

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

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, December 9, 2013 at 7:15 P.M., in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James H. Dennis presiding Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and Commissioners Ronnie Anderson, Bob Moore, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Dennis Josey present.

INVOCATION

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain introduced Pastor Craig Johnson of Lighthouse Church of God to give the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTES ADOPTION

The following minutes were unanimously approved:

Work Session.....November 25, 2013
Commission Meeting.....November 25, 2013

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and 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 Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and 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.

NOTICE TO SHOW CAUSE (WESTERN MOTEL)

Jerome Adams, City Attorney, appeared before Mayor and Commission to bring forth a notice to show cause why the Western Motel should not have their business license revoked for failure to remit their hotel and motel tax.

Mr. Adams asked if anyone was present representing the Western Motel. After no response from the audience, Mr. Adams proceeded to explain to Mayor and Commission that this is the second appearance before them. On June 27th there was a problem with Western Motel and they were

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NOTICE TO SHOW CAUSE (WESTERN MOTEL)-CONTINUED

given a notice to Show Cause why their business license should not be revoked. As a result, the Commission voted to revoke their business license and suspend their utilities. They came in and paid the city \$15,210.00. Since the last payment in July 2013 of \$15,210, they have not paid their hotel and motel tax. The city has estimated a delinquency of \$7,750 for hotel and motel tax.

Upon recommendation of Jerome Adams, City Attorney, a **MOTION** to approve revoking business license and suspending Sai Baba Hospitality, LLC dba Western Motel utilities effective Tuesday, December 10th due to failure to remit the Motel/Hotel tax imposed by Section 82-31 et.de.of Code of Ordinance of the City of Douglas was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved (**6-0**) to approve revoking Sai Baba Hospitality, LLC dba Western Motel business license and suspending their utilities.

PRESENTATION TO UNISON BEHAVIORAL FACILITIES

Mr. Allen Brown, a representative of Unison Behavior Facilities, was presented with a check from the City of Douglas to assist individuals with mental healthcare. Mr. Jacobs stated that city also presented a check to the Georgia Regional Hospital located in Savannah for the Mayor's Motorcade.

APPROVAL OF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Upon recommendation of Randall Parker, Permit and Inspections Division, a **MOTION** to approve the request of Brandy Grainger for an alcoholic beverage license, consumption on the premises for Legends Capers Bar and Bistro located at 1005 North Peterson Avenue was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro Tem Marty Swain and Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved (**6-0**) the request of Brandy Grainger for an alcoholic beverage license for the premises for Legends Capers Bar and Bistro.

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL CONCRETE WORK BID

Upon recommendation from Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent, a **MOTION** was made to approve the bid for FY'14 Annual Concrete Work bid, award this bid to S&S Asphalt of Douglas, Georgia and also approve the additional two (2) one year extensions if this vendor can hold their bid pricing, and if it is in the best interest of the City of Douglas to extend this bid. In addition to the above, also approved to give staff the authority to obtain line pricing for unforeseen items not included in this line item contract as deemed necessary to complete future

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APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL CONCRETE WORK BID - CONTINUED

SPLOST streets. The motion was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** to the annual concrete work bid.

APPROVAL OF THE FY'14 LOCAL MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Upon recommendation from Jacob Lott, Public Works Director/City Engineer, a **MOTION** to approve the submittal of the FY'14 Department of Transportation Local Maintenance Improvement Grant Application in the amount of \$126,344.62 and authorize the local match of \$37,903.38 making the total project cost of \$164,248.00 was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the submittal of the FY'14 Department of Transportation Local Maintenance Improvement Grant Application

APPROVAL OF THE COFFEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Upon recommendation of Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director, a **MOTION** to approve the Plan of Action and By-Laws for the Coffee County Historical Society was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the Plan of Action and By-Laws for the Coffee County Historical Society.

APPROVAL OF THE AIR BASE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Upon recommendation of Dale Batten, Community Development Director, a **MOTION** to approve the appointment of Frank Bussey to serve on the Air Base Preservation and Development Committee for the term beginning January 1, 2014 and expiring on December 31, 2016, and to continue to advertise for one more position was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the appointment of Frank Bussey to the Air Base Preservation and Development Committee for the term beginning January 1, 2014 and expiring on December 31, 2016.

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**APPROVAL OF THE DOUGLAS/COFFEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
APPOINTMENT**

Upon recommendation of Dale Batten, Community Development Director, a **MOTION** to approve the reappointment of Rose Mary Street to serve on the Douglas/Coffee County Planning Commission with the term being effective January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2017 was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the reappointment of Rose Mary Street to the Douglas Coffee County Planning Commission.

**APPROVAL OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
APPOINTMENTS**

Dale Batten, Community Development Director, announced the two terms expiring on the Downtown Development Authority. Staff will advertise these vacancies on Channel 13 for a two week period

Anyone desiring to serve on DDA must meet the stipulations listed below.

- (1) Taxpayers residing in the municipal corporation for which the authority is created;
- (2) Owners or operators of businesses located within the downtown development area and who shall be taxpayers residing in the county in which is located the municipal corporation for which the authority is created; or
- (3) Persons having a combination of the qualifications specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection.

Mrs. Batten stated that the terms of David Norris and Elsworth Swanson, Sr., will expire December 31, 2013. Mr. Swanson is an initial member and has served on DDA for thirty-one (31) years. Mr. Norris has served on DDA for seventeen (17) years. Neither of these gentlemen wish to be considered for reappointment.

Mayor Dennis stated that the city thanks both of these gentlemen for their service and the city will recognize them at a later date.

It was the consensus of the Mayor and Commission to extend the two week period of advertising the positions due to the next Commission meeting will be held before the two week period.

NO ACTION WITH THIS ITEM

APPROVAL OF THE CHANGE OF MEETING DATES

Upon recommendation of Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, a **MOTION** was made to approve changing the dates for the regularly scheduled date(s) as listed below:

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APPROVAL OF THE CHANGE OF MEETING DATES – CONTINUED

- Change December 23rd meeting to December 19th (Christmas Week)
- Change January 27th meeting to January 28th (GMA Mayor's Day)

The motion was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

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

STAFF COMMENTS

Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director announced the following:

- ❖ Thanked everyone for being a part of the City of Douglas 50th Annual Christmas Parade. Mrs. Henderson stated there were 79 entries this year.
- ❖ Art and Wellness with the Douglas and Coffee County Recreation Department are offering “Color my World Art Camp December 12th and Easy Moving Fitness and Water Aerobics
- ❖ Applications are being accepted for the Douglas 101 Citizens Academy 10 week program.
- ❖ Handgun Safety Class for women will be held December 13th and 14th
- ❖ Registration is being held for the Neighborhood Improvement Program Christmas Home Decoration Contest.
- ❖ Community Clean Up will be December 21st.
- ❖ Police Department has Holiday tips listed on the City of Douglas Website, also the Fire Department page has tips “Put a freeze on Fires”
- ❖ Registration is underway for the Bikes, Blues and BBQ Festival that will be held March 28th & 29th, 2014.

Commissioner Pearson asked questions concerning how individuals could participate with performing in the Bike, Blues and BBQ.

Mrs. Henderson responded that the artists have been selected and the promotional poster will be out the first of the year, but vendors (food/arts/crafts) are being accepted.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Johnnie Lee Roper, (Ward 1 Commissioner Hutchinson) appeared before the Mayor and Commission to request that Mayor and Commission discuss with the Governor about the millions of dollars that Georgians could receive if the Governor would sign off . Also, he would like a request for removing furlough days for the school teachers.

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GENERAL COMMENTS - CONTINUED

Georgia Henderson announced that the Fire Department and Southwire are teaming up with Toys for Tots. They are collecting new unwrapped toys thru December 14th.

MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS

Mayor Dennis stated the following:

- Governor Deal will visit the City of Douglas for the ribbon cutting of the Career Academy with the Board of Education.
- Fire Department and the Salvation Army are collecting items for the burn out victims.
- Thanked everyone for their participation in the Christmas Parade.
- Flags are half stat in honor of the former President Mandela of South Africa who recently passed away.
- Encouraged to be safe during this holiday season.
- Thanked the staff and all our workers for their hard work and for the input of everyone's ideas.
- Asked that if anyone had any information regarding Crime Cases, to please contact the Tip Hotline or Police Department.
- "Stay and Shop" with our local merchants in our community.
- Appreciate Commission and Staff for their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss in the Regular Meeting, a motion was made to adjourn at 7:45 PM by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.

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

James H. Dennis, Mayor

Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk