

MINUTES
MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

JUNE 20, 2022

The Work Session of the Board of Commissioners was held Monday, June 20, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the C. E. Weir Center. Mayor Tony L. Paulk began the Work Session discussion. Mayor Pro Tem Edwin Taylor, Commissioners Cindy McNeill and Steve Bailey were present. Commissioners Olivia Pearson, Kentaiwon Durham and Mike Gowen was absent.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

REVIEW OF JUNE 13, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

The first business item presented by City Manager Charles Davis was to review the Board of Commissioners' June 13, 2022 (Work Session/Regular Minutes). Mayor Tony L. Paulk requested that the Commissioners offer any changes so that the City Clerk could correctly record the minutes for historical data.

It was the consensus of the Commission to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

DISCUSSED VACANCY ON DOUGLAS-COFFEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to seek approval to publicize a vacancy on the Douglas-Coffee County Planning Commission.

Mrs. Henderson stated that the Douglas-Coffee County Planning Commission is seeking to fill the vacant seat of Mr. Steve Bailey, who can no longer serve due to being elected as a City Commissioner. The vacancy must be filled by someone who is a resident or business owner in Douglas. Staff would like to follow the standard procedure to publicize the vacancy for two weeks or until applications are received and then bring the item before the Mayor and Commission for approval of the appointment. The newly appointed member will serve the remainder of the term through December 31, 2025.

It was the consensus of the Commission to move this item forward on the **Regular Agenda**.

DISCUSSED DECLARING EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS

Nikki Thompson, Purchasing Agent, appeared before the Commission to seek approval from the Mayor and Board of Commissioners, to declare the attached list of items as surplus property and allow their disposal thru the GovDeals Auction site.

Mrs. Thompson stated that this is a request to declare the attached list of equipment as surplus and to allow the Purchasing Agent and City Manager to dispose of these items through the GovDeals online auction site.

It was the consensus of the Commission to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

RATIFICATION OF FREEDOM FIREWORKS LLC CONTRACT

Charles Davis, City Manager, appeared before the Commission to seek approval of the Mayor and Commission to ratify the Freedom Fireworks LLC contract for the 4th of July celebration.

Mr. Davis stated the Exchange Club has disbanded and therefore will not be doing the 4th of July firework celebration this year. We were hoping that another civic organization would champion the cause but they have not. I have reached out to the same vendor to do this, this year. Freedom Fireworks out of Warner Robins will do it on July 4th for approximately \$14,000. Again, like last year, the City of Douglas is facilitating this with local contributions.

It was the consensus of the Commission to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

DISCUSSED CITY OF DOUGLAS ELECTED CAR ALLOWANCE

Charles Davis, City Manager, appeared before the Commission to seek approval for the stoppage of the car-gas allowance for the elected and switch back to an “accountable” actual expense reimbursement plan, whereby reimbursements are substantiated by actual miles driven for City purposes.

Mr. Davis stated on August 14, 2017, the Mayor and Council approved a car-gas allowance income policy for the elected without getting it approved by the Georgia State Assembly. IN late March 2022, the Federal government questioned our policy of paying above our authorized charter compensation amount of \$800/month for the mayor and \$600/month for the commission members. I consulted with our auditors (Hurst & Hurst) and City Attorney Jerome Adams along with former City Manager Terrell Jacobs and all confirmed that the car allowance has created a total compensation that is above the State Of Georgia approved City of Douglas charter compensation amount.

Since we are about to close out fiscal (FY) year 2022 and start the FY'22 audit, in order to not have a finding, we must immediately stop the car-gas allowance and switch back to an “accountable” actual expense reimbursement plan, whereby reimbursements are substantiated by actual miles driven for City purposes.

It was the consensus of the Commission to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

GENERAL COMMENTS (3 MINUTES)

There were no general comments.


CITY MANAGER UPDATES

There were no updates from the City Manager.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, the work session meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.


Wynetta Bolder, CMC


Mayor Tony L. Paulk

