

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 3, 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 Lt. Brandy Branson for providing security at the meeting; he also introduced Sharon Thomas, the new writer for the Dawson News & Advertiser who covers city news. Mayor Cox recognized Adam Stapleton, writer for the Dawson Community News and Rev. Glen Byrd from Cavalry Baptist Church.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Invocation was led by Rev. Glen Byrd of Cavalry Baptist Church followed by the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council unanimously approved the minutes from the regular meeting held February 4, 2008; motion by Jonathan Cox; seconded by Mike Wilson.

Council unanimously approved the minutes from the called joint meeting of the City Council and the Planning Commission held on February 19, 2008. Motion made by Jonathan Cox; seconded by Mike Sosebee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proclamation – March 3-7, 2008 Exceptional Children’s Week: The City Clerk introduced Dr. Lonnie Trahan, Director of Special Education for Dawson County schools; and members of the Gross, Cooper, and Shelp families. The clerk read the proclamation in to the minutes. Mayor Cox and the members of the Council assembled with Dr. Trahan and the representative families to present the proclamation.

Safety initiative for City Council Meetings: Due to the recent tragedies at two other cities across the United States and with the Mayor’s permission, Kim Cornelison lined up having a deputy present at this and all future council meetings. While meeting with the Sheriff Ms. Cornelison asked if he had any further suggestions for the City to implement as a safety precaution. Sheriff Carlisle suggested the possibility of installing a metal detector. Wand type detectors run \$150 - \$300; walk-thru metal detectors run from \$3,000 - \$5,000. Mayor Cox asked Lt. Branson for his advice on the detectors; Lt. Branson referred him to the Warrants Division stating that metal detectors were not his expertise.

Council supported having a deputy at all council meetings and asked the Clerk to meet with members of the Sheriff’s department to assess the situation further.

Authorization to dispose of the 2000 Dodge Craftsman Series Race Truck: Mayor Cox asked the council for authorization to declare the 2000 Dodge Craftsman Series Race Truck surplus that is no longer needed by the City and so that it may be sold. Dana Miles informed the council that they would also need to determine how the truck should be disposed of. For instance should it be disposed of at a private or public sale – the type of sale may drive the price the city will receive for it.

Mike Sosebee made a motion to declare the truck surplus and to sell the truck in a private sale to gain the highest amount possible for the truck. Linda Grant seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Christmas Décor Package Upgrade – December Lights: Bob Chezern of December Lights presented a proposal to increase the tree height by two full sections. He made this suggestion because in his opinion the tree looks small and like it is in a hole when you are driving down the highway. He suggested making

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this decision now instead of a few years later because the garland will be affected by the sunlight thus fading it out. If the new section/s is purchased this year, then the garland should match better.

Council discussed having additions to the pole decorations throughout downtown or the possibility of adding a moving scene on City Hall property. Council tabled this discussion advising the Clerk to provide more information about scenes and pole decorations. Motion by Jonathan Cox; seconded by Linda Grant, passed unanimously.

Georgia Cities Week: April 20-26, 2008: Kim Cornelison made the council aware that this year the City of Dawsonville would join cities across the state of Georgia by participating in "Georgia Cities Week". Some components of the program are already in motion. For example, the Clerk explained that she has coordinated a "If I were Mayor, I would..." essay contest. The contest is for sixth grade students and the essays will be judged by the two editors of the local newspapers. Prizes will be awarded to the top three.

A search-a-word puzzle and color contest sheet will be mailed out with next newsletter. Steve Holder has been working with the county on Keep Georgia Beautiful a clean up day. Other activities will be considered – like recognizing people who have made a significant difference to improving downtown.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Community Assessment for the Comprehensive Plan: To hear public input regarding the adoption of the Community Assessment for the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Dawsonville.

Mayor Cox asked the council for their opinion in regards to using the term "Thunder Road" throughout the community assessment. Further he shared his opinion that they have been trying to remove the negative stigma of "Thunder Road" ever since the City moved in to the building. He stated that he preferred removing it from the assessment and for it not to be used in the Comp Plan. Council fully agreed with the Mayor and concurred that the term should be removed from all documentation associated with the Comp Plan. Motion was made by Mike Sosebee and seconded by Mike Wilson; the motion carried unanimously.

Dana Miles opened a public hearing to seek citizen input on the Community Assessment. The assessment will be a tool used to help stakeholders developing a vision for the Comprehensive Plan. There were approximately 19 people in attendance; there was no public input. The public hearing was closed

The Council unanimously approved using the draft of the community assessment, with the previously approved correction, to proceed with developing the comprehensive plan. Motion by Jonathan Cox, second by Mike Sosebee.

To hear an ordinance regarding Enforcement of the Georgia State Minimum Standard Codes for Construction; and for other purposes. Steve Holder explained that the ordinance provides authority for the city to enforce whatever edition of new minimum codes that are adopted by the Department of Community Affairs. It removes a specific year or version which will allow the city's code to always be in sync with DCA without the need to update the ordinance every time DCA there is a revision.

Dana Miles 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 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

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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.

Dana Miles 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.

Dana Miles 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 first reading of the ordinance. Motion by Mike Sosebee; second by Linda Grant.

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.

Dana Miles 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.

Dana Miles 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 first reading of the ordinance. Motion by Jonathan Cox, second by Mike Sosebee.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Under the Mayor's Report, Mayor Cox made the council aware of an injury Gordon Pirkle sustained while cleaning back in the museum; he asked that we all keep Gordon in our prayers.

Mayor Cox reminded the council of an opportunity to attend an Ethic's class that will be held in Atlanta. The class will be held March 11th and 27th from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Lastly, the Mayor asked the council for their support in authorizing a traffic study along Highway 9 South. Mayor Cox explained that on all of the major roads that intersect town there is a progressive reduction of speed. i.e. 45 mph to 35 mph to 25 mph once you are in town. Hwy. 9 South is the only road that does not provide the decreasing speeds even though the City has asked GDOT to reduce or implement the changes. GDOT will not change speed signage without a traffic study and has placed this section of road on their list – which means they will get to it sometime in the future.

The problem is there is a new business being built on Hwy. 9 south beside Diener's place and they cannot get a curb cut to access their business from the highway because of the speed limit being so high in that area. Mayor Cox asked the council to authorize him to proceed with an independent study. Steve Holder has a proposal from GCA and the study will cost \$4,795.01.

Council unanimously agreed to authorize the required traffic study. Motion by Jonathan Cox; second by Linda Grant.

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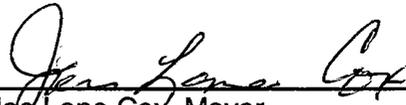
Mayor Cox announced a need to go in to executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:00 p.m. Jonathan Cox made a motion to go in to executive session for the purpose of discussing threatened or pending litigation. Seconded by Mike Wilson; motion passed unanimously.

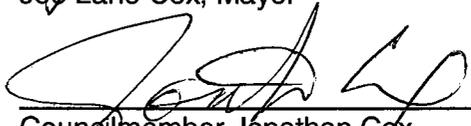
Dana Miles gave the council updates on the Butler v. Dawsonville case, the City v. Gold Creek case and the Bowen v. DDA case.

Council adjourned executive session at 8:25 p.m.

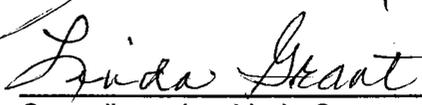
ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Jonathan Cox made a motion to adjourn the executive session and regular meeting at 8:25 p.m. Second by Mike Wilson; the motion carried unanimously.



Joe Lane Cox, Mayor



Councilmember Jonathan Cox



Councilmember Linda Grant



Councilmember Mike Sosebee



Councilmember Mike Wilson

Attested: 

Kim Cornelison, City Clerk

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DAWSON.

AFFIDAVIT OF THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Joe Lane Cox, Mayor, Jonathan Cox, Council Member; Linda Grant, Council Member, Mike Sosebee; Council Member and Mike A. Wilson, Council Member; being duly sworn, state under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief:

1.
The City of Dawsonville Council met in a duly advertised meeting on the 3 day of March, 2008.

2.
During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.

3.
The executive session was called to order at 8:00 a.m./p.m.

4.
The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:

- X Consultation with the City Attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the City or any officer or employee or in which the City or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1);
- _____ Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(2) and _____;
- _____ Discussion of future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4);
- _____ 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);
- _____ Other _____ as provided in: _____.

This 3 day of March, 2008.

City of Dawsonville, Mayor and council

Joe Lane Cox
Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

Jonathan Cox
Jonathan Cox, Council Member

Linda Grant
Linda Grant, Council Member

Mike Sosebee
Mike Sosebee, Council Member

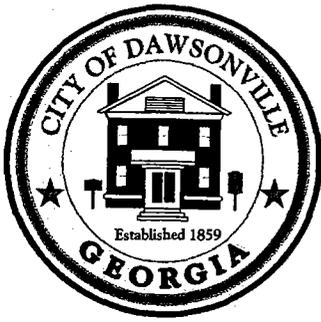
Mike A. Wilson
Mike A. Wilson, Council Member

Kim A. Cornelison
Kim Cornelison, City Clerk
Notary Public



Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____, 2008.

My Commissioner expires: August 18, 2008



Proclamation

Exceptional Children's Week
March 3-7, 2008



Whereas, Exceptional children are active citizens who contribute much to the overall quality of life in this community; and

Whereas, greater public awareness and acceptance of these persons will increase their access to education, employment, housing, and social and recreational opportunities; and

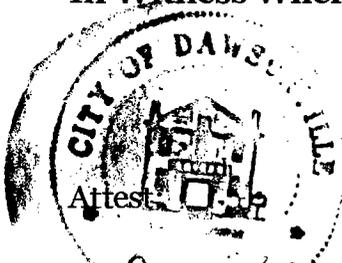
Whereas, it is the desire of our community to create a place where all people can explore and develop their varied abilities, can enjoy productive work, and can contribute by meaningful participation in the life of the community; and

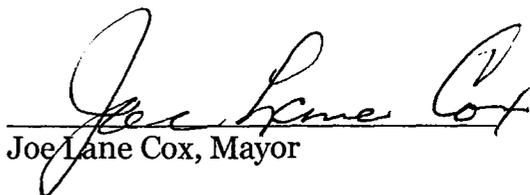
Whereas, the Dawson County School System and the Dawson Support Group, on behalf of the Georgia Exceptional Children Council, have worked to secure this proclamation; and

Whereas, it is the goal of the City of Dawsonville to instill positive perceptions of people with exceptional/special needs;

Now, therefore, I, Joe Lane Cox, do hereby designate March 3-7, 2008 as Exceptional Children's Week and encourage all our citizens to promote positive awareness and greater opportunities for persons with exceptional/special needs, and challenge the citizens of our community to look beyond a person's particular disability, and focus instead upon each person's diverse abilities and contributions to the community.

In Witness Whereof, I have set my hand and seal this 3rd day of March, 2008.




Joe Lane Cox, Mayor


Kim Cornelison, City Clerk