

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
May 7, 2007
7:00 P.M.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Invocation was led by Rev. Dr. Mark Weaver of Grace Presbyterian Church, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Those present included Mayor Joe Lane Cox, Council Members Jonathan Cox, Mike Sosebee, and Mike Wilson; staff present were Kim Cornelison, Steve Holder, Gary Barr, Russell Chambers, and Dana Miles, City Attorney. Council member Linda Grant was absent.

INTRODUCTION: Mayor Cox introduced and welcomed Russell Chambers as the newest city employee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 2, 2007. Minutes were unanimously approved. Sosebee/Cox.

Approve the minutes of the work session held April 19, 2007. Minutes were unanimously approved. Sosebee/Wilson.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1) Ratification of Xtreme Fence Company installing a decorative wrought iron look-alike fence in front of the cemetery along Hwy. 53 at 28.00 per linear foot, including authorizing Mayor Cox to expend funds from the Cemetery fund and make any necessary budget amendments.
- 2) Ratification of a Parade or Public Assembly Application: GRHOF June 2, 2007 Smokin' Thunder Car Show/Music Fest/Community Yard Sale 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- 3) Parade or Public Assembly Application: GRHOF July 7, 2007 Smokin' Thunder Car Show/Music Fest/Community Yard Sale 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- 4) Ratification of in-kind support of the Adult Literacy Center to include tying the parking lot in to Hwy. 9, to provide limited parking for handicapped spaces and a few regular spaces, and sidewalks from Hwy. 9 down to the building, including making necessary budget amendments. Approximate costs \$40,000.00.

All items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved. Cox/Wilson.

NEW BUSINESS:

To hear Alcoholic Beverage License Application: Events by Design, by and through Jennifer Mineo, CEO. Council unanimously approved issuing a alcoholic beverage license to the applicant as her application, background check, and fees were all in proper order. Cox/Sosbee.

Audit Report – Alexander, Almand and Associates. Warren Almand of Alexander, Almand and Associates presented the audit of the city's 2006 financial statements. Mr. Almand presented the opinion of the auditors stating that the information presented in the audit is a fair representation of the facts regarding the financial information of the City of Dawsonville. The examination was made in accordance with internal control policies and in compliance with the laws of the state of Georgia regarding municipalities and that everything was in order.

The overall net assets of the city increased from 11.1 million dollars in 2005 to 16.6 million dollars in 2006. This is due to the infrastructure improvements that have been funded via bonds and grants, and to the dedication of infrastructure in some of the new developments of the City.

In the general fund, which includes the cemetery and GRHOF funds, the revenues exceeded expenditures by \$385,146 dollars. In the enterprise fund, which includes water, sewer, and garbage, the operating revenues exceeded operating expenditures by \$411,934.

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Lastly Mr. Almand presented two findings in the audit which showed where there were a few items that were over budget and the state requires disclosure of such find. These small overages are not uncommon when a smaller municipality closes its books after making all necessary budget amendments, then another invoice for that fiscal year is received. Then there is an overage on that line item in the budget.

The second finding is that the City needs to develop a formalized financial manual which will describe the various financial positions and their functions and responsibilities providing further internal controls. In meeting previously with Mayor Cox and Kim Cornelison, they have agreed that the manual is needed, especially in light of the growth the city is experiencing in its assets and liabilities.

The Mayor and Council thanked Kim Cornelison, City Administrator/Clerk for her work towards managing the budget, especially in light of the many projects that have had to be closely monitored and major growth of the city's assets.

The Mayor, council, and city clerk thanked Mr. Almand for his presentation and that of his staff in completing the audit. The audit report was unanimously approved by the council. Cox/Wilson.

Historic District Sign Permit: 33 Hwy. 9 South for Relax: Steve Holder reported that the sign is in compliance with the historic district sign ordinance. Council approved the sign permit unanimously. Sosebee/Wilson.

Amendment to Richard Sammons contract to sell surplus supplies of the city. Mayor Cox asked the council to authorize the sale of further surplus of the city with the same terms of the original contract. Council unanimously approved the sale of the surplus and unused items. Cox/Sosebee.

Parade/Public Assembly Application: Ginger Evans, Circle of Friends Walking Team, Sunday, June 24, 2007, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., to host a motorcycle poker run to raise funds for the Walk for Breast Cancer. The City Clerk stated that the application is complete with the exception of they have not provided a certificate of insurance and recommended approval with a stipulation that the certificate of insurance be provided prior to the permit being issued. Council unanimously approved with the stated stipulation. Sosebee/Wilson.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Annexations and rezones:

ANX07-002: Chad Bearden has made a request to annex 1.3 acres of TMP 091-040. The subject property is located at 28 Bud's Drive. The property is currently zoned RA and will be AP upon annexation. (Second Reading).

Steve Holder presented the annexation petition. Dana Miles opened the public hearing. Approximately 15 people were in attendance. No one spoke in favor or opposition. Mr. Miles closed the public hearing and Mayor Cox called for a vote. Council unanimously approved the annexation petition. Cox/Wilson.

Ordinances:

Personnel Ordinance: An ordinance to adopt personnel policies of the City of Dawsonville, Georgia; to repeal former personnel policies; to provide for severability; and for other purposes.

Mayor Cox presented the ordinance and the council unanimously approved the first reading. Cox/Wilson.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Cox informed the council of the date change for the Retreat of the City Council and Board of Commissioners; the new date is Monday, June 4, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., at the Lakeview Center. Mayor Cox stressed the importance of everyone attending this meeting.

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SPLOST discussions - Mayor Cox presented the council with alternate ideas to be funded under the SPLOST V; the county commission is adamant that they will not participate in retiring the debt on the City Hall building being funded through SPLOST Funds.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Cox asked council to approve an executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Unanimously approved at 7:40 p.m. Sosebee/Wilson.

City Attorney Dana Miles brought the council up-to-date on the Gold Creek lawsuit's motion for summary judgment and discussed the law suit served by the county on all of the annexations.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:03 p.m. council came out of executive session and adjourned the executive session and the regular meeting. Sosebee/Cox.

Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

Councilmember Jonathan Cox

Councilmember Linda Grant

Councilmember Mike Sosebee

Councilmember Mike Wilson

Attested: _____
Kim Cornelison, City Clerk