

**MINUTES  
WORKSESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA  
MAY 12, 2025**

**The Board of Commissioners held a work session on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Tony L. Paulk presided over the meeting with Mayor Pro Tem Cindy McNeill, Commissioners Edwin Taylor, Mike Gowen, Tony Paulk II, and Brenda Moore in attendance. Commissioner Steve Bailey was absent.**

**REVIEWED APRIL 28, 2025, MEETING MINUTES**

Charles Davis, City Manager, presented the first item, reviewing the meeting minutes of the Board of Commissioners on April 28th, 2025. Mayor Tony L. Paulk, I asked the Commissioners to propose any changes to ensure accurate historical record-keeping.

The Commission agreed to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

**DISCUSSED THE APPROVAL OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL PUBLIC ART PROJECT FOR ROUND TREE PARK**

The Jr. Mayor's Youth Council members, including Zipporah Wilcox, Nyelie Moran, and Jr. City Clerk Jada Marshall presented before the Commission of Georgia to seek approval for a Public Art Placemaking Grant through Georgia City Solutions. This grant will support an art project organized by the Parks and Recreation Department at Roundtree Park.

Jr. Commissioner Wilcox explained that the Mayor's Youth Council has applied for a \$500 Public Art Placemaking Grant and is requesting a \$100 match from the City of Douglas. During their meeting on April 21, 2025, the Mayor's Youth Council voted unanimously to move forward with this project and to seek approval and a letter of support from the Mayor and Commission.

Additionally, Jr. Commissioner Moran and Jr. City Clerk Marshall outlined how the funding would be allocated and emphasized that the Mayor's Youth Council could contribute to this initiative, providing a positive opportunity for community artistic engagement. The Mayor and Commission decided to match \$200.00 towards the grant.

The Commission agreed to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

**DISCUSSED THE REQUEST TO HOLD EVENTS IN TOWN CENTER SPONSORED BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Georgia Henderson, the Assistant City Manager, appeared before the Commission to request permission for the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Development Authority to host events in the Town Center and Downtown Development District, provided they comply with City Ordinances.

Mrs. Henderson explained that the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Authority frequently organize promotional and community events in these areas. An upcoming example is the "Sip and Stroll" Final Friday event, which will take place on the last Friday of each month from May to September. This agenda item seeks approval for all future events that these two entities organize if they adhere to City Ordinances.

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**DISCUSSED THE REQUEST TO HOLD EVENTS IN TOWN CENTER SPONSORED BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY-CONTINUE**

Commissioner Moore expressed concerns about the restrictions on alcohol servings. After considerable discussion, the Commission decided to move this agenda item forward.

The Commission agreed to advance this item on the **Regular Agenda**.

**DISCUSSED THE TEXT AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 111, UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ARTICLE VII – SUPPLEMENTAL STANDARDS – SECTION 111-251 - MASONRY WALL**

Georgia Henderson, the Assistant City Manager, addressed the Commission to discuss the establishment of more specific standards for visual screening. The City's goal is to minimize potential conflicts and nuisances associated with industrial uses while allowing for flexible, practical, and aesthetically pleasing solutions. The proposed amendment aims to improve land use compatibility and protect the character and visual quality of adjacent residential, commercial, and non-industrial districts.

Mrs. Henderson explained that this proposed text amendment to the City of Douglas Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) pertains to Article VII—Supplemental Standards, specifically Section 111-251(r)(3) within Municode. This amendment enhances buffer and screening requirements where industrial-zoned properties border non-industrial districts.

**\*\*Summary of the Amendment: \*\***

The proposed revision to Section 111-251(r)(3) introduces clear, enforceable standards that require industrial-zoned uses abutting any non-industrial zoning district to be visually screened from adjacent properties.

The required screening must consist of either:

- A solid fence, or
- A chain-link fence with green or black slats.

The Community Development Director may approve an opaque landscape buffer instead of a wall, provided it meets the following criteria:

- It is equally effective at screening views between properties,
- It is a minimum of six (6) feet in height and no more than ten (10) feet,
- It is installed along the entire length of the shared property line.

This amendment balances consistent regulatory expectations and administrative flexibility for property owners, developers, and the City.

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**DISCUSSED THE TEXT AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 111, UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ARTICLE VII – SUPPLEMENTAL STANDARDS – SECTION 111-251 - MASONRY WALL- CONTINUE**

Ultimately, this amendment supports the City of Douglas's broader goals of promoting orderly development, reducing conflicts in land use, and enhancing community appearance.

The Commission agreed to move this item forward on the Regular Agenda.

**GENERAL COMMENTS (3 MINUTES)**

No Comments

**CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE**

City Manager Charles Davis updated the Commission about Commissioner Bailey, who recently had surgery and is recovering.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Without further discussion, the work session meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

  
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Mayor Tony L. Paulk I

  
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Wynetta J. Bolder, CMC



