

Buffer Zones that are cleared of trees and shrubs should be planted with native trees and shrubs. The City will maintain buffer vegetation without the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticide.

The City may obtain any necessary permits for and to conduct periodic maintenance dredging of accumulated sediments to maintain adequate storage in the Reservoir. This will generally apply to the upstream portions of the reservoir near the Wimpy Mill Road bridge over Yahoola Creek. Maintenance activities in the buffer area will be performed in accordance with Federal and State rules and regulations. Reclaimed material may, but shall not be required, to be used within the reservoir boundary to establish or augment "Living Shoreline", or may be removed to maintain flow and capacity.

Where buffer areas are also wetlands, the City must approve any land-disturbing activity; and the proper permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act must be obtained prior to the initiation of such activities.

## Appendix A: Detailed Map of Reservoir

Overall Existing and Proposed Reservoir Facility Map.....Page 15

Wimpy Mill Picnic Area Inset.....Page 16



**PROPOSED RECREATION FACILITIES**

- 1) WIMPY MILL PICNIC AREA ADDITIONS INCLUDING: ADDITIONAL PARKING, ADA ACCESSIBLE KAYAK LAUNCH/FLOATING DOCK, PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE, APPROXIMATE 1000 SFT PAVILION, APPROXIMATE 625 SFT OVER-WATER GAZEBO, ADA ACCESSIBLE BOARDWALK TO GAZEBO, RESTROOMS.
- 2) YAHOOOLA HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL INCLUDING: STREAMSIDE TRAIL ON BOTH SIDES OF YAHOOOLA CREEK WITH 2 FOOTBRIDGES.
- 3) 2000' SIDEWALK LINKING WIMPY MILL PICNIC AREA TO EXISTING BOATRAMP
- 4) PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AND 2000' SIDEWALK ALONG GA HWY 60 LINKING EXISTING PARKING FACILITY TO EXISTING BOAT RAMP AND COMPLETING EXISTING YAHOOOLA TRAIL AROUND RESERVOIR (CURRENTLY IN GRANT ADMIN PROCESS)
- 5) MOUNTED FISHING PIER, 625 SFT.
- 6) BEACH & SWIMMING AREA W/RESTROOMS AND 625 SFT FLOATING DOCK.
- 7) PIER AND 625 SFT RECREATION PAVILION.
- 8) PERVIOUS PARKING AREA.
- 9) BOAT RAMP RESTROOMS.

**EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES**

- 10) YAHOOOLA RESERVOIR HIKING TRAIL.
- 11) APPROX. 10 SPACE PARKING AREA.
- 12) BOAT RAMP AREA INCLUDING: RAMP, PARKING AREA, PICNIC TABLES, FLOATING DOCK.
- 13) WIMPY MILL PICNIC AREA INCLUDING: PICNIC TABLES, PARKING
- 14) PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ACROSS SPILLWAY.

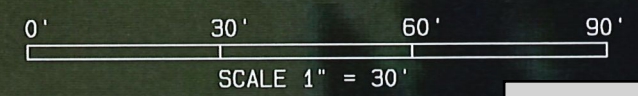
**FECAL COLIFORM TESTING SITES**

- A) WIMPY MILL BRIDGE
- B) BOAT RAMP
- C) SWIMMING AREA
- D) RAW WATER INTAKE

SCALE 1" = 400'



WIMPY MILL PICNIC AREA  
(EXISTING AND PROPOSED FACILITIES)



## Appendix B: Security and Maintenance Plans

### Security

Security measures will be taken to insure the public's water supply is protected through various ways:

- Fencing has been installed around the raw water intake with security cameras located on the building with 360-degree coverage. The inside of the intake building will also be monitored and all cameras will record 24 hours a day.
- Natural dirt berms and railing are installed to prevent vehicles from accidentally entering the reservoir. Natural vegetation will be maintained at approximately 95% coverage around the shoreline to discourage vehicular or high volume pedestrian areas.
- Bollards, boulders and other devices will be used at all public parking areas to prevent accidental entering of vehicles into the reservoir.
- Outside lighting will be maintained at the Morrison Moore parking area and the raw water intake structure.
- Proper signage will be installed around spillways, intake structure, swimming area and other critical areas warning of danger and limited access.
- City, County and State Law Enforcement will be given full access to the facilities for security matters.

## Maintenance/Quality Monitoring

Monitoring and water quality testing will be performed at the reservoir to ensure the quality of the water is being protected.

- Monthly Monitoring:
  - Fecal coliform testing will be performed at four sites (please see locations on map):
    - A. Wimpy Mill Bridge
    - B. Boat Ramp
    - C. Swimming Area
    - D. Raw Water Intake
- Weekly Monitoring:
  - Testing of conductivity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, temperature, pH and flow rate on the water exiting the reservoir will continue to be performed.
- Daily Monitoring:
  - Daily testing of turbidity, iron, manganese, pH, alkalinity and temperature will be performed on the raw water as it enters the water plant.
  - Daily reservoir water levels will be recorded. When unsafe levels are detected, access to the reservoir may be limited to certain areas and/or completely restricted until a safe level of water is achieved in the reservoir.
- As-Needed Monitoring, Testing and Maintenance:
  - Algae/Nutrient Build-up:
    - Four Solar Bees are installed to help prevent nutrient build-up, ensure proper mixing, and reduce the chances of an algae bloom from occurring.
    - Algae sampling will be performed at the water intake on an as needed basis. If it is determined that the quality and/or quantity of the algae needs treatment, algaecide will be applied, and copper testing will be performed on the water for a minimum of five days to ensure over treatment is not occurring.
  - If any water quality measurements taken are out of the normal levels or are above recreational levels, actions will be taken to lessen the environmental impact to the reservoir. This may require limiting/prohibiting public access to the water in the reservoir.
  - Construction of timbered shoreline bulkhead and “Living Shorelines” to reduce bank erosion and sediment deposit, providing for nutrient uptake and facilitating growth of native aquatic trees along the shoreline shall be allowed.
  - Shoreline vegetative maintenance may be performed as needed to protect and maintain recreation and other facilities.

- The City may perform facility maintenance of the dam, intake, parks or other improvements within the buffer utilizing any equipment and by any means necessary.



## Appendix C: Current RMP Ordinance 2005-4

### AMENDMENT # 1 ORDINANCE 2005-4

#### AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY OF DAHLONEGA PURSUANT TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION RULES

Whereas, the State of Georgia requires that local municipalities owning small water supply reservoirs adopt Reservoir Management Plans, as described in the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division rules, Chapter 391-3-16.01; and

Whereas, the City of Dahlonega (City) wishes to ensure that the Yahoola Reservoir is used and has available capacity for municipal raw water storage and intake; and

Whereas, Public access to the Reservoir needs to be restricted to areas and under conditions specified by the City, for protection of water quality in the Reservoir; now, therefore:

Be it hereby ordained by the City Council of Dahlonega, and it is so ordained by the authority thereof that the following Reservoir Management Plan (Plan) is hereby adopted. The effective date of this resolution shall be October 2, 2006. The resolution shall remain in effect until such time as it is repealed or superseded by a subsequent plan.

#### **Definitions:**

**Buffer**-means a natural or enhanced vegetated area with no or limited minor land Disturbances, such as trails and picnic areas.

**Corridor**-means all land within the buffer areas.

**Impervious Surface**-means a man-made structure or surface that prevents the infiltration of storm water into the ground below the structure or surface. Examples include buildings, roads, driveways, parking lots, decks, swimming pools, or patios.

**Reservoir Boundary**-means the edge of a water supply reservoir defined by its normal pool elevation. The reservoir boundary of the Yahoola Reservoir shall be at approximately 1238 NGVD (National Geodetic Vertical Datum, formerly known as mean sea level).

**Reservoir Property**-means all of the water supply reservoir plus adjacent lands owned by the City/County.

**Perennial Stream** means a stream that flows throughout the whole year as indicated on a USGC Quad map.

Utility-means public or private water or sewer piping systems, water or sewer pumping stations, electric power lines, fuel facilities, telephone lines, roads, driveways, bridges, river/lake access facilities, storm water systems, railroads, and other utilities identified by the City.

### **Prohibitions**

As required in the State Criteria for Water Supply Watersheds (391-3-16.01 8. (b) (1.), the general public shall be prohibited from the following on property within the boundaries of the Reservoir:

- Public access by motorized vehicles in limited to the two parking Lots on Morrison Moore Parkway
- Wading, swimming or bathing
- Littering or dumping
- Boats with gasoline-powered motors
- Building boat docks
- Discharge of any pollutant
- Fishing, except between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., year round by individuals holding a valid State of Georgia fishing license.

### **Buffer Restrictions**

There shall be a Reservoir buffer zone around the entire Reservoir boundary. The buffer distance around the Reservoir shall be one hundred fifty (150) feet horizontally from the Reservoir Boundary, with the exception of City facilities. The buffer zone around the Reservoir is located entirely within land owned either in whole or in part by the City/County.

Buffer zones that are cleared of trees and shrubs should be planted with native trees and shrubs. The City is encouraged to maintain buffer vegetation without the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides of any type.

Where buffer areas are also wetlands, the City must approve any land-disturbing activity; and the proper permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act must be obtained prior to the initiation of such activities. In areas designated as wetland restoration and/or preservation areas by the Corps, no disturbance generally will be permitted.

**Identification**

Persons entering the City property or the Reservoir boundaries may be required to show property identification to law enforcement personnel.

**Expulsion/Remedies**

The City reserves the right to expel persons engaged in unlawful, dangerous, or disruptive activities on Reservoir properties. In addition, any violation of this ordinance shall be punishable as for a misdemeanor with imprisonment not to exceed six months and a fine not to exceed \$1000.00.

It is so ordained this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Oct, 2006.

Gary McCullough  
Mayor

Attest:  
Shirley J. Jamar  
City Clerk

## Appendix D: Draft 2019 RMP Ordinance

ORDINANCE 2019 -

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA WHICH APPEARS IN THE PUBLICATION OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA AT: CHAPTER 121: RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT PLAN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Short title: "An ordinance to revise the Reservoir Management Plan of the City of Dahlonega."

WHEREAS, the City Council of Dahlonega adopted a Reservoir Management Plan for the City's Lake Zwerner reservoir August 1, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Dahlonega Georgia adopted Amendment One to the Reservoir Management Plan on October 2, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Dahlonega desires to update and amend the Reservoir Management Plan further by way of this Amendment Two.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained, and it is so ordained by the authority of the City Council of Dahlonega, that Chapter 121; shall be further amended to incorporate by reference in its entirety a document entitled City of Dahlonega, Georgia Reservoir Management Plan of January 2019.

Adopted and ordained this \_\_\_\_ day of February/March, 2019.

By:

\_\_\_\_\_

Sam Norton, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mary Csukas, City Clerk

Requested information regarding a second package store, bottle sizes, and possible ordinance updates

December 2024

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

After the council's mini retreat on alcohol ordinances, a task list was compiled. One of the issues discussed was the issuance of a second package store license, an update to the existing ordinance regarding the inventory amount, and a minimum bottle size.

### **REQUESTED ACTION**

Three tasks were created for staff to research regarding package stores in Dahlonega. The first was to explore the issuance of a second license, the second was to explore a minimum bottle size, and the third was to determine if a reduction in the inventory requirement and/or a second store would make prices more competitive.

### **FINDINGS**

There are no current provisions in the existing ordinance for a trigger or deadline by which a second package store license should be made available for issuance. The initial data collected during the drafting of the ordinance did not support the issuance of two licenses due to existing market conditions. The ordinance was crafted to provide flexibility for the governing body should conditions change and warrant the issuance of a second store.

While there were reports to the city of issues with the size of bottles sold causing issues in restaurants with patrons bringing them and using them on-site, the city has received no additional complaints about this issue. Also, at the mini retreat, those present who own restaurants did not have any concerns about this item or state that they had experienced a similar situation.

Staff completed research on the inventory question and learned that the wholesale market polices itself regarding pricing in the market. While each store can adjust their prices slightly, each distributor provides them with the break based on the case lot amount they purchase and gives them a markup amount. The current inventory minimums in the ordinance allow for competitive pricing among similar non-franchise stores. Large franchise stores have a different pricing model because they can buy at a larger case volume and therefore receive a lower price per unit. Should the inventory amount be reduced it could impact the variety carried in stores in our area and would in fact have the opposite effect on pricing. Pricing would increase and could drive sales to neighboring communities which have higher limits or larger franchise stores. Stores with lower inventory minimums will also carry faster turnover, lower priced spirits which

could lead to unintended consequences and change the client experience in the store and for the community.

### **PROPOSED ACTION/ALTERNATIVES**

The council could choose to offer the second license to the lottery system and allow the opening of another store in Dahlonge. Other communities our size or smaller, have not seem great success with allowing a second or third license. Recently, a community allowed three licenses and quickly found their population could not support all the stores. Conversations with that community gave the impression that only one store is prospering. The current ordinance does not allow an owner of an existing store to apply for inclusion in the lotter for a new license. The council could consider changing that so an existing owner could apply again to hold a second license.

The council could also choose to change the inventory minimum in the ordinance. After researching this item, staff does not recommend the minimum inventory amount be changed. The current \$500,000 wholesale value lends itself well to a balanced store with offerings that reach a broad range of shoppers at a price point which is competitive with other non-franchise stores. It is the understanding of staff that the existing store in Dahlonge has prices comparable to other non-franchise stores.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The staff recommend no action be taken on the minimum inventory requirements in the ordinance.

### **CONCLUSION**

Any action taken by the council must be carefully weighed to ensure that all populations in and around the city are adequately represented. A change to an ordinance could have unintended consequences for businesses, residential neighborhoods, and visitors. City planners often recognize the need for a diverse mixture of businesses to facilitate a healthy business environment. Having an excessively large amount of any one type of business can impact the health of the retail environment and have adverse consequences for all businesses.