

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
MARCH 15, 2012  
6:00 P.M.**

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**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro-tem W. James Grogan called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Those present were Mayor Pro-Tem Grogan, Councilmembers Calvin Byrd, Chris Gaines and Jason Power, City Attorney Dana Miles and Nalita Copeland.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Invocation was led by Chris Gaines, followed by the pledge.

**AGENDA:** Dana Miles requested to amend the agenda to add two items: special election information and DDA issues. No opposition to adding these items.

**GENERAL CITY BUSINESS:**

Voting and Quorum; Deannexation – Dana Miles informed the Council that the City's Charter says that when a mayor pro-tem serves because of the mayor's absence that he doesn't lose any of his rights as a councilman. James Grogan should have been voting in the last meeting, even though he was mayor pro-tem. He did not give up his right as a councilman and should have voted on the Forester deannexation and any zoning or annexation related decisions that under the charter require two meetings. The first reading isn't an official vote; the second meeting is when you can vote. A letter was drafted and signed by James as Mayor Pro-tem to the Foresters informing them of those facts. Once someone is appointed as acting mayor, they would still not give up their right as councilman to vote. A public hearing and vote on the Forester deannexation will be held at your April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. A motion has to have a majority in favor to pass.

Process for Council Meeting Agenda Items – Dana Miles recapped that the deadline to get items for the agenda to both James and Bonnie every month is Tuesday at noon before the Monday meeting. Books will be available for pick up late Wednesday and the meeting will occur the following Monday.

Zoning Administrator Designation – Dana stated that Bonnie has acted as de facto zoning administrator. A zoning administrator reports at the council meeting on the zoning, planning or annexation item of whether it has gone before the Planning Commission and if they recommend to approve or disapprove for the following reasons, and that staff has looked at it and either agrees or disagrees and why so council can make an informed decision. He suggests that perhaps the council should consider designating a City staff person to do this and receive all pertinent training required. Further personnel discussion in executive session.

Special Election Information – Dana and Glenda Ferguson, County Registrar & Election Supervisor has looked in to the law and read over the City Charter to put together this tentative time frame:

- Pass Resolution on April 2<sup>nd</sup> with a call for the election to fill the unexpired term of Mayor.
- Qualification dates: May 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 a.m. – May 25<sup>th</sup> 4:30 p.m.
- Election: July 31<sup>st</sup>
- After Resolution passed: Glenda will start the process of building the ballot and getting all the notices out to the state agencies.
- Dana will start the process of Department of Justice preclearance. Any special election requires preclearance by the U.S. Dept. of Justice. DOJ requires 60 days.
- If Councilperson is elected to Mayor: need to elect a councilperson to fill the unexpired term.
- Recommend election: Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>
- Qualification dates: Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m. to Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> 4:30 p.m.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> an Acting Mayor will need to be appointed. Whoever is appointed as acting mayor is not giving up his council seat. However, if one of the council is elected to Mayor on July 31<sup>st</sup> (top vote wins it, not majority) that council seat is lost. As soon as the Aug. council meeting, an appointment of the vacant council seat would be made until an election on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

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DDA Issues: Chris Gaines spoke of the ideas from the Downtown Development Authority meeting held on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

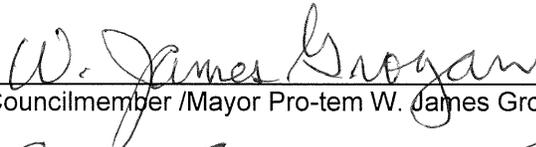
- Utilize the old courthouse and old jail as tourist venues
- Council to budget for DDA funding to hire a professional planner for ideas to help layout a good road map for the downtown area (assets, liabilities, possible grants and funding)
- Council to look at assigning a staff person to code enforcement
- How to promote the bike path from Dawsonville to Veterans Park and fit it into our downtown traffic patterns
- DDA is planning to hold monthly meetings – next meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- Dana Miles suggested a joint meeting of the DDA and City Council maybe this Fall

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 6:45 p.m. the council motioned to go out of regular session and to go into executive session for the purpose of pending litigation and personnel.

At 7:52 p.m. the council motioned to close executive session and there being no further business to attend to the meeting adjourned.

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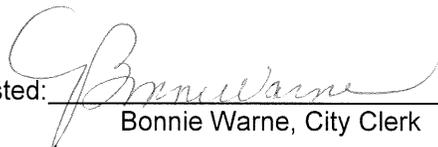
Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember /Mayor Pro-tem W. James Grogan

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Calvin Byrd

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Chris Gaines

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Jason Power

Attested:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bonnie Warne, City Clerk

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF DAWSON

AFFIDAVIT OF THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Joe Lane Cox, Mayor, Calvin Byrd, Council Member; Chris Gaines, Council Member; James Grogan; Council Member and Jason Power, 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 15 day of March, 2012.

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

3.  
The executive session was called to order at 6:45 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:

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 15 day of March, 2012.

City of Dawsonville, Mayor and council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

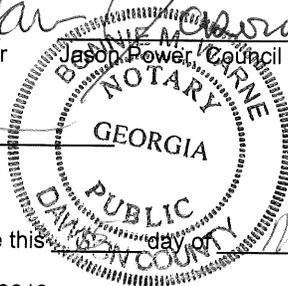
Calvin Byrd  
Calvin Byrd, Council Member

Chris Gaines  
Chris Gaines, Council Member

W. James Grogan  
W. James Grogan, Council Member

Jason Power  
Jason Power, Council Member

Bonnie M. Warne  
Bonnie Warne, City Clerk  
Notary Public



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15 day of March, 2012.

My Commission expires: June 14, 2013