

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 7, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

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

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS: Mayor Cox thanked everyone for attending and recognized the following individuals: James Swafford, candidate for District 2 Board of Commissioners; Dan Pichon, candidate for Magistrate Judge; Linda Williams, President of the Chamber of Commerce; and Marty Williams, Director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

ROLL CALL: Those present included Mayor Cox, Council Members Linda Grant, Mike Sosebee, Jonathan Cox and Mike Wilson; staff present were Kim Cornelison and Kevin Tallant, City Attorney.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Invocation was led by Pastor Riding of Dawsonville United Methodist Church and was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council unanimously approved the minutes from the regular meeting held March 3, 2008; motion by Linda Grant; seconded by Mike Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

Council unanimously approved the minutes from the called executive session of the City Council held March 31, 2008. Motion by Mike Sosebee, second by Linda Grant; the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Amendment to Agenda: Kim Cornelison explained the need to amend the agenda to include a Hotel/Motel Tax Agreement. Motion carried unanimously to include the agreement in the agenda after the small business proclamation. Motion by Jonathan Cox; second by Linda Grant.

Proclamation declaring April Confederate History Month – Michael Reuter, Commander, Concord Rangers. Kim Cornelison introduced Michael Reuter, and gave a brief outline as to the mission of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The proclamation was then read into the minutes, executed by the Mayor and Clerk, and presented to the representatives of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Proclamation declaring April 21-25 Small Business Week – Linda Williams, President, Dawson County Chamber of Commerce. Kim Cornelison introduced Linda Williams, President of the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Williams thanked the Mayor and Council and spoke about the importance of supporting our local businesses and the direct impact it has on our economy as well as helping those business who are active and support the many charitable endeavors in our community.

The proclamation was then read into the minutes, executed by Mayor Cox and the Clerk, and presented to Mrs. Williams to display at the Chamber.

Hotel/Motel Tax Agreement: Kim Cornelison presented an agreement for ratification that would allow the city to disburse one-half of the 6% collected on hotel/motel tax revenue to the Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of advertising Downtown Dawsonville. She further explained that as requirement of the code section sited in the hotel/motel tax ordinance the city is required to disburse 3% of the tax collected to an authorized agency. The Chamber is a qualified agency and is acceptable according to state code.

Council unanimously authorized the Mayor to execute the agreement; motion by Mike Wilson, second by Linda Grant. Upon ratification of the agreement Mayor Cox and Linda Williams executed the agreement.

Addendum to Agreement – GMRDC extending term of Comprehensive Plan Agreement to October 31, 2008. Mayor Cox asked the council for authorization to extend the existing agreement between GMRDC and the City for the development of the Comprehensive Plan. He made the council aware that the addendum is only for an extension of time and did not involve any other adjustments. Council

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unanimously approved the agreement and authorized the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City. Motion by Jonathan Cox; second by Mike Wilson.

Historic District Sign Permit Application: Wall to Wall Designs, 33 Hwy. 53 West. Kim Cornelison read the permit; stating that the Planning Department recommended approval as the application met all requirements of the Historic District. Council unanimously approved the permit. Motion by Jonathan Cox; second by Mike Sosebee.

Application for Parade/Public Assembly: GRHOF Car Show/Music Fest, April 26, 2008, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. The application for the event was presented by the City Clerk with the caveat that the group has requested the following day, April 27th as a rain date. The Council unanimously approved the application with the rain date. Motion by Mike Sosebee; second by Linda Grant.

Application for Parade/Public Assembly: Kiwanis Fun Run, May 17, 2008 7:30-10:30 a.m. The application for the event was presented by the City Clerk. The Council unanimously approved the application for the Kiwanis Fun Run. Motion by Jonathan Cox; seconded by Mike Sosebee.

Application for Parade/Public Assembly: Art in the Garden Festival, May 3 & 4, 2008, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. with some set up on May 2nd in the evening. The application for the event was presented by the City Clerk. Council asked what the event entailed. The Clerk responded by saying that the event has been held here the previous two years and is held on the winners circle, throughout the alleyway, and across the front of City Hall. It is an Art Show which hosts both local and regional artists as well as plants and garden decorations/accessories. Council unanimously approved the event with the understanding that some event set up would take place on Friday, May 2. Motion by Linda Grant; second by Mike Wilson.

Planning Commission Appointment: Jimmy Castleberry. Mayor Cox made the Council aware that the term of Jimmy Castleberry on the Planning Commission has expired. Mayor Cox further explained that Mr. Castleberry is agreeable to serving another term should the council want him to. Council unanimously approved the re-appointment of Jimmy Castleberry to the Planning Commission. Motion by Linda Grant; second by Jonathan Cox.

Authorization to make Budget Amendments. The City Clerk presented a spreadsheet with budget amendments that need to be made to cover the two positions the council recently approved hiring. Also for the shortfall budgeted on interest for bond notes in the enterprise fund. The clerk also said that a budget amendment must be done to transfer fund between capital outlay and capital equipment to purchase a truck for the new maintenance worker position.

Council unanimously approved all budget amendments presented including the budget amendment to facilitate the purchase of a new work truck. Motion by Linda Grant; second by Mike Wilson.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution recognizing April 20-26 as Georgia Cities Week. Mayor Cox asked the Clerk to read the resolution in to the minutes. The Clerk complied with the request and further stated that this resolution recognized Georgia Cities Week that the City of Dawsonville has elected to participate in this year. She also presented an outline of activities to help celebrate the occasion. Council unanimously approved the resolution. Motion by Jonathan Cox; second by Mike Wilson.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

An ordinance by the City of Dawsonville to amend the Code of Ordinances of Dawsonville, Georgia to establish a franchise fee applicable to holders of cable or video franchises issued by the state of Georgia to designate an agent; to provide for codification; to repeal conflicting ordinances; to provide an adoption date; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes. First hearing March 3; second hearing April 7, 2008.

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Kevin Tallant explained that the purpose of the ordinance is to set a franchise fee rate for those cable or video franchises who apply for a state license. A state license prevents a cable or video franchisee from negotiating with each municipality or county. By implementing the fee via ordinance and filing it with the state, than franchisees know that when they are in your municipality or county then they have to automatically submit the requisite fee.

Kevin Tallant opened the public hearing. There were approximately 19 people in attendance and no one spoke in favor of in opposition of the ordinance. The public hearing was closed and presented to the council for vote.

Council unanimously approved the second reading and adoption of the ordinance. Motion by Jonathan Cox; second by Mike Sosebee.

An Amendment to the Georgia Power Franchise Agreement originally adopted September 11, 1975. The amended agreement would extend the Franchise Agreement to October 8, 2030. First hearing March 3; second hearing April 7, 2008.

Kevin Tallant explained that the purpose of the agreement was to ratify long-term negotiations between Georgia Municipal Association and Georgia Power. GMA represented all of the cities across the state so that Georgia Power could be on one agreement which helps alleviate any confusion.

Kevin Tallant opened the public hearing. There were approximately 19 people in attendance and no one spoke in favor of in opposition of the ordinance. The public hearing was closed and presented to the council for vote.

Council unanimously approved the second reading and adoption of the ordinance. Motion by Mike Sosebee, second by Mike Wilson.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

GMRDC thank you note: Mayor Cox read a thank you note he recently received from GMRDC that commended city staff Bonnie Warne, Steve Holder, and Kim Cornelison for their help in helping GMRDC facilitate a successful class using the Gilleland Council Chambers and multi-purpose room.

GMA Spring Listening Session – Tuesday, April 29th, 6:00 p.m. at West Family Restaurant: Mayor Cox invited any of the council who wished to attend the listening session to join him. He further stated that the purpose of the listening session is to go over recently passed legislation and to present ideas for next years legislative session. Both the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem Mike Wilson are registered to attend at this time.

Payroll authorization for attendance to Spring Listening Session: The City Clerk asked the Council to authorize meeting pay for those attending the spring listening session. Council unanimously approved the request. Motion by Linda Grant; second by Mike Sosebee.

Called Meeting of the Council and Planning Commission – Monday, April 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.: Mayor Cox made the Council aware of a called meeting between the council and the Planning Commission. The main focus of the meeting will be to continue working on the comp plan. The Mayor further invited everyone in the audience to attend stating that city resident input is vital to the plan.

Staff Meeting – Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 10:00 a.m.: Mayor Cox announced that he was holding a staff meeting and invited the Council to attend.

Water Restrictions: Mayor Cox made the council aware of the revised watering restrictions. The notice can be obtained from City Hall or at the City's web site.

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April 19th the Hudson Club will be meeting at the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame.

Mayor Cox asked the public attending if they had any comments or questions:

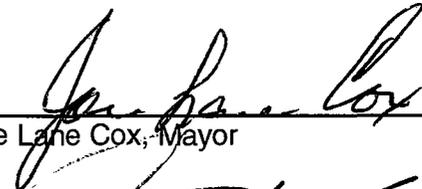
A gentlemen asked why the Franchise Agreement extended out to 2030. Darryl Snyder from Georgia Power explained that the agreement was modified and in return Georgia Power asked for an extension to the agreement. He further explained that the agreement actually provided more benefits to the City especially if there are Better Hometown improvements made within the City.

Mayor Cox further explained that the agreement was the work product of three years worth of negotiations between Georgia Power and Georgia Municipal Associations who represents cities throughout the state of Georgia.

Linda Williams invited everyone to the Community Form on April 22nd and further stated that they expect to receive their entrepreneurial friendly designation. The meeting is at the Library and begins at 3:00 pm. Linda further stated that staff members Kim Cornelison and Steve Holder were very helpful in helping provide information to the Chamber so that they could apply for the Entrepreneurial Friendly Designation.

Darryl Snyder, Georgia Power, commended the City on all of its efforts to improve the City as well as commended staff members Kim Cornelison and Steve Holder for always being helpful to work with.

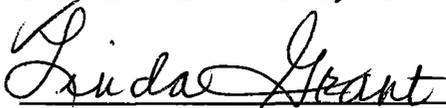
ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Jonathan Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Second by Linda Grant; the motion carried unanimously.



Joe Lane Cox, Mayor



Councilmember Jonathan Cox



Councilmember Linda Grant



Councilmember Mike Sosebee



Councilmember Mike Wilson

Attested: 

Kim Cornelison, City Clerk



Proclamation

Confederate History and Heritage Month
April 1 -30, 2008



WHEREAS, April is the month in which the Confederate States of America began and ended it's four year struggle for State's Rights, individual freedom, and local control and governance as did our Revolutionary War forefathers; and

WHEREAS, Confederate Memorial Day on April 26 is a time when the city of Dawsonville and the State of Georgia honors the men and women who honorably served the Confederate States of America; and

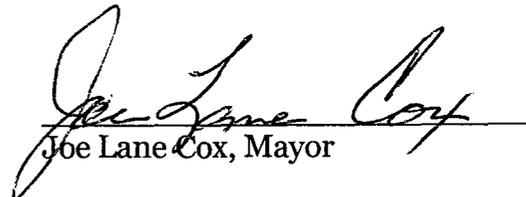
WHEREAS, The citizens of the City of Dawsonville have a long and cherished history which includes the sacrifices of her many native sons and daughters on behalf of the Confederate Cause in the War Between the States; and

WHEREAS, The Citizens of the City of Dawsonville have contributed to this great country and many men and women of this community have given their lives for freedom in many wars; and

WHEREAS, It is vital that the City of Dawsonville remember and reflect on their heritage and respect the devotion of the Southern leaders, soldiers and citizens to the cause of Southern Independence.

Now, therefore, I Joe Lane Cox do hereby proclaim the month of April in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, as ***Confederate History and Heritage Month*** in the City of Dawsonville and encourage our citizens to become more knowledgeable of the role played by the Confederate States of America in the history of this great nation. We hereunto set our hand and seal.

In Witness Whereof, I have set my hand and seal this 7th day of April, 2008.


Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

Attest:


Kim Cornelison, City Clerk



Proclamation

Small Business Week

April 21 – 25, 2008



WHEREAS, the greatness of our community, state and ultimately our nation is attributed to freedom of choice and competition – the basic elements of our free enterprise system; and

WHEREAS, it has been established that small business provides more new jobs than any other sector of the economy; and

WHEREAS, the small business owners of our community are the risk-takers who have invested their knowledge, energy and personal assets in a variety of independent business careers, and in doing so, they have created employment opportunities for others while reaping the rewards of their independence; and

WHEREAS, the small business owners of our community work hard in the marketplace to provide quality goods and services, and this, in turn, evokes the confidence of the consumers who respond in a fashion which keeps the economy healthy and vital;

Now, therefore, I Joe Lane Cox, do hereby urge our citizens to recognize April 21st to 25th, 2008 as Small Business Week; and commend the efforts of our small business men and women in preserving the freedom, initiative and stability of our economy.

In Witness Whereof, I have set my hand and seal this 7th day of April, 2008.



Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

Attest:



Kim Cornelison, City Clerk

**Budget Amendment
Request for Approval
April 7, 2008**

GL Number	Description	Debit	Credit	Reason
100-1500-511000	Salaries - Administraton		\$ 17,280.00	New PT position - Acct/UB Clerk
100-1500-512200	Taxes: Suta, Fica, Futa		\$ 1,487.00	
100-999-999999	Contingency	\$ 18,767.00		
Total		\$ 18,767.00	\$ 18,767.00	

505-4300-511000	Salaries - Sewer Dept.		\$ 11,200.00	New Maintenance worker position for w/s department
505-4300-512200	Taxes: Suta, Fica, Futa		\$ 965.00	
505-4400-511000	Salaries - Water Dept.		\$ 11,200.00	
505-4400-512200	Taxes: Suta, Fica, Futa		\$ 965.00	
505-4400-009999	Contingency	\$ 24,330.00		
Total		\$ 24,330.00	\$ 24,330.00	

505-4300-582100	Interest Loan 92-05		\$ 433.08	To cover interest payments on outstanding debt.
505-4300-582101	Interest Loan 92-01		\$ 243.08	
505-4300-582102	Interest Loan 92.04		\$ 385.04	
505-4400-582001	Interest GEFA Loan		\$ 34,740.92	
505-4400-009999	Contingency	\$ 15,619.20		
505-4400-999999	Capt. Projects	\$ 20,182.92		
Total		\$ 35,802.12	\$ 35,802.12	

505-4400-999999	Capt. Projects	\$ 25,000.00		Work truck for w/s dept.
505-4400-	Capt. Equipment		\$ 25,000.00	
Total		\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE
RECOGNIZING GEORGIA CITIES WEEK, APRIL 20-26, 2008,
AND ENCOURAGING ALL CITIZENS TO SUPPORT THE
CELEBRATION AND CORRESPONDING ACTIVITIES.**

WHEREAS, city government is the closest to most citizens, and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along their understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week is a very important time to recognize the important role played by city government in our lives; and

WHEREAS, this week offers an important opportunity to spread the word to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence this branch of government which is closest to the people; and

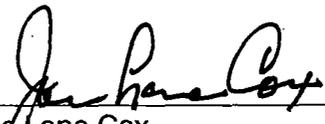
WHEREAS, the Georgia Municipal Association and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week offers an important opportunity to convey to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence government through their civic involvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City of Dawsonville declares April 20 – 26, 2008 as **GEORGIA CITIES WEEK**. Be it further resolved that the City of Dawsonville encourages all citizens, city government officials, and employees to do everything possible to ensure that this week is recognized and celebrated accordingly.

SO RESOLVED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED, this 7th day of April, 2008.

CITY OF DAWSONVILLE

By: 

Joe Lane Cox
Mayor, City of Dawsonville

Attested to:



Kim Cornelison
City Clerk, City of Dawsonville