

City of Dawsonville
August 1, 2005
Work Session of the City Council

Mayor Cox called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Those present were Mayor Joe Lane Cox, Council Members Jonathan Cox, Tim Wimpey, Mike Wilson and Mike Sosebee, Kim Cornelison, Dana Miles, Steve Holder and concerned citizens of the City of Dawsonville and Dawson County.

Water and sewer rates and taps – Gary Barr.

Gary Barr addressed the Council with information that he, Ben Turnipseed and Kim Cornelison have compiled involving taps and rates for water and sewer services. When compared to other municipalities the City of Dawsonville is behind in the rate structure and can use the revenue for projects that are coming up soon. Specifically the sewer rates need to come up to at the minimum meet the rates of the water. Mr. Turnipseed feels that the residential 3/4 inch and 1 inch meters are still low and could go up. Gary asked the Council to look over the water and sewer rates and tap fee schedules to start the evaluation process.

The Mayor asked the Council to review the documentation and then we could redraft the ordinance and have the first reading at our next meeting, September 12, 2005.

Jonathan Cox made the point that obligations are going to have to be met and that to start the fees now may be good. Gary Barr said the goal is to do the increases in increments with the hopes that we will have enough new houses on board so that the final increase will not be necessary to help serve the loan debt on the most recent grant.

City Clerk Kim Cornelison interjected that the whole ordinance needs to be looked over and tweaked as needed. She informed the Council of the constant request for credit card acceptance for payments.

Councilman Wimpey addressed his concern that the rates for the City of Cumming are less than the existing rates for the City of Dawsonville. Kim Cornelison addressed that by stating that the City of Cumming has very low residential and very high commercial. Commercial carries the City of Cumming. Dana Miles confirmed this information.

Dana also stated that the City of Cumming has excess capacity on their sewer system and does not have any debt on it. So their rates can be lower as they have no debt to serve. Dana further stated that each municipality will have different reasons affecting their rate structure and that each municipality really should be looked at individually. For instance Forsyth County has newer infrastructure where they have had to bond the indebtedness in order to create it and their costs are double that of the City of Cumming. There is a good reason behind the rates. The City of Dawsonville is in a

position where we are going to have to build new infrastructure and will need funds to serve the debt to do it.

The Council advised the City Clerk to put this item on the September 12, 2005 agenda.

Adult Learning Center – Ann Williams and David Brown.

Ann Williams introduced David Brown, the lead instructor of the Adult Learning Center and Joe Hirsch, the treasurer of their non-profit organization. Ann spoke about the Adult Learning Center's past history and threatened closing because funding was going to be pulled. Activists for the Center and the community got behind the need for the Center and through various means got with Lanier Tech who provided one year's funding. Last year the Center graduated 25 students; this year with Mr. Brown working only nine months, the Center graduated 75 students. This is very telling of the need in our community. The Literacy Council formed a new non-profit organization called R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Association of Dawson County) and has filed for non-profit status in conjunction with the State Department of Technical and Adult Education called the Certified Literate Community Program. It is designed to reduce the level of illiteracy. We have come up with a program to reduce illiteracy in the County. The first goal is to see that the Center meets its potential and helps the people of Dawson County.

We have gone to the County Commission and civic organizations and we have come to you to try and put together a budget that will allow us to higher a full-time person. This person will help to expand the hours of the Center. We have learned that to better serve the students we have to extend the hours into the evenings. In order to do this we need to raise \$40,000. The County has agreed to give \$10,000 in a matching grant. We are here asking you to help us meet that match. Ann then turned the presentation over to David Brown.

Mr. Brown spoke of the Center's history statistically showing previous history to current to projected growth. He supplied the council with the presentation in paper format and is included in the work session minutes. He spoke of the people the program serves from ESL (English as a second language), detention center inmates and Special Ed student from the high school. The student average 92 points higher than the average which indicates that we have an intelligent population that is underserved in educational opportunities and the Center wants to help correct that. Your financial support will help us expand to 60 hours per week and the ability to stay open six days a week.

The Mayor asked Ann Williams and David Brown who else has committed to helping fund this position. Ann Williams said they are talking to all Civic organizations; they will do fund raisers themselves and intend to approach the Big Canoe Gild; anybody that can be thought of to seek a contribution from.

The Mayor said he felt it is a wonderful program and that the 12 inmates who received their GED will pay for themselves by turning their life around.

The Council asked the City Clerk to put this on the agenda for the regular meeting to be held following the work session.

Curt Gervich, Outreach Coordinator, Etowah Habitat Conservation Plan.

Steve Holder introduced Curt Gervich, Outreach Coordinator, Etowah Habitat Conservation Plan. Curt had worked with former Mayor, Jimmy Moore as well as other cities and counties in the Etowah basin.

UGA received a grant about four years ago from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Department of Natural Resources to develop a habitat conservation plan to protect three species of endangered fish in the Etowah watershed. Writing habitat conservation plans is a part of the endangered species act. The act says that you can injure, harm, kill or destroy habitat of endangered species, but if you write a conservation plan that explains how you are protecting the overall population during development or infrastructure projects, then you can go ahead with that activity.

The books Steve Holder passed out to you outlines exactly what a plan is and how it all works. There are several parts to the plan for the Etowah watershed and each of the cities and counties in the watershed will adopt all of those parts and in turn will be signatories to that conservation plan. Once you are a signatory you will receive an incidental take permit. This permit states that they know you are trying to protect the overall population of endangered species, therefore if you impact a small number of that population you are not going to get fined, sued or put in jail.

My job is to work with all of the cities and counties in the Etowah watershed to protect the three species of endangered fish. One of the segments is to adopt a Storm Water Ordinance – storm water has a tremendous impact on the endangered fish. Curt asked if he should go through the different segments of each ordinance or if everyone had the general idea. Everyone acknowledged their general understanding and the Mayor stated that he knew we would need to be adopting these items after discussions with Steve Holder.

Dana Miles suggested the council put this on their agenda for the September 12, 2005 meeting. The Council members agreed. Dana reminded everyone that the ordinance will need to be read twice so we can be on the forefront in considering and adopting this ordinance.

Minutes approved this 22nd day of August, 2005.

Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

Councilman Jonathan Cox

Councilman Tim Wimpey

Councilman Mike Sosebee

Councilman Mike Wilson

Attested: _____
Kim Cornelison, City Clerk

August 1, 2005
Meeting of the City Council

Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Those present were Mayor Joe Lane Cox, Council Members Jonathan Cox, Tim Wimpey, Mike Wilson and Mike Sosebee, Kim Cornelison, Dana Miles, Steve Holder and concerned citizens of the City of Dawsonville and Dawson County.

Invocation and Pledge: Mayor Cox led the pledge and invocation.

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Jonathan Cox made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 11, 2005. Mike Wilson seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

As a follow-up to the work session, a motion was made by Tim Wimpey to amend the agenda to include the Adult Learning Center under new business. Mike Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution to adopt Local Emergency Operations Plan: Fire Chief Scott Wallace addressed the council reminding them that the plan was delivered to them at the July 11th meeting for review. He asked the Council adopt the plan as written. Jonathan Cox made a motion to approve the resolution to adopt the Local Emergency Operations Plan. Tim Wimpey seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Parade/Public Assembly Application – Kare for Kids: Robin Smith and Rhonda Pugh represented the Kare for Kids organization. City Clerk Kim Cornelison made the Council aware that the Sheriff has approved the event but the City has not received word from the Fire Marshall as yet. Jonathan Cox made a motion to approve the Parade/Public Assembly Application for Kare for Kids to host the annual Moonshine Festival with the stipulation that the Fire Marshall approve the event as well. Mike Sosebee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Parade/Public Assembly Application – Veterans Day Celebration: City Clerk Kim Cornelison made the Council aware that the Sheriff has approved the event, and Phoenix One has approved the use of the parking lot for this event, however the City has not received word from the Fire Marshall as yet. Mike Sosebee made a motion to approve the Veterans Day celebration with the stipulation that the Fire Marshall approve the event as well. Mike Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Historic Sign Application: Dawsonville Carwash – Scott Smith: Steve Holder presented the application for a sign in the Historic District submitted by Scott Smith. Steve made the Council aware that the sign met all of the criteria of the Historic Sign District Ordinance. Jonathan Cox made a motion to approve the sign application. Tim Wimpey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Future Land Use Map: Steve Holder presented the Future Land Use map that is a collaborative effort with the County. Steve informed the Council that the map has been completed and revisions incorporated and upon their approval will be used as a planning tool for all future projects involving land within the City. Jonathan Cox made a motion to adopt the Future Land Use map. Mike Sosebee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Southern Catholic College request to rename road: Steve Holder presented Council with a letter from Southern Catholic College requesting the name of Conference Center Drive to Southern Catholic Drive. The Dawson County Mapping office has confirmed that the new name is available for use. Tim Wimpey made a motion to approve the road name change to Southern Catholic Drive. Mike Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adult Learning Center: In the work session Ann Williams and David Brown made a plea for financial assistance for the Adult Learning Center. Tim Wimpey made a motion to donate \$5,000.00 to R.E.A.D. for use by the Adult Learning Center provided the funds were available. Jonathan Cox seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings:

Ordinance:

The second reading of an ordinance to amend the Land Use and Zoning Ordinance; to provide for an attendance requirement for members appointed to the Planning Commission; and for other purposes. City Attorney Dana Miles opened the public hearing. There being no public comment Tim Wimpey made a motion to approve the second reading of the ordinance. Jonathan Cox seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance:

The second reading of an ordinance to create the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame Commission; to define purposes and powers; to define terms of members, procedures for appointments and filling vacancies; to define effective date; and for other purposes. City Attorney Dana Miles opened the public hearing to which there was no public comment. Subsequently Dana Miles closed the public hearing and Mike Wilson made a motion to approve the second reading and to adopt the ordinance creating the Georgia Racing Hall of Commission. Jonathan Cox seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Cox reminded the Council of a training opportunity for Georgia Ethics in Government to be held August 25th in Ellijay.

Mayor Cox let the Council know that notification was received from Department of Natural Resources authoring the City to proceed with the park site. He also informed the Council of the Wallace's pledge to provide a donation towards playground equipment.

Mayor Cox informed the Council that the historical designation signs have been installed by Steve Holder and Russell Vaughters and also that East 4th Street is now a one-way street.

Public Comment:

Steve Holder made the Council aware that Ms. B.J. Farley was in attendance at the meeting and that Ms. Farley did find an alternate to serve on the Planning Commission. She would like to Council to approve Stan Worley as her alternate. Jonathan Cox made a motion to accept Stan Worley as B.J. Farley's alternate. Tim Wimpey seconded the motion the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session:

At 7:30 p.m. Tim Wimpey made a motion to suspend the regular meeting to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion personnel and land acquisition.

At 8:00 p.m. Tim Wimpey made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting. Mike Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to attend to, a motion was made by Mike Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Tim Wimpey seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes approved this 22nd day of August, 2005.

Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

Councilman Jonathan Cox

Councilman Tim Wimpey

Councilman Mike Sosebee

Councilman Mike Wilson

Attested: _____
Kim Cornelison, City Clerk

City of Dawsonville
August 1, 2005
Executive Session of the City Council

Mayor Cox called the meeting to order.

Those present: Joe Lane Cox, Dana Miles, Jonathan Cox, Tim Wimpey, Mike Sosebee, Mike Wilson and Kim Cornelison.

Executive Session was held for the purpose of discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a City officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6).

Mayor Cox informed the Council of the resignation of Pam Ingram from her position. He outlined the posting and interviewing process for the new Billing Clerk and made the Council aware that the City hired Mrs. Martha (Marty) Parker for the vacancy.

Executive Session was also held for the purpose of discussion of future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4).

The Council discussed the potential purchase of several well sites that the geologist Gary Barr and Ben Turnipseed have been working on. The sites are currently being tested to see if the sites will produce the desired flow. If testing is successful, then acquisition of the well site/s would be in order for future water needs.

Upon completion of discussing these Executive Session items, Tim Wimpey made a motion to close the Executive Session. Jonathan Cox seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes approved this 22nd day of August, 2005.

Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

Councilman Jonathan Cox

Councilman Tim Wimpey

Councilman Mike Sosebee

Councilman Mike Wilson

Attested: _____
Kim Cornelison, City Clerk