

**MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF DOUGLAS  
MARCH 11, 2013**

**A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, March 11, 2013 at 7:10P.M. The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James H. Dennis presiding. Mayor Pro Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Richard Hutchinson, Robert Moore, Dennis Josey, Ronnie Anderson, and Olivia Pearson.**

**INVOCATION**

Tommy Harrell, Customer Service Manager gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Coffee High NJROTC led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**MINUTE ADOPTION**

The following minutes were unanimously approved:

**Work Session .....February 25, 2013  
Commission Meeting.....February 25, 2013**

A **MOTION** to **unanimously** approve **(6-0)** the minutes with corrections was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

**APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

The Commission **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** to the order of the Agenda.

A **MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Bob Moore, and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

**RECOGNITION OF THE COFFEE COUNTY 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM**

Rick Jones, Coach of the Coffee County School System recognized the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Team as the South Georgia Athletic Conference Champions.

**RECOGNITION OF THE EMORY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

Terrell Jacobs, City Manager presented the Emory University Students, to the Mayor and Commission. They are a group of students that volunteer for community service during spring and winter break in different communities around the state of Georgia.

**APPROVAL OF THE ECG MEMBERSHIP CONTRACT**

Upon recommendation from Lamar Hill, Electric Department Director, the Commission unanimously approved **(6-0)** the Electric Cities of Georgia Contract for three years beginning July 2013 and ending June 2016, at a cost of \$6,461 per year.

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**APPROVAL OF THE ECG MEMBERSHIP CONTRACT-CONTINUED**

A **MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain.

**APPROVAL OF THE CHANGING DATES FOR COMMISSION MEETING DUE TO (ECG) ELECTRIC CITIES OF GEORGIA'S ANNUAL**

Upon recommendation from Terrell Jacobs, City Manager unanimously approved **(6-0)** changing Commission Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> due to ECG's Annual Meeting & Economic Development Forum

A **MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

**FIRST READING OF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

Rodger Goddard, Code Enforcer, recommended that the City Attorney Jerome Adams conduct the first reading to amend Section 6-8 of the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance extending the selling time 1:30 a.m. closing time 2:30 a.m. for Class III Establishments (restaurants/private clubs). **“AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF DOUGLAS CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 6, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SECTION 6-8, CLOSING, CLEARING OF PREMISES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”** after properly advertising the caption as required under the Charter of the City of Douglas, the second reading will be held on March 21, 2013 at the Regular Commissioners Meeting.

Commissioner Anderson questioned in a Class III Establishments can you sale beyond midnight on Saturday night.

Jerome Anderson, City Attorney responded that you cannot have bottle or package sales beyond midnight in Class III Establishments.

**No action was taken at this time**

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OPPOSING HB 176-CELL TOWERS**

Upon recommendation from Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, the Commission unanimously approved **(6-0)** a Resolution to Request the Georgia Legislature oppose HB 176 which would impose significant restrictions on the ability of local government officials to regulate the placement of cell towers in their communities.

A **MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE NOTICE**

Terrell Jacobs, City Manager announced that the city's CDBG application for the North Pearl Redevelopment Project Area was approved by DCA. The Public Disclosure of relatives residing within a project area is a requirement of the grant. Ms. Anita Cofer resides within the project area and is the second cousin of the Mayor. A copy of the Public Disclosure Notice has been posted on the bulletin board in City Hall. The City Attorney has submitted a written opinion that there is no Conflict of Interest in this matter. Copies of the minutes of this meeting, the Public Notice and the City Attorney's Opinion will be submitted to DCA.

**Informational purposes only, no action taken.**

**APPROVAL OF THE LED LIGHTING FIXTURES ECG BID**

Upon recommendation from Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent the Commission unanimously approved **(6-0)** the purchase of eighty (80) LED Cobrahead Lights from the low bidder meeting specifications Gresco Utility of Forsyth, Georgia for a grand total of **\$43,840.00.**

**A MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

**APPROVAL OF THE ROVVER X 130 CRAWLER SEWER CAMERA**

Upon recommendation from Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent the Commission unanimously approved **(6-0)** the purchase of one (1) Rovver X 130 crawler with trailer that was discussed in tonight's Work Session, and award this item to the Single Source Vendor, Environmental Products of Georgia located in Atlanta, Georgia for a grand total price of **\$98,250.00.**

**A MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.

**APPROVAL OF THE VACTOR 2100 PLUS SEWER CLEANER**

Upon recommendation from Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent the Commission unanimously approved **(6-0)** the purchase of one (1) Vactor 2100 Plus sewer cleaner attached to a 2014 Freightliner 114SD truck that was discussed in tonight's Work Session, and award this item to the Single Source Vendor, Environmental Products of Georgia located in Atlanta, Georgia for a grand total price of **\$285,923.00.**

**A MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

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**APPROVAL OF THE AVERAGE MONTHLY PAYMENT (AMP)**

Upon recommendation from Tommy Harrell, Customer Service Manager, the Commission approved **(5-1)** to offer utility customers an option to enroll in the Running Average method of the Utility Average Monthly Payment (AMP). To be eligible for the AMP, the customer must have twelve full months of billing history on the account (or twelve months history on the prior location when transferring) and cannot be under a Contract Payment Plan. While under an AMP, the customer is not eligible for a Contract Payment Plan. If the customer decides to stop the AMP, they will have settle-up with the City on the next created statement. If the customer owes addition money, it will be reflected on the next created bill. If the City owes the customer money, this will be a credit to their account unless the customer closes the account and does not establish a new account immediately. If there is a credit balance on the account once the account finals out the City will prepare a check to be mailed to the customer. Once a customer closes an AMP either by request or by abandoning the account, the customer will not be eligible for another AMP for twelve months from the time they closed the prior AMP in his/her name.

**A MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson. Commissioner Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Marty Swain, Bob Moore and Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson voted in **favor of the motion**. Commissioner Ronnie Anderson **voted against the motion**.

**APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT PAYMENT PLANS UP TO 12 MONTHS**

Upon recommendation from Tommy Harrell, Customer Service Manager, the Commission approved **(4-2)** to allow adjustment in our current Utility Billing Procedures to allow staff to extend up to 12 months versus 3 months as it currently stands within the Utility department as presented at the Work Session.

**A MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson. Commissioner Dennis Josey, Marty Swain, Richard Hutchinson and Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson voted in **favor of the motion**. Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and Bob Moore **voted against the motion**.

**ELECTION FOR MAYOR PRO TEM**

Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk was instructed by Mayor Dennis to pass out the ballots and calculate the votes for the election of the Mayor Pro Tem.

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**APPROVAL OF THE POTENTIAL RENTAL OF OLD POLICE DEPARTMENT  
BUILDING TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF SOUTH GEORGIA**

Upon recommendation from Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, the Commission unanimously approved **(6-0)** for staff to negotiate a lease agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Coffee County for the entire or portion of the building at 210 Jackson Street and bring back a final lease agreement once negotiated for consideration at a future meeting.

**A MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

**RESULTS OF THE ELECTION FOR MAYOR PRO TEM**

Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk announced that the Mayor Pro Tem of 2013 was Commissioner Marty Swain.

Mayor Dennis congratulated Commissioner Marty Swain for becoming Mayor Pro Tem for 2013. Also Mayor Dennis thanked Mayor Pro Tem Pearson for serving as Mayor Pro Tem for 2012.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

- Georgia Henderson, Central Services Director, noted the following upcoming events:
- Hands Craft Program sponsored by Coats and Clarks, Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Heritage Station Museum and Douglas Visitors Center.
  - Tiny Tots Easter Egg Program March 30<sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the J.C. Adams Municipal Park.
  - Broxton Rocks Tour, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m., Also an Easter Egg Hunt and Open House Tour will be held March 31<sup>st</sup> 12- 5p.m.
  - Applications for the Citizens Academy 101 Program will be accepted for the 9-week course.
  - Spring Fling Gigantic Indoor Yard Sale will be held April 6, 2013.
  - South Georgia Outdoor Expo held August 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
  - Job Announcement: Utility Service Works and position with the Recreation Department.

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**STAFF COMMENTS-CONTINUED**

- Vacancies on the Historical Preservation Authority.
- Douglas Fire Department will be doing hydrant testing March 17<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 p.m. Also the Water Department will be doing water testing. Ms. Henderson informed citizens if they see red in the line that is a part of the testing.

Mrs. Henderson stated that for any announcement please go to the city's website or register for the "Notify Me" Module.

Mike Hudson, Gas/Water/Wastewater Director instructed citizens if they notice red water to please flush their lines.

**MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson thanked everyone that prayed, visit or brought a dish during her time of bereavement. Also Mayor Pro Tem Pearson stated that she enjoyed serving as Mayor Pro Tem and congratulated Commissioner Marty Swain for being appointed as Mayor Pro Tem.

Commissioner Richard Hutchinson stated that Young's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is partnering with Wiregrass Technical College is gathering names for the G.E.D. program. Commissioner Hutchinson informed citizens if anyone is interested to contact him at 912.310.84014 or 912.327.3179.

Commissioner Marty Swain thanked everyone for consider him as Mayor Pro Tem and he is very appreciative. Thanked the boys and Girls Club for considering the City of Douglas for being their new home.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson stated they she had received numerous calls concerning her being absent. She stated she has been having health issues.

Mayor James Dennis thanked the students from Emory University. Also Mayor Dennis announced a food drive at the Church Christ, March 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00a.m. - 3 p.m., located on 911Martin Luther King Drive. Thanked everyone that made the Youth Art Fair Festival a success. Congratulate the Middle School Basketball team.

Roger Johnson gave an update on our 9 & 10 Mite League and the 11 and 12 Junior League Boys and Girls Basketball Team.

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**MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS-COMMENTS**

Mayor Dennis requested for citizens to assist in keeping our community clean and nice. Also he informed citizens that removal of trash cans from the right-a-way goes into effect April 1<sup>st</sup>, for assistance with knowing the correct place for your trash receptacle contact the Code Enforcement Division. Mayor Dennis thanked everyone for the hard work with this meeting.

**MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS-CONTINUED**

Commissioner Swain stated that he decline from being nominated as a District 11 Officer and nominated Mayor Pro Tem Pearson for a District 11 Officer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss in the Regular Meeting, a motion to adjourn to Executive Session was made by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson and was seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson. The Commission unanimously approved **(6-0)** to adjourn to the Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**LAND ACQUISITION**

Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, discussed land acquisitions with the Mayor and Commission. Jerome Adams, City Attorney and Judy Carter, Human Resources Director, were in attendance.

**PERSONNEL ISSUES**

Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, discussed personnel issues with the Mayor and Commission. Jerome Adams, City Attorney, and Judy Carter, Human Resources Director, were in attendance.

Commissioner Ronnie Anderson made the **MOTION** to adjourn from Executive Session and to return to the regular meeting, **MOTION** was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey, and **approved** by all. **(6-0)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Richard Hutchinson made the motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson. The Commission unanimously approved **(6-0)** at 8:14 p.m.

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CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

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**James H. Dennis, Mayor**

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**Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk**

