

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, September 9, 2013 at 7:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James H. Dennis presiding and Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Ronnie Anderson, Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Olivia Pearson and Richard Hutchinson present.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Olivia Pearson called on Larry Nesmith, NAACP President to give the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Coffee County High School Naval JROTC Cadets led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES ADOPTION

The following minutes were unanimously approved:

Work Session..... August 26, 2013
Commission Meeting..... August 26, 2013

A **MOTION** to unanimously approve the minutes as printed was made by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the minutes as printed.

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Commission **unanimously** approved the order of the Agenda.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the order of the Agenda as discussed in the work session.

SWEARING IN OF CHIEF TIM WHITE AS POLICE OFFICER

Deputy Chief Brannen Pruette led the ceremony for the swearing in of Fire Chief Tim White as a Reserve Officer. He will be working to assist the investigators with arson type investigations. Chief White was sworn in by Mayor James Dennis.

Chief Gary Casteloos also acknowledged that Chief Tim White is also a State Fire Marshall. With his law enforcement certification, he can now investigate from both aspects.

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APPROVE RECIPROCAL SEWER & UTILITY EASEMENT AGREEMENT

Upon recommendation of Michael Hudson, Gas/Water/Wastewater Director, the Mayor and Commission approved the Reciprocal Sewer & Utility Easement Agreement.

A **MOTION** to approve the Reciprocal Sewer & Utility Easement Agreement was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the Reciprocal Sewer & Utility Easement Agreement as discussed in the work session.

APPROVE AIRPORT COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS

Upon recommendation of Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Mayor and Commission approved the Airport Commission re-appointments of Joey Hand, Tom Smith and Jim Rimes with terms beginning October 1, 2013 and ending September 30, 2013.

A **MOTION** to approve the Airport Commission re-appointments was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the Airport Commission re-appointments.

APPROVE RIGHT-OF-WAY OFFERS FOR SR 135 WIDENING PROJECT

Upon recommendation of Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Mayor and Commission approved the prices offered for needed right-of-way, temporary and permanent construction easements for the SR 135 Widening Project between SR 135/US 441 South to SR 32 subject to the Board of Regents releasing Parcel No. 1.

A **MOTION** to approve the prices offered for needed right-of-way, temporary and permanent construction easements for the SR 135 Widening Project between SR 135/US 441 South to SR 32 with the assumption that the Board of Regents releases Parcel No. 1 was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** to approve the prices offered for needed right-of-way, temporary and permanent construction easements for the SR 135 Widening Project between SR 135/US 441 South to SR 32 with the assumption that the Board of Regents releases Parcel No. 1.

APPROVE RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2013 AIR BASE COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION MASTER PLAN

Upon recommendation of Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Mayor and Commission approved the Resolution adopting the 2013 Air Base Comprehensive Historic Preservation Master Plan.

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A **MOTION** to approve the Resolution adopting the 2013 Air Base Comprehensive Historic Preservation Master Plan was made by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the Resolution adopting the 2013 Air Base Comprehensive Historic Preservation Master Plan.

APPROVE CLOSURE OF A PORTION OF EAST BRYAN STREET FOR HOMETOWN HARVEST

Upon recommendation from Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director, the Commission unanimously approved the request to close the portion of East Bryan street beginning at N. Madison Avenue to Pearl Avenue for the Hometown Harvest Event being held October 31st.

A **MOTION** to approve the closure of a portion of East Bryan Street was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** to approve the closure of a portion of E. Bryan Street for Hometown Harvest.

APPROVE STOP THE VIOLENCE MARCH AND USE OF CITY FACILITY

Upon recommendation from Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, the Commission unanimously approved the request to proclaim the month of November as Stop the Violence month. It was also approved for the Stop the Violence March to take place beginning at the 9th Grade Academy on S. Gaskin Avenue continuing to the City Gym on November 9th. Lastly, it was approved to waive fees for use of the city facilities to hold a community wide job fair/training seminar.

A **MOTION** to approve these three requests was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Swain and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** to approve all three requests as discussed in the work session.

STAFF COMMENTS

Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director, noted the following upcoming events:

- Cemetery Board has (1) one vacancy and the Housing Authority Board has (1) one.
- Registration for Christmas Parade started last week
- Job Openings within the city: Warehouse Coordinator, Level 2 Mechanic and a Part-time Volunteer Firefighter. Apply online or in person at City Hall.

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- Nicholls Founders Day Parade & Event will be September 26-27, 2013
- Applications are being accepted now for the Hometown Harvest that will be held October 31st.

Mr. Jacobs announced that the 3rd Community Clean Up will be held at Wheeler Park on Saturday, September 21st. He also thanked everyone for their participation in the last Community Clean up that was held August 31st at Unity Park as well as thanked the churches for providing food (College Avenue and Young's Chapel). It was very successful.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Larry Nesmith, President of the NAACP Coffee County Chapter thanked the Mayor and Commissioners for approving the Stop the Violence Initiative requests.

MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Dennis Josey congratulated our Police and Sheriff Departments for solving some of our outstanding murder cases. He stated that he felt they had done a terrific job.

Commissioner Richard Hutchinson stated that he wanted to thank the citizens of Douglas for coming forward and providing information to help solve the crimes.

Mayor Dennis stated the following:

- Thanked the volunteers that participated with the Community Clean-up.
- Reminded everyone about public safety and the Stop the Violence Campaign
- Thanked staff and all our workers for all of the hard work
- Reminded everyone that recreation activities start tomorrow and encouraged everyone to get out and watch them

ADJOURNMENT TO UTILITY COMMISSION HEARING

With no further business to discuss in the Regular Meeting, a motion was made to adjourn to Utility Commission Hearing was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved (**6-0**) to adjourn to a Utility Commission Hearing.

UTILITY COMMISSION APPEAL:

Tommy Harrell, Customer Service Manager, appeared before the Mayor and Commission with a customer whose utility bill was unusually high for a period of 2 months. It was explained that the customer, Darren Lee Marshall, Jr, had a busted pipe under the house that he is renting which caused a spike in the utility bill. Sewer portion of the bill has already been adjusted. Tenants were told to contact the Landlord. Kevin Davis went out and spoke with Landlord and told the Landlord that he could turn the water off but the Landlord refused to let him turn it off. After much discussion, it was agreed upon to credit back half of the amount back to the customer which equates to about \$246.88.

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A **MOTION** to approve an adjustment of \$246.88 for the water account of Darren Lee Marshall, Jr. was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Dennis Josey were in favor of the **MOTION**. Commissioner Ronnie Anderson was opposed to the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** carried (5-1).

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

With no further business to discuss in the Utility Commission Hearing, a motion to adjourn to Executive Session was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved (6-0) to adjourn to a Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor James Dennis, Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson were in attendance of the Executive Session.

Updates on litigation and personnel issues were discussed in the Executive Session.

With no further issues to discuss in Executive Session, Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain made the **MOTION** to adjourn from Executive Session and to return to the regular meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore and **approved** by all. (6-0)

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dennis Josey made a motion to adjourn Regular Session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

James H. Dennis, Mayor

Kristi L. Morgan, Deputy City Clerk