

CITY OF
DAWSONVILLE

Special Points
of Interest:

- City Council Meeting — Monday, June 4, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- GRHOF Car Show, Music Fest and Community Yard Sale —Saturday, June 2, 2007.
- Planning Commission Meeting—Monday, June 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- City Council Work Session, Thursday, June 21, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Elected Officials
Contact Information

Joe Lane Cox,
Mayor
Cell Ph: 706-344-2969
Mayor@dawsonville.com

Jonathan Cox,
Mayor Pro Tem
Cell Ph: 770-561-0353

Linda Grant,
Councilmember
Cell Ph: 770-596-8930

Mike Sosebee,
Councilmember
Cell Ph: 706-429-6210

Mike Wilson,
Councilmember
Cell Ph: 770-561-0719



Dawsonville Profile

City News for the Residents of Dawsonville.

Volume 1, Issue 5

May 2007

Downtown Development Authority of the City of Dawsonville

The newly elected chairman of the Downtown Development Authority of the City of Dawsonville (DDA) is Gil Massey. Gil has met with



Gil Massey, DDA Chairman

Mayor Cox and various members of the City Council and staff to get an idea of what projects the DDA should be working on for the city.

The result of these meetings has created a list of tasks that the DDA will be working on over the next year or two.

One of the projects is a downtown beautification project. With the new sidewalks and several businesses renovating their historic buildings directly on the square, the timing is perfect to do other enhancements that will improve the aesthetics of downtown. These improvements would be to place benches, planter boxes, and possibly even

some trees planted throughout the historic section.

The DDA encourages all business owners to get involved in improving their storefronts and to support their beautification project.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a bench or planter box will have an opportunity to do so once the DDA determines the types and style of benches and planter boxes to purchase. Massey said, "We want to purchase benches and planters that are both aesthetically pleasing, but sturdy. Something that will last for years to come".

Massey also hopes to get different churches, clubs, and civic organizations on board to help with this project. "We have a great little downtown here, and the DDA feels that sprucing up historic downtown can only have a positive impact on those who live, work and shop here. There are some fantastic restaurants,

services, and shops in Dawsonville and we want people to stop here and see what downtown is all about."

Members of the DDA will be surveying downtown businesses in the next few months to get their opinion of what they think can be done to help continue downtown revitalization. The DDA would also appreciate citizen input as well.

"If you have a suggestion or idea, please send a letter or email to the city and we will receive it." Emails can be sent to cityhall@dawsonville.com.

The members of the DDA are committed to assisting the Mayor and Council with projects to improve and enhance our town. Members of the DDA include:

- Gil Massey, Chairman
- Cathie Waddell, Vice-Chair
- Chris Gaines, Treasurer
- James Hunt, Secretary
- Gordon Pirkle, Authority Member
- Phil Goodson, Authority Member
- Brenda Lee, Authority Member

Mayor's Message

The time is fast approaching when voters of the city and county will decide whether the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) should continue.

Supporting SPLOST is a positive way to fund major projects in the city and county. It cannot be used to run day-to-day operations of existing local government, but can be used to buy capital equipment or build capital projects.

The majority of SPLOST funds are generated by the many people

who visit our county and city who shop, eat, and spend money while they are here.

For the months of January through April of this year, the current SPLOST has generated over 2 million dollars in sales tax revenues.

In the existing SPLOST, the City only received \$500,000; which is a very small portion of the overall tax. These funds are being used right now to pay for the sidewalk improvements throughout downtown.

Before a referendum can be voted on regarding SPLOST V, negotiations will take place between the city and county to try and determine which projects will go on the referendum, and what amount the City will receive from SPLOST V.



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**CITY OF
DAWSONVILLE**

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Fax: 706-265-4214
www.dawsonville.com
E-mail: cityhall@dawsonville.com
Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

**Notice of Mandatory Water
Restrictions
Effective May 7, 2007
For the City of Dawsonville**

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has declared a level two drought response across the state and requires all Georgians to follow the following outdoor water use schedule.

- * **Odd numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays from 12 midnight to 10:00 a.m.**
- * **Even numbered addresses may water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 12 midnight to 10:00 a.m.**
- * **No watering on Fridays.**

For any further information please call the City of Dawsonville at (706) 265-3256.

City Staff at Your Service

Gary Barr,
Water & Sewer Superintendent

Kim Cornelison,
City Administrator/Clerk

Steve Holder,
Planning & Zoning Director



Dawsonville Cemetery Fencing Project

The Downtown Development Authority of the City of Dawsonville has accepted a very important improvement project from the Mayor and Council. The project involves the Dawsonville Cemetery—this is the old cemetery that fronts Highway 53 West.

The project consists of fencing the cemetery with a decorative wrought iron type fence.

“If you have ever been to downtown Cumming and seen their cemetery, it is beautiful with the rock wall and black wrought iron fencing on top of it,” says Cathie Waddell, member of the DDA.

“The Dawsonville Cemetery already has a rock wall on two

sides of it ; the area that fronts Hwy. 53 does not have a rock wall, but is on a pretty steep hill. Adding the decorative fencing will add a touch of elegance to the beautiful, old cemetery”, said Waddell.

The City Council approved spending \$8,500 to install the first section of fencing, consisting of 264 feet, along Highway 53 West.

The goal of the DDA is to help raise funds to finish the other three sections of fencing. The overall project is expected to cost \$35,000.

The DDA would like to ask members of our local community and the families of those buried there for their financial support.



Old Dawsonville Cemetery

Donations can be made on this project by sending a check to City Hall and marking it Cemetery Fencing Project, or dropping a check off to Chris Gaines, DDA Treasurer. Chris works at the downtown branch of Appalachian Community Bank. Checks should be made payable to the Downtown Development Authority of the City of Dawsonville.

Mayor’s Message Cont...

Negotiations are set to begin between the city and the county on June 4th. These negotiations will be critical to funding several major projects for the city.

The county projects that SPLOST V will produce over 88 million dollars in sales tax revenues.

The city desires to fund a little over 8 million in projects that the Mayor, Council, and Staff feels are important to downtown. This is less than 10% of the overall tax.

City projects include everything from major road improvements including extending Allen Street and Main Street through to Highway 9 South, as well as creating improvements at Perimeter Road/Hwy. 9 South.

These road improvements will create ancillary roads to help move traffic around town. As things continue to grow here—alternate ways of reaching downtown destination points are necessary because the existing main roads cannot help the volume of vehicular traffic move efficiently through town.

The city is asking for funds to continue building sidewalks throughout downtown. The

sidewalks have been a big concern to the Mayor and Council because of increased pedestrian traffic. Once the middle school opens up, the pedestrian traffic is expected to really grow. Continuing to provide a safe way for people to get around town is of great importance to the Mayor and Council.

The city is also seeking funds to build a skateboard park for the young people, and to purchase a fire engine that will be located at station one and can serve to fight

Other major items on the city’s project list include 1.0 million for continued improvements to water and sewer infrastructure, and 2.6 million to cover the debt associated with purchasing City Hall.

Each of these projects are qualified projects according to Georgia SPLOST law.

Cities and counties throughout our state are in the process or have already struck an agreement regarding the division of the SPLOST proceeds. In our own region, the City of Dalton will be receiving 17% of the SPLOST proceeds from Lumpkin County.

The city feels that asking for a little less than 10% of the overall proceeds from Dawson’s SPLOST is reasonable. We also feel it is our responsibility to try and make a better downtown Dawsonville and utilizing SPLOST proceeds is a very effective way to achieve the goal.

If you have comments regarding SPLOST V please contact me here at City Hall.

Sincerely,

Joe Lane Cox,
Mayor

| SPLOST V | |
|--|--------------|
| Proposed projects of the City of Dawsonville | |
| 1 City Hall purchase | 2,600,000.00 |
| 2 Allen Street Extension | 781,832.00 |
| 3 Main Street Extension | 986,040.00 |
| J.C. Burt/Perimeter Road | |
| 4 Improvements | 1,250,000.00 |
| 5 Sidewalks | 500,000.00 |
| 6 Skate Park | 50,000.00 |
| 7 Fire Engine | 850,000.00 |
| Water/Sewer Improve- | |
| 8 ments | 1,000,000.00 |
| Total \$8,017,872.00 | |

fires on 3-story buildings. Downtown recreational areas like a skateboard park will provide a positive outlet for our young people. The goal is to get them in a park instead of on the public roads, business locations and private property.