

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND WORK SESSION
G.L. Gilleland Council Chambers on 2nd Floor
Monday, May 15, 2023
5:00 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Eason called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Present were Councilmember Mark French, Councilmember Caleb Phillips, Councilmember John Walden, City Attorney Kevin Tallant, City Manager Bob Bolz, City Clerk Beverly Banister, Public Works Director Trampas Hansard, Utility Director Jacob Barr, Finance Administrator Robin Gazaway and Director of Downtown Development Amanda Edmondson. City Manager Bolz introduced the new Planning Director, Jameson Kinley.

Councilmember Ilg was not in attendance.

3. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Invocation and pledge were led by Councilmember Walden.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayor Eason announced the Farmer's Market is now open on Saturdays from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm or until they are sold out; the next Food Truck Friday will take place on June 2, 2023 at the Farmer's Market Pavilion and lastly, he reminded the public that the City is in the process of developing the Comprehensive Plan and invited residents to complete the survey. Councilmember Walden announced the 8U girls' softball team for DC Parks & Recreation league in which he coaches, won the season championship title. He thanked them for a great season and stated how proud he was of the team and also thanked Jacob Barr who was his assistant coach.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to amend the agenda to add item #17 Consideration of Bids for Grading of the Pickleball and Basketball Courts made by J. Walden; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended made by M. French; second by J. Walden. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

6. **PUBLIC INPUT:** Joe Godfrey (R.M. Rose Co.) 2926 Crimson Ct., Buford, GA 30519 – He provided a brief overview and history of the R.M. Rose company as the Director of Sales and Marketing. He also outlined the company's intended concept plan and business model for the available rental space within the City Hall complex and commented on their intention to collaborate with the adjoining tenants and the Downtown Development Authority for events to drive foot traffic and tourism to the City. He further stated he sent over the lease proposal and would like to partner with the City.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion to approve the consent agenda for the following items (a,b) made by J. Walden; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

- a. Approve Minutes
 - Regular Meeting and Work Session held May 1, 2023
 - Executive Session held May 1, 2023
- b. Approve Reappointment of Kevin Herrit as the Private Sector Member of the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission Council

8. **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** The Mayor and Council recognized David Schuette for obtaining his backflow prevention license, water distribution license and his wastewater system collection license all within the past two years. Clay Moss and Stacy Harris received the April 2023 Employee of the Month Award. Westin Lee was recognized for his six year service award and Beverly Banister for her eight year service award.

9. **PROCLAMATION: NATIONAL ACCOUNTING DAY, MAY 19, 2023:** Mayor Eason read the proclamation and thanked the City's accounting team for their hard work and dedication to the City.

10. **PROCLAMATION: NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK, MAY 21 – 27, 2023:** Mayor Eason read the proclamation and thanked the City's Public Works team for their hard work and dedication to the City.

WORK SESSION

11. **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT:** City Attorney Tallant provided an overview of the proposed Charter amendment which includes a small change to the district maps for clarity and a proposed salary increase for the elected officials. The Charter amendment will need to

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be adopted at two consecutive meetings. Mayor Eason asked for clarification on when the salary increase would go into effect; City Attorney Tallant reported January 1, 2024. Finance Administrator Gazaway stated the proposed increase would be included in the FY 2024 budget.

- 12. DISCUSS AVAILABLE RENTAL SPACE AT CITY HALL COMPLEX:** Mayor Eason stated there is interest in the available rental space at City Hall from more than one distillery. He would like the Council to be able to consider both proposals and arrive at an informed decision based on the best interests of the citizens and the community. He further stated restaurant owners of Gracious Plenty operating out of Roswell are interested in utilizing the available space at the front of the distillery to open a restaurant in Dawsonville; engineers met with the City and the prospective lessees for the restaurant space earlier in the day. The City will be considering these proposals and leases in the future but likely no decision will be made at this meeting. Finally, Mayor Eason stated the importance of all the future lessees of the available spaces at City Hall to work together with the Dawsonville History Museum to coordinate community outreach, activities and events.
- 13. PERSONNEL POLICY REVISIONS WITH REVISED ORGANIZATION CHART:** City Manager Bolz reported to Council that staff has been reviewing the personnel policy and made several updates. He also is presenting an updated organization chart. He would like the Council to review it and make staff aware of any concerns; the City Attorney will also review the changes. This will be brought back to the Council for consideration of approval in June.
- 14. FY 2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION:** Finance Administrator Robin Gazaway presented the draft of the FY 2024 budget to the Mayor and Council. She stated she will provide an overview at the June 5, 2023 City Council meeting which is when the public hearing will be held. She also informed the Mayor and Council consideration for adoption of the FY 2024 budget will be at the June 19, 2023 City Council meeting. She encouraged the Mayor and Council to reach out with any questions.

STAFF REPORTS

- 15. BOB BOLZ, CITY MANAGER:** He reported there were no leak adjustments and the well #112 development project is underway. Mayor Eason inquired if we were getting alerts on the water meters which is contributing to not having any leak adjustments; Bolz replied yes and David Schuette informed the Mayor that the department usually responds to approximately forty per month.
- 16. ROBIN GAZAWAY, FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR:** Finance Administrator Gazaway presented the financial reports representing fund balances and activity through April 30, 2023.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 17. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS FOR GRADING OF THE PICKLEBALL AND BASKETBALL COURTS:** Public Works Director Trampas Hansard reported that the City Council previously approved up to \$250,000.00 for the total project of the pickleball and basketball courts. The original bid request for the grading came back too high and the bids were rejected by the City Council. The second bid request returned two bids and he is seeking approval to award the low bid to Townley Construction. He also is seeking approval for an additional \$15,000 for the total project.

Motion to approve the total project expenditure from \$250,000.00 to \$265,000.00 to be paid out of SPLOST VII made by M. French; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Motion to award the bid for Main Street Park Improvements (grading for pickleball and basketball courts) to Townley Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$130,500.00 made by C. Phillips; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:43 p.m. a motion to close regular session and go into executive session for real estate and potential/pending litigation made by J. Walden; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

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At 6:00 p.m. a motion to close executive session was made by C. Phillips; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Motion to resume regular session was made by M. French; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:02 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by C. Phillips; second by J. Walden. Vote carried two in favor (Eason, Walden) with one abstained (Phillips) and one opposed (French).

Approved this 5th day of June 2023

By: CITY OF DAWSONVILLE



Mike Eason, Mayor



Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post 1




William IIIg, Councilmember Post 2



John Walden, Councilmember Post 3



Mark French, Councilmember Post 4

Attest: 

Beverly A. Banister, City Clerk



STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF DAWSON

AFFIDAVIT OF THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Michael Eason, Councilmember John Walden, Councilmember Caleb Phillips, Councilmember William Illg, and Councilmember Mark French; 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 May 15, 2023.
2. During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.
3. The executive session was called to order at 5:43 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: (check all that apply)
 - 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(b)(1);
 - 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(b)(2);
 - Other _____ as provided in: _____.

This 15th day of May 2023; By the City of Dawsonville, Mayor and Council:




Mike Eason, Mayor



Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post #1

absent

William Illg, Councilmember Post #2



John Walden, Councilmember Post #3



Mark French, Councilmember Post #4

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
15 day of May, 2023.



Signature, Notary Public

My Commission expires: Feb 18, 2024

