

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND WORK SESSION
G.L. Gilleland Council Chambers on 2nd Floor
Monday, December 18, 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 William Illg, 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, Downtown Development Director Amanda Edmondson and Finance Director Robin Gazaway. Clay Moss and Stacy Harris were in attendance for Planning and Zoning.
3. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Invocation and pledge were led by Councilmember Illg.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayor Eason reported the Pickleball Courts and the Basketball Courts are completed in Main Street Park and invited the public to come out and use them.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by J. Walden; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
6. **PUBLIC INPUT:** None
7. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion to approve the consent agenda for the following items (a - d) made by M. French; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
 - a. Approve Minutes
 - Regular Meeting held December 4, 2023
 - Special Called Joint Meeting held December 8, 2023
 - b. Approve 2024 Mayor and Council Board Designations and Compensation
Compensation of one meeting per month as designated below when attended:
 - *Planning Commission – Caleb Phillips*
 - *Historic Preservation Commission – Mark French*
 - *Downtown Development Authority – William Illg*
 - *Family Connection – Sandy Sawyer*
 - *Board of Health – Mark French*
 - *Animal Control Board – Caleb Phillips*
 - *Chamber of Commerce – Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem*
 - *Dawsonville History Museum – Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem*
 - *Georgia Municipal Association – Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem*
 - *Georgia Mountain Regional Commission – Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem*
 - c. Approve 2024 Appointment of Municipal Court Judge Ronald Reemsnyder and Agreement
 - d. Approve 2024 Professional Services
 - *City Attorney – Tallant Howell*
 - *Auditor – Alexander, Almand and Bangs, LLP*
 - *Engineers – Turnipseed Engineers, Inc.*
BField Engineering, LLC
Civil Engineering Consultants, Inc.
 - *City Solicitor – Jonah Howell*
 - *Wastewater Testing – Environmental Management Services*
 - *Geologist – A&S Environmental Services*
 - *Repair/Installation of Water and Sewer Infrastructure – Townley Construction*
 - *Airport Consultant Engineering Services – Lead Edge Design Group*
 - *Long Term Water Quality Monitoring – Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.*
8. **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** The Mayor and Council recognized the following employees. John Tatum for two years of service and Stacy Harris for six years of service. The November Employee of the Month was Sara Beacham; December Employee of the Month was Beth Tuttle; Fall Employee of the Quarter was the Public Works Department and the Employee of the Year was Annette Watson. The Council then presented Mike Eason with an award and plaque to thank him for his last six years of service.

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PUBLIC HEARING

9. **ANX-C2400048: DAWSON COUNTY BOE HAS PETITIONED TO ANNEX 1.61 ACRES OF TMP 093 005, LOCATED AT 516 ALLEN STREET WITH A COUNTY ZONING OF C-CB (COMMUNITY BUSINESS COMMERCIAL DISTRICT) TO CITY ZONING INST (INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICT). PUBLIC HEARING DATES: PLANNING COMMISSION ON DECEMBER 11, 2023, AND CITY COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 18, 2023. CITY COUNCIL FOR A DECISION ON JANUARY 11, 2024**

Motion to open the public hearing made by J. Walden; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor. Stacy Harris presented the annexation request. No one spoke in favor of or opposition to the annexation request. Motion to close the public hearing made by W. Illg; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

10. **ZSP C2400063: ATLANTA MOTORSPORTS PARK, LLC HAS PETITIONED TO AMEND THE SITE PLAN TO CONVERT THE TAKEOUT KITCHEN TO A RESTAURANT; LOCATED AT 20 DUCK THURMOND ROAD (TMP 070 049 001). PUBLIC HEARING DATES: PLANNING COMMISSION ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023, AND CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023. CITY COUNCIL FOR A DECISION ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024.**

Motion to open the public hearing made by W. Illg; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor. Stacy Harris presented the site plan amendment request.

The following citizens spoke in favor of the request:

- Joey Homans, 272 Hwy 9 South – He provided a brief history of the intended restaurant spaces at the Atlanta Motorsports Park stating the objective is to have a dine-in restaurant at both the Go-Kart Clubhouse and the Conference Center. He requested approval for the site plan amendment to include both restaurants and once approved, engineered plans would be developed and submitted to the proper authorities for approval.
- Jeremy Porter, 20 Duck Thurmond Rd. – He provided information on the Conference Center restaurant space stating it would be 100 seats or less, with mid to upper scale dining and alcohol sales. He also stated he would comply with all regulations required by State and Local ordinances.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

Clarification by Council and staff were discussed to ensure the request included both restaurant spaces and to be sure additional documentation was not needed for the site plan approval.

Motion to close the public hearing made by M. French; second by W. Illg. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

BUSINESS

11. **REQUEST FOR SPECIAL USE OF CITY PROPERTY:** Motion to deny the request for special use of City property made by W. Illg; second by J. Walden. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
12. **LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF DAWSONVILLE AND THE STATION HOUSE RESTAURANT, INC:** Motion to approve the lease agreement as presented made by C. Phillips; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
13. **2024 VAPE LICENSES:** Motion to approve the 2024 Vape Licenses as presented made by M. French; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
14. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR MODIFICATIONS TO DAWSONVILLE HISTORY MUSEUM:** Public Works Director Hansard provided a brief overview of the modification to the Dawsonville History Museum space to include a modification to the existing wall along the hallway and to create a 50's garage storefront. Mayor Eason stated the project will be funded by the OneGeorgia Grant.

Motion to approve the modifications as presented made by M. French; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

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- 15. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH DAWSON COUNTY:** City Manager Bolz presented an IGA to inform the City Council of the intention of Dawson County to erect a tower on the property owned by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for their new EMS radio system.

Motion to recommend approval of the IGA to the DDA made by W. Illg; second by J. Walden. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

STAFF REPORTS

- 16. BOB BOLZ, CITY MANAGER:** City Manager Bolz reported there were three leak adjustments totaling \$351.00. Year to date total is \$3,421 vs. this time last year being almost \$17,000. The water meter replacement project is benefiting both the City and residents.
- 17. ROBIN GAZAWAY, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** Finance Director Gazaway presented the financial reports representing fund balances and activity through November 30, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:34 p.m. a motion to close regular session and go into executive session for potential/pending litigation and land acquisition was made by M. French; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

At 5:57 p.m. a motion to close executive session was made by W. Illg; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Motion to resume regular session was made by W. Illg; second by J. Walden. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 18. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS:** Attorney Tallant administered the Oaths of Office to Councilmember Elect (Post 1) Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Elect (Post 3) Sandra Sawyer and Mayor Elect John Walden.

Councilmember Elect Sawyer joined the meeting and Mayor Elect Walden presided over the next agenda item.

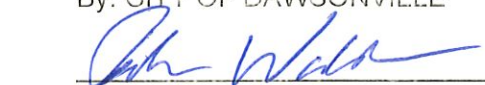
- 19. 2024 MAYOR PRO TEMPORE APPOINTMENT:** Motion to appoint Councilmember Mark French as the 2024 Mayor Pro Tempore made by C. Phillips; second by Sandy Sawyer. Vote carried three in favor (Phillips, Sawyer, Phillips) with one abstained (French).

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:08 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by C. Phillips; second by W. Illg. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Approved this 17th day of January 2024

By: CITY OF DAWSONVILLE



John Walden, Mayor



Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post 1

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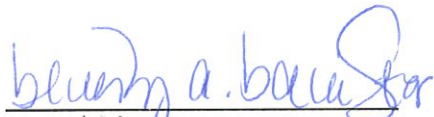
William Illg, Councilmember Post 2



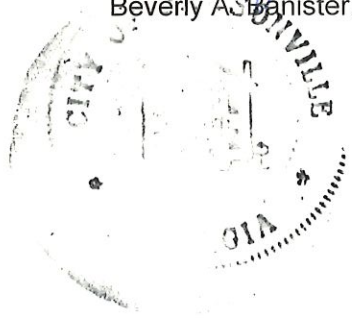
Sandra Sawyer, Councilmember Post 3



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 December 18, 2023.
2. During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.
3. The executive session was called to order at 5:34 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);

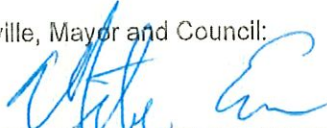
Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(2) and _____;

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 18th day of December 2023; By the City of Dawsonville, Mayor and Council:


Mike Eason, Mayor


Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post #1


William Illg, Councilmember Post #2


John Walden, Councilmember Post #3


Mark French, Councilmember Post #4

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18 day of December, 2023.


Signature, Notary Public

My Commission expires: Feb 18, 2024

