

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS
AUGUST 9, 2010**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, August 9, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Jackie L. Wilson presiding. Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson, Commissioners Robert Moore, Olivia Pearson, Dennis Josey, Johnnie Lee Roper and Marty Swain were in attendance

INVOCATION

Pastor Craig Hutto, First United Methodist Church, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Coffee County School JROTC led The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

MINUTE ADOPTION

The following minutes, were unanimously approved:

**Work Session..... July 26, 2010
Commission Meeting..... July 26, 2010**

A MOTION was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson to approve the minutes of the previous meeting; it was seconded by Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper. The motion was unanimously carried by the Mayor and Commission. **(7-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** to accept the order of the agenda.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey, for approval of the order of the agenda; Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson seconded the motion.

APPROVAL OF THE SECOND READING AND THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2010 TAX ORDINANCE

Following the second reading of the 2010 Tax Ordinance, City Attorney Jerome Adams opened the Public Hearing on the 2010 Tax Ordinance. There was no one present who wished to comment on the matter. The Public Hearing was closed. The Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** **“AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA PROPOSED FOR THE LEVYING OF A TAX UPON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF DOUGLAS SUBJECT TO TAXATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA AND THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF DOUGLAS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2010 AND FOR ALL PURPOSES”**

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A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore for approval and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson.

APPROVAL OF THE FIRST READING TO AMEND THE OCCUPATIONAL TAX ORDINANCE

Ray Parker Code Enforcement Officer requested that the Mayor and Commission approve the amendment to Chapter 22, Article I of the Occupational Tax Ordinance and that it be read for the first time at this meeting.

City Attorney Jerome Adams read the first reading of the amended Occupational Tax Ordinance: **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22 OF THE CITY OF DOUGLAS CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING A SECTION ENTITLED ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ISSUANCE; TO PROVIDE PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR APPEAL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**. The second reading will be heard August 23, 2010.

APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FROM ALLEN PEACOCK

Upon receiving a recommendation from Randall Parker, Permit and Building Inspector, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** the request from Mr. Allen Peacock to build a bridge across the city’s ditch behind Peacock Place Shopping Center provided that a Hold Harmless Agreement is furnished as well as an elevation certificate that shows that the bridge be constructed at least 12 inches to the bottoms of the framing member, above the base flood elevation.

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson for approval and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

ADVERTISEMENT OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Mayor and Commission approved the advertisement for qualified applicants to fill a vacancy to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission, on Channel 13. Application can be picked up from the City Clerk or Community Development Offices. Applications should be submitted by 5:00 PM on Friday, August 20, 2010. The City Codes stipulates that all members reside in the City of Douglas and shall be persons who have demonstrated special interest, experience, or education in history, architecture or the preservation of historic resources.

This item was for public information, no action was taken.

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**APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH PROVIDING NATURAL GAS TO PILGRIMS
PRIDE FEED MILL**

Upon receiving a recommendation from Jerald Guthrie, Purchasing Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved (7-0) the recommendation by Mike Hudson, Gas Director, to accept the low bid received from R.A.W. Construction, LLC, located in Tallahassee, FL, for the installation of gas pipe lines to the Pilgrim's Pride Feed Mill for a grand total of \$155,682.40.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Marty Swain for approval and seconded by Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper.

APPROVAL OF THE DECLARATION OF EQUIPMENT AT SURPLUS

Upon receiving a recommendation from Jerald Guthrie, Purchasing Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved (7-0) and declared the list of equipment that was presented from the various departments as surplus and to allow the City Manager and the Purchasing Director to dispose of these items through the GovDeals on-line auction.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Marty Swain for approval and seconded by Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper.

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE TWO (2) CHICAGO PUMPS FOR THE WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT**

Upon receiving a recommendation from Jerald Guthrie, Purchasing Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved (7-0) the quote received from Pumps South, LLC, located in Leesburg, GA, the single source distributor for Douglas, Georgia, for two (2) Chicago Pumps to be utilized at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for a total cost of \$48,412.00 plus an estimated freight cost of \$1,400.00.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Marty Swain for approval and seconded by Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper.

APPROVAL OF THE REVISED SPEED ZONE ORDINANCE

Chief Gary Casteloes, Police Department, requested to revise the previously approved Speed Zone Ordinance for the City of Douglas. Chief Casteloes explained that there are three (3) specific streets that would bring the city in compliance with the minimum requirement which is 30 mph. This is required by state in order to utilize speed detection. The following streets are Touchton Drive from SR 32 to 206, Gordon Street (West of Chester Ave.), and Bo Jo Ella Drive from North Street to Lou Lane.

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City Attorney, Jerome Adams read the first reading of the Speed Zone Ordinance “AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING LOCAL AUTHORITIES POWER TO ALTER LAWFUL SPEED LIMITS WITHIN THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, COFFEE COUNTY, GEORGIA, PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-6-183 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED”. The second reading will be heard on August 23, 2010.

APPROVAL OF FLAGS PLACED ON POLICE UNIFORMS

Commissioner Bob Moore stated that he has received several calls concerning the American Flag on the Police Uniforms. Commissioner Moore stated that he responded to the concerned citizens that the police department recently received new uniforms and the American Flag has not been placed on them at this time.

Chief Gary Casteloes, City of Douglas Police Department stated that the American Flags are placed on the front. Chief Casteloes explained that he looked at several areas of placing the flag on the uniforms. Chief Casteloes explained that officer’s safety as well as recognizing police officers from different angles was a concern.

Commissioner Moore stated that he would like to see the American Flag placed back on the police officers uniforms.

Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson asked Commissioner Moore if he wanted to make that statement into a motion.

Commissioner Bob Moore made a **motion** to have a patch with the American Flag placed back on the uniforms of the police department immediately, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson.

Discussion: Commissioner Dennis Josey inquired concerning the expense of having the patch of the American Flag placed on the police uniforms.

Chief Casteloes responded that it would be an expense of \$.90 cents per shirt in which all officers has a minimum of four (4) shirts.

After much discussion Bob Moore voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson, Commissioners Josey, Pearson, Swain and Roper **opposed** the **motion**.

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Commissioner Dennis Josey made a **motion** that on all future orders of the Public Safety Departments the American flag be placed on all uniforms and to look into the cost of replacing the uniforms. The **motion** was seconded by Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper. The Mayor and Commission unanimously approved the motion that was presented by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

(7-0)

Commissioner Olivia Pearson welcomed Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper back from being hospitalized.

Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper thanked the Mayor, Commission, staff, employees and citizens for their prayers and concerns during his hospital stay.

MAYOR STATEMENT

Mayor Jackie Wilson stated that per the City Charter she is to conduct the meetings to preserve order and decorum as her responsibility as Mayor. Therefore the following steps were taken:

Citizens will be allowed the maximum of ten (10) minutes, to ask their question and concerns and keep it in that ten (10) minute time period. Citizens will need to stick to the issue and no personal attacks.

Commissioners and citizens will be recognized by the Mayor before they speak. There will not be any interruptions from anyone while the person has the floor. After that the person will take their seat, and then if a commissioner wishes to comment they will have the floor. The City Clerk will have a record of the question and comments. There will not be any unruly comments. Mayor Wilson also stated that this is the legal way of conducting a meeting.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Tammy Tim of 508 South Gaskin Avenue stated that on Thursday she paid her light bill at 9:12 am, which was disconnected. Friday night when Ms. Tim proceeded to go to her place of business she realized that her lights were disconnected. Ms. Tim called Monday August 9th, at 9:30 am to see the reason for her lights not being reconnected after she had made her utility and reconnected payment. Ms. Tim stated that she spoke to Tammy Jackson who transferred her to someone else. At that point Ms Tim arrived at city hall around 11:30 am, and talked to Gloria Ricketson where she explained that she paid her bill and reconnection fee. Ms. Tim also stated her concerns for appearing before the Mayor and Commission was due to services not being restored after three days of making the payment. Ms. Tim stated that she felt Ms. Ricketson acted very unprofessional while explaining her situation. Ms. Tim stated that Ms. Ricketson made inappropriate gestures

concerning her to another employee while she assisted her. Ms. Tim suggests that the camera's be reviewed where it will show Ms. Ricketson unprofessional behavior.

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Ms. Tim requested to see Ms. Ricketson's supervisor. Ms. Tim explained that Ms. Ricketson stated that her supervisor was the person that took her money and did not get her bill correct.

Mayor Wilson stated to Ms. Tim that the City Manager will check into this incident and get back with her.

Charles Harper residing at 185 Muscovy Drive stated that he has three (3) businesses and his wife Beth Harper is the owner of Southern Senior Living Douglas Homecare all within the city limits. Mr. Harper expressed concern that upon the closure of one of the city's largest industries the utility rates increased due to the revenue of that industries closing. Mr. Harper stated that when large industries leave the community the burden falls on the small business owners. Mr. Harper questioned if the Mayor and Commission would consider reducing utility rates from where they were a year ago due to his business utilities increasing by 24% compared to this time period of January to August of last year. Mr. Harper would like for the Mayor and Commission to consider giving the small business owners the same utility rates that the city or the Economic Development Authority negotiated with a larger industry that is returning to the community. He felt that it would be only fair that small business owners have equal treatment.

Hal Presley, P O Box 2126, Douglas, Georgia questioned the Mayor and Commission on the names of the persons that are serving on the Ethics Committee.

Mayor Wilson responded that the city would get back with Mr. Presley concerning this question.

Cheryl Cunningham of 207 Pinecrest Drive, Douglas Georgia, stated that she had several questions that had yet to be answered. Ms. Cunningham stated that she filed a complaint on the following individuals: Mayor Jackie Wilson, City Manager, Terrell Jacobs, Commissioner Ronnie Anderson, Assistant City Manager Charlie Davis, and Assistant Head Cashier Gloria Ricketson. Ms. Cunningham stated that in November the Mayor and Commission signed an Ethics Procedure Policy that stated the City of Douglas was a town of Ethics, and she had not seen the commissioners demonstrate professional ethics. She stated that procedure stated that she has 30 days before someone hears her complaint. Ms. Cunningham questioned who was on the Ethics Board because when she went to find out she was told that there was no one serving on the Ethics Board. Ms. Cunningham expressed concern of not being treated fairly due to the city not establishing an Ethics Board in about 6 or 7 years. Ms. Cunningham expressed concern of the Mayor and

Commission being the ones to appoint the members with the complaints being against three that is on the Board of Commission.

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Ms. Cunningham also stated that the person who Ms. Tim had a complained against was the individual that took her payment and did not reconnect her services. This person was Charlie Davis. Ms. Cunningham stated that Barbara Anderson was terminated because of the same situation.

Ms. Cunningham stated that since Charlie Davis made a mistake in leaving a business off for three (3) days, Ms. Tim should be compensated and Mr. Davis should be written up for his actions. Ms. Cunningham also stated that she has publicly announced three (3) mistakes that Charlie Davis has made 1) he had a procedure that was not written 2) fired Barbara Anderson concerning a statement that he had a customer to write and the customer came before the commission to inform them that Charlie Davis asked her to write the statement. 3) Ms. Tim appeared before the commission tonight to inform them that Mr. Davis took her money and never had her services reconnected until three (3) days later.

Ms. Cunningham stated that when she asked a question no one knows the answer and she is directed to the City Attorney and he has not gotten back with her as well. Ms. Cunningham requested that she be given the answers to her questions she has asked before the commission, concerning the persons serving on the Ethics Board, and if the Ethics Board does not hear her complaint within fifteen (15) days due to her complaint was written (15) days ago she would like direction on her next step.

Mayor Wilson started that the City Manager could handle these concerns without there being a heated discussion.

Commissioner Olivia Pearson asked if the Commission will receive a response from the City Manager regarding these citizens concerns. Commissioner Pearson stated that she agrees there should be rules for the Commissioners meetings, however, she doesn't want the citizens to come before the Board of Commission and nothing is being resolved. She would like to have feedback whether it's verbally or written from the City Manager.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson stated he would like to know the situation concerning Tammy Tim, from the time she came in to pay the bill, who took the money and who was responsible.

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ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Jackie L. Wilson, Mayor

Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk