



**CITY OF DAHLONEGA**  
**Council Work Session - Revised Agenda**  
**February 17, 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**

#### **BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

1. Tourism Report - Q4 2024  
Sam McDuffie, Executive Director
2. Cemetery Committee - January 2025  
Mark Buchanan, City Engineer
3. Downtown Development Authority/Main Street Program - January 2025  
Ariel Alexander, DDA Director

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

4. Community Development Report - January 2025  
Allison Martin, City Manager
5. Finance and Administration Department - January 2025  
Kimberly Stafford, Finance Manager
6. Police Department - January 2025  
George Albert, Chief of Police
7. Public Works - January 2025  
Mark Buchanan, City Engineer
8. Water & Wastewater Treatment Department Report - January 2025  
John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director

#### **APPOINTMENT, PROCLAMATION, AND RECOGNITION:**

9. Reappointment of Janet Barger to the Historic Preservation Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

10. Reappointment of Jim Bergen to the Historic Preservation Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
11. Reappointment of Ivana Pelnar-Zaiko to the Historic Preservation Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
12. Appointment of Ethan Norton to the Planning Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
13. Reappointment of Robert Conaway to the Planning Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
14. Reappointment of Michael Feagin to the Planning Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor
15. Reappointment of James Spivey to the Planning Commission  
JoAnne Taylor, Mayor

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:**

**AGREEMENTS & CONTRACTS:**

- [16.](#) RFQ 2025-003 Annual Asphalt/Leveling  
Vince Hunsinger, Projects Manager

**OTHER ITEMS:**

- [17.](#) Equipment Purchase Kubota M4D-071 Utility Cab  
Troy Armstrong, Streets/Cemetery/Parks Supervisor
- [18.](#) Reservoir Management Plan Update 2025  
Allison Martin, City Manager  
Strategic Priority - Infrastructure
- [19.](#) Morrison Moore Pedestrian Bridge and Sidewalk Construction Engineering and  
Inspection Vendor Selection  
Mark Buchanan, City Engineer
- [20.](#) Cyber Security Plan Update  
Allison Martin, City Manager  
Strategic Priority - Infrastructure
- [21.](#) Change to Open Container Footprint for the Bear on the Square Mountain Festival  
Doug Parks, City Attorney / Sarah Waters, Assistant City Clerk

**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 Dahlonaga 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, Dahlonaga commits to Transparency and Honesty, Dedication and Responsibility, Preservation and Sustainability, Safety and Welfare ...for ALL!

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# Department Report

Report Title: Finance and Administration Department – January 2025  
Report Highlight: Met all federal and state reporting requirements for payroll & AP.  
Name and Title: Kimberly Stafford, Finance Manager

## Recently Completed:

- Water/Sewer masterplan update kickoff meeting and data work underway.
- Annual Water Audit pre-work underway.
- Onboarded new city clerk and she is already making a positive impact to work flow processes and compliance matters.
- Lead and Copper grant submissions completed thru draw #5. We've requested over \$35,000 in reimbursements for the program for work completed on behalf of the city.
- FY24 audit work is underway.
- Zoning map headed to final approval.
- CPL is on-site weekly and conducts meetings with developers and staff.
- Continued meetings with Lumpkin County Water Authority. Comments received from authority, in review by legal.

## Underway:

- Inventory module discovery for design and implementation.
- Internal audit of assets – 95% complete
- Administration of American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant
- Establish and set up the Employee Portal on new software; implement and train employees on benefits and use.
- Update employee evaluation forms and document procedures for employee review processes and performance development plans.
- Staff are updating forms for standardization.

## Near Term:

- Update financial policies.
- Update the purchasing policy to include a vendor preference provision.
- Develop and implement employee meetings to provide appropriate training and update HR forms;
- Review additional finance files in long-term storage to determine what should be destroyed per the retention schedule.
- Audit of Utility Billing address points against MSAG/E911/USPS data.



## Department Report

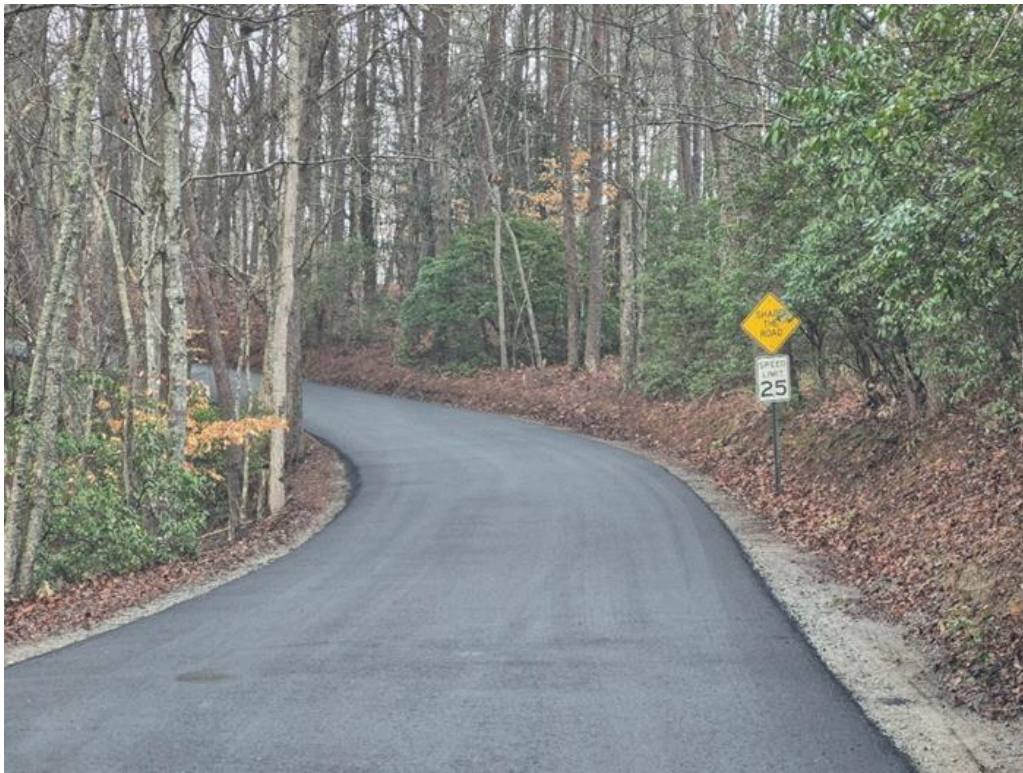
Report Title: Public Works—January 2025  
Name and Title: Mark Buchanan, PW Director/City Engineer

Recently Completed:

- Installation of Bears on the Square.



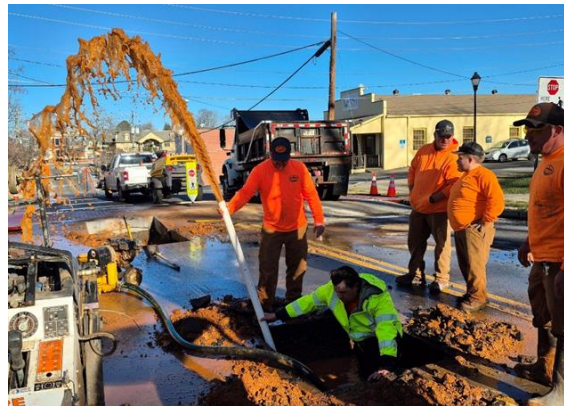
- Resurfacing of Timberlane Drive.



- Planting of the north square Maples in preparation for the February 20 Arbor Day celebration. These will replace the Sycamores that were removed last year and were generously donated by the Mihok family.



- Emergency repair of West Main water main break. This repair occurred in below freezing weather with virtually the entire Distribution/Collection team working in wet conditions throughout the day. In the photo below, Brance Grizzle works in the excavated pit. He spent most of that time in waist deep water.



- Planting of 4 new cherry trees at Wimpy Mill Picnic Area in cooperation with the Dahlonega Rotary.







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.

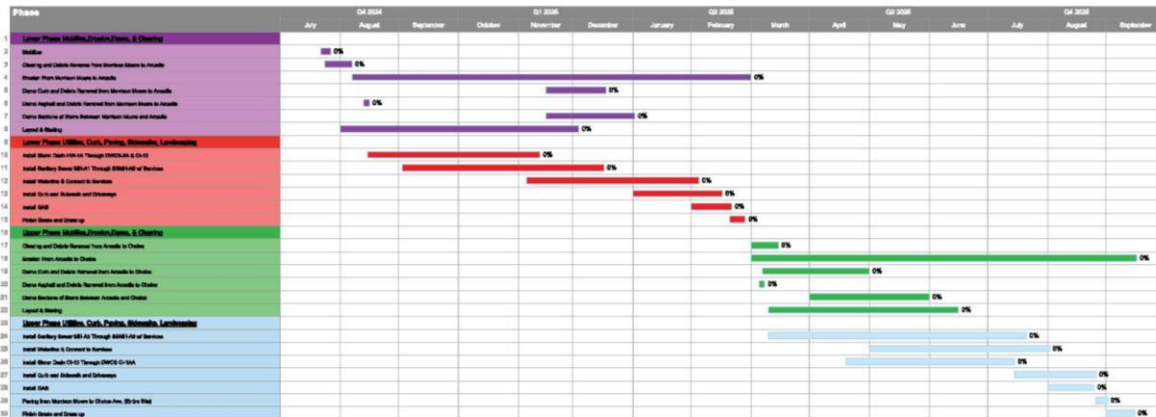




**PARK STREET UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

smartsheet

STRICKLAND & SONS PIPELINE, INC.



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

- Morrison Moore Pedestrian Bridge & Sidewalk. Notice of Award has been provided to Strickland Pipeline. Groundbreaking will occur soon.



- 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.



# Agreements and Contracts

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**DATE:** 2/17/2025  
**TITLE:** RFQ 2025-003 Annual Asphalt/Leveling  
**PRESENTED BY:** Vince Hunsinger  
**PRIORITY:** Strategic Priority - Infrastructure

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## AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

The City of Dahlonega is requesting quotes for asphalt patching, leveling, repairing, and small-scale full-depth roadway construction on various city streets for the budget year ending September 30, 2025, to include an annual renewal option for a total contract up to two fiscal years.

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## HISTORY/PAST ACTION

For many years, the City has contracted with an asphalt contractor to do all our utility patching. We need to establish a current contract so that we can have a fixed per ton rate for this budget year. Additionally, we will have a relationship with a contractor who will anticipate our business and will have the shortest lead times to meet our needs. The bid opening for these quotes will be February 11.

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## FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2025 budget for patching and leveling is \$150,000.

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## RECOMMENDATION

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## SUGGESTED MOTIONS

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## ATTACHMENTS



RFQ-2025-003-Annual-Asphalt-Patching

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# City Council Agenda Memo

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**DATE:** 2/17/2025  
**TITLE:** Equipment Purchase Kubota M4D Utility Cab Tractor  
**PRESENTED BY:** Troy Armstrong  
**PRIORITY:** Strategic Priority - Infrastructure

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## AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

Staff seeks approval to purchase a Kubota M4D Utility Cab Tractor.

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## HISTORY/PAST ACTION

This is a FY2025 Budgeted item.

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## FINANCIAL IMPACT

This item has a budget of \$75,000. Sourcewell is quoting this Tractor purchase for \$57,564.42.

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## RECOMMENDATION

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## SUGGESTED MOTIONS

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## ATTACHMENTS

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# City Council Agenda Memo

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**DATE:** 2/10/2025  
**TITLE:** Reservoir Management Plan Update 2025  
**PRESENTED BY:** Allison Martin, City Manager  
**PRIORITY:** Strategic Priority - Infrastructure

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## AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

Reservoir Management Plan Update 2025

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## HISTORY/PAST ACTION

A Reservoir Management Plan was first adopted in 2005 and subsequently updated in 2006. The City of Dahlonega has operational control of the jointly owned reservoir and buffer. As use of the area around the park has increased, both the city and county have explored additional amenities for the area. The county has an adopted master plan for the park land owned outside the buffer and has some interest in seeing additional amenities included which could support their park land. The council should consider an update to the Reservoir Management Plan to allow for the implementation of certain capital projects. Staff do not support full-time swimming in the reservoir but does support limited events. This is both a liability and cost consideration as full-time swimming activities come with a heavy testing cost and liability insurance cost.

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## FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no cost to the budget to update this plan.

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## RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of staff that the draft plan be shared with the county for any final comments, seek their approval, have council adopt the ordinance, and submit to the state for approval.

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## SUGGESTED MOTIONS

n/a

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## ATTACHMENTS

Draft Reservoir Management Plan 2025

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# Yahoola Creek Reservoir Management Plan

February 2025





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## **Definitions** (Taken from 2005-4 City of Dahlonega RMP Ordinance)

*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, 150 foot buffer, plus adjacent lands owned jointly by the City of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County.

*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, fiber optic lines, roads, driveways, bridges of all types, river/lake access facilities, stormwater systems, rail roads, and other utilities identified by the City.

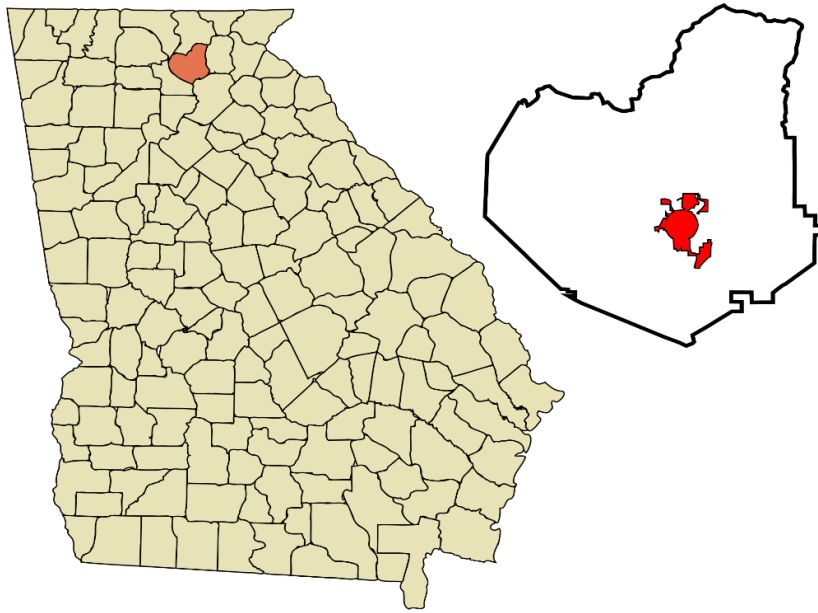
## **Background**

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 (4mgd/2mgd redundancy) provided by a state-of-the-art filter membrane treatment (Pall) plant. It serves over 7,500 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 projections, the water facility was designed for future expansions up to a maximum treatment capacity of 12 MGD. This expansion can easily be accomplished by adding more filters, larger pumps and an additional clear well. 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.

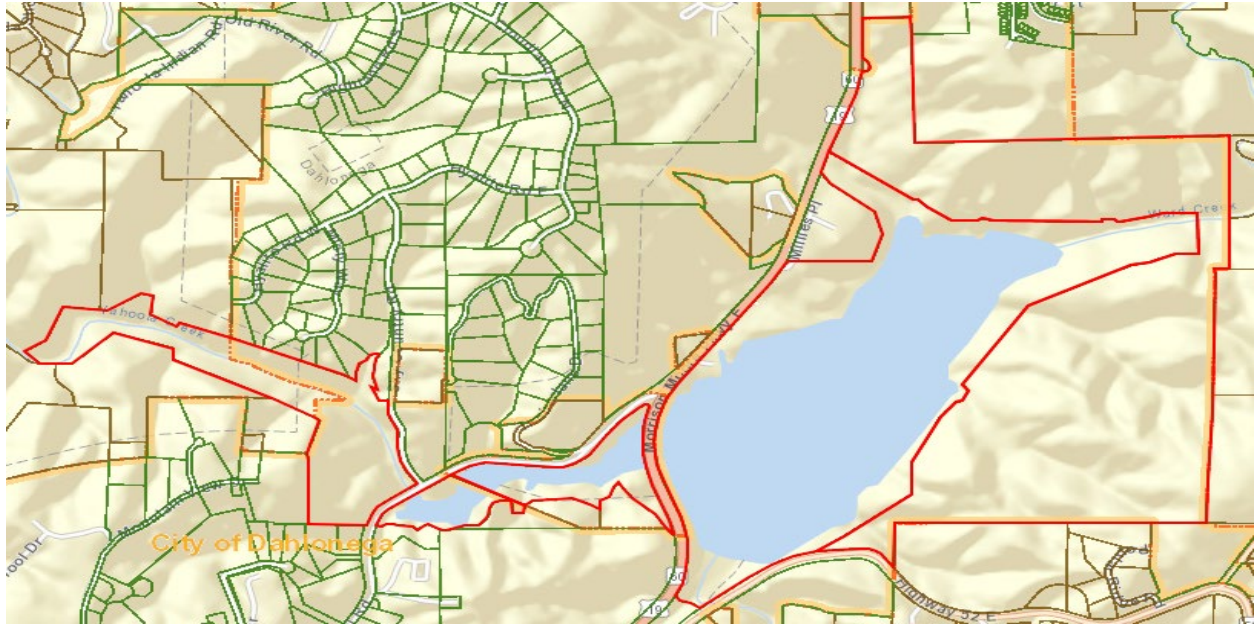


The Yahoola Creek Reservoir is the collective catchment point for approximately 20,500 acres in the Yahoola Creek Watershed (HUC # 031300010602) which lies completely in Lumpkin County. It is a rural area marked by low density development. There are no other cities, towns or densely populated areas existing 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 constructed. 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 a 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 nineteen 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 and unincorporated County would have a reliable source of water for the foreseeable future. Day-to-day operations of the Reservoir are 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 in 2006. Please see Appendix C 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 original RMP adopted in 2005 and updated in 2006. 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.
    - Designated swimming areas will be not be located within 1500 feet of the raw water intake. Excludes triathlon events, see restriction below:
      - Triathlons:



- Limit of four (4) events per calendar year.
    - Length of the sprint course cannot exceed ½ mile and must stay a minimum of 500 feet distance away from the raw water intake.
- FISHING
  - Prohibitions—The general public shall be prohibited from the following on property within the boundaries of the Reservoir:
    - Fishing from boats shall be prohibited when the bottom of access ramp(s) are above the water surface and when ramp(s) are under repair.
    - Fishing from public road rights-of-way and bridges shall be prohibited at all times.
  - Restrictions—The following fishing 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.
    - Year-round fishing shall be restricted to individuals holding a valid State of Georgia fishing license or otherwise exempt. All fishing shall be in accordance with the state regulations.
- BOATING
  - Prohibitions—The general public shall be prohibited from the following on property within the boundaries of the Reservoir:
    - Public use of boats with gasoline/diesel-powered motors.
  - Restrictions—The following boating related activities are allowed but restricted as described below:
    - Use of boats with gasoline-powered motors shall be by City Maintenance crews, or contracted vendors, performing maintenance only.
    - Boat launching will be restricted to two designated areas (existing boat launch accessed from Morrison Moore Parkway and planned dock/ramp/launch platform at Wimpy Mill Rd). These areas will be closed if the reservoir is at or below an elevation of 1232 mean sea level.
- DOCKS
  - 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 3, with a maximum footprint of 625 square feet each and/or up to 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.
  - Pedestrian visitors on any City-owned land, County-owned land, or jointly-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 in one of four designated gravel parking areas (three existing, one future and the expansion of one of the three existing) only.
  - Only the public restroom facilities located at Morrison Moore Parkway Boat Ramp parking area and/or Wimpy Mill Road parking area shall be utilized.
  - Pedestrian visitors shall be limited to provided trails, docks, picnic areas, “zip-line” access point(s), boat ramps, parking areas or any other access facilities constructed by the City or the County 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.
  - **Hunting on city-owned property including but not limited to the Reservoir Buffer.**

Additional prohibitions determined by the City over time to be necessary or 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 explore the natural habitats that surround the lake to their students and 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 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 “Restrictions” above.

Buffer restrictions for perennial streams within the reservoir watershed and within the City Limits of Dahlonega 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 impervious surfaces placed within the buffer not specifically described under “Restrictions” 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 pesticides of any type.

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.

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.

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.

**Appendix A: Detailed Map of Reservoir**

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

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





## Appendix B: Security and Maintenance Plans

### Security

Security measures will be taken to insure the public's water supply is protected thru 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.

- 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.
- Weekly testing of conductivity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, temperature, pH and flow rate on the water exiting the reservoir will continue to be performed.
- Monthly 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



- 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.
- Algae/Nutrient Build-up:
  - Four Solar Bees are installed to help prevent nutrient build-up, insure 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.
- 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.

## 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:  
Robert J. Jamar  
City Clerk

## Appendix D: Draft ~~2019~~ 2025 RMP Ordinance

### Ordinance 2025-

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA WHICH APPEARS IN THE PUBLICATION OF THE CODE OF THE ICTY OF DAHLOENGA, GEORGIA AT: CHAPER 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, 2025; and**

**WHEREAS, the City Council of Dahlonega, Georgia adopted Amendment One to the Reservoir Management Plan on October 2, 2206; 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 further be amended to incorporate by reference in its entirety a document entitle City of Dahlonega, Georgia Reservoir Management Plan of April 2025.**

**Adopted and ordained this \_\_\_ day of April 2025.**

**By:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**JoAnne Taylor, Mayor**

**Attest:**

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**Rhonda Hansard, City Clerk**



# City Council Agenda Memo

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**DATE:** 2/7/2025  
**TITLE:** Morrison Moore Pedestrian Bridge Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) Vendor Selection  
**PRESENTED BY:**  
**PRIORITY** Strategic Priority - Infrastructure

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## AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

City staff is in negotiations with Heath & Lineback Engineers (H&L) for CEI services for the Morrison Moore Pedestrian Bridge & Sidewalk. H&L was selected by committee through the GDOT Quality Based Selection method as the most qualified provider. The selected vendor will provide engineering and inspection services throughout the length of the project in accordance with rigorous and complex GDOT and FHWA standards. At the time of this writing, a negotiated cost had not been determined. However, staff intends to bring the final cost to City Council at the March 3 meeting with a recommendation to award.

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## HISTORY/PAST ACTION

None.

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## FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost of this project will draw from grant funds already received from FHWA and previously budgeted General Ledger line items. Staff is in discussions with multiple branches of GDOT in an effort to secure additional grant funds.

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## RECOMMENDATION

None at this time. Staff is hopeful of a recommendation for award by March 3.

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## SUGGESTED MOTIONS

None at this time.

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## ATTACHMENTS

None. However, extensive proposal submission documents are available for those that would like to view them.

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# City Council Agenda Memo

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**DATE:** 2/10/2025  
**TITLE:** Cyber Security Plan Update  
**PRESENTED BY:** Allison Martin, City Manager  
**PRIORITY:** Strategic Priority - Infrastructure

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## AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

Cyber Security Plan Update

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## HISTORY/PAST ACTION

The City of Dahlonega implemented a Cyber Security Plan in 2019. Due to changes in staff and IT providers, it is necessary to update the policy. The only changes to the plan were to update personnel and consultants. Updating the plan ensures we can keep affordable cyber security incident coverage. To protect the integrity of the plan, the plan document is not forward facing to the public.

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## FINANCIAL IMPACT

n/a

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## RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation of staff is to update the policy.

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## SUGGESTED MOTIONS

n/a

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## ATTACHMENTS

Cybersecurity Plan (not forward facing)

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## City Council Agenda Memo

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**DATE:** February 10, 2025  
**TITLE:** Change to Open Container Footprint for the Bear on the Square Mountain Festival  
**PRESENTED BY:** Doug Parks, City Attorney, Sarah Waters, Asst. City Clerk

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### **AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:**

Proposal to suspend the enforcement of open containers in a specific area at the Bear on the Square Mountain Festival so that festivalgoers may carry their alcoholic beverages in the proposed location.

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### **HISTORY/PAST ACTION:**

The festival permit was previously held in Hancock Park.

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### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

None.

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends allowing the suspension of the appropriate ordinances for this event.

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### **SUGGESTED MOTIONS:**

I make a motion to suspend enforcement of the open container laws of the City of Dahlonega including but not limited to the following: The Code of the City of Dahlonega, Georgia, Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-32, Section 22-33, Section 22-34, Section 22-35, within the geographical area set aside for alcohol sales and consumption within that certain festival special event permit application granted by the City to Bear on the Square Mountain Festival, the duration of the suspension to run concurrently with the duration of the permit granted.

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### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Bear on the Square Special Event Map and Permit Application

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