

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 8:05 P.M., in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James H. Dennis presiding and Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Ronnie Anderson, Bob Moore, Marty Swain, Olivia Pearson and Richard Hutchinson present.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Marty Swain gave 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.....	January 28, 2014
Commission Meeting.....	January 28, 2014

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, 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 Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain.

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

DISCLOSURE OF NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST 2014 CDBG

Dale Batten, Community Development Director, publicly disclosed that none of the City of Douglas elected officials own property or have relatives living in the proposed neither 2014 Community Development Block Grant target area nor are there any city employees living in the proposed target area. Therefore, no conflict of interest exists within this proposed target area. Jerome Adams, City Attorney stated that everything was in order with this disclosure.

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APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW CHLOR-KING 25 POOL SALT SYSTEM AND ONE (1) NEW CHLOR-KING 5M SALT SYSTEM FOR PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT (BID 1-27-14)

Upon recommendation of Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent, the Mayor and Commission approved, as discussed in tonight's work session meeting, the purchase of one (1) New Chlor-King 25 Pool Salt System and one (1) New Chlor-King 5M Salt System from the second low bid submitted by Diversified Services South, of Douglas, Georgia, for a total cost of **\$33,640.00**.

A **MOTION** to approve the Purchase of one (1) New Chlor-King 25 Pool Salt System and one (1) New Chlor-King 5M Salt System from the second low bid submitted by Diversified Services South, of Douglas, Georgia, for a total cost of **\$33,640.00** was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the purchase of one (1) New Chlor-King 25 Pool Salt System and one (1) New Chlor-King 5M Salt System.

APPROVED 3 YEAR CONTRACT FOR ANNUAL AUDITING

Upon recommendation of Charlie Davis, Finance Director/Assistant City Manager, the Mayor and Commission approved to renew the Annual Audit contract with Hurst & Hurst, CPA's, for a 3 year period starting with the FY'14 audit at the current price.

A **MOTION** to approve the renew of the Annual Audit contract with Hurst & Hurst, CPA's, for a 3 year period starting with the FY'14 audit at the current price was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** to renew the Annual Audit contract with Hurst & Hurst, CPA's, for a 3 year period starting with the FY'14 audit at the same price.

APPROVED THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPOINTED

Upon recommendation of Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Mayor and Commission approved the appointment of Julian Meeks to the Downtown Development Authority with the terms being retroactive to January 1, 2014 expiring December 31, 2017 Mr. Meeks meets all DDA requirements.

A **MOTION** to approve the appointment of Julian Meeks to the Downtown Development Authority was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the appointment of Julian Meeks to the Downtown Development Authority.

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APPROVED THE PERSONNEL POLICY REVISION

Upon recommendation of Judy Carter Human Resources Director, Mayor and Commission approved to amend Personnel Policy #006 Application Process and the Application for Employment with the following changes:

Delete- "has not been convicted of a felony within the past 7 years"

Replace- "has not been convicted of a felony within the past 10 years excluding police applicants"

Policy #6 Delete- "He/she has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, unless pardon has been granted"

Replace- "He/she has been convicted of felony within the past 10 years excluding Police applicants."

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore *to also exclude fire applicants to the recommendation* from Judy Carter, the Human Resources Director and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey asked what was added and the Mayor replied that the fire department was added to the motion. Commissioners Olivia Pearson requested clarity to the motion of Commissioner Bob Moore. Mrs. Carter reread the recommendation and Terrell Jacobs, City Manager explained the motion. Jerome Adams, City Attorney stated that Commissioner Moore's motion stated that any person with a felony applying to be a police officer or firemen would be ineligible to be hired. Commissioner Pearson questioned the motion for clarity among all parties.

Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Richard Hutchinson, and Ronnie Anderson **approved the motion (4-2)** that if you have a felony you are ineligible to be hired by the police or fire department and other provisions from the recommendation. Commissioner Olivia Pearson and Marty Swain **voted against** the motion.

FIRST READING-ALCOHOL BEVERAGE ORDINANCE-SPECIAL EVENTS

Rodger Goddard, Code Enforcer, recommended that the City Attorney Jerome Adams conduct the first reading to amend Section 6-54 of Temporary Permits for Special Events. **"AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF DOUGLAS CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 6, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SECTION 6-54, TO INCLUDE TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR SPECIAL EVENTS,"** the second reading will be held on February 24, 2014 at the Regular Commissioners Meeting.

No action taken

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APPROVED THE NEW CITY LOGO PLAN

Upon recommendation of Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director, the Mayor and Commission approved to adopt the design for the new City of Douglas logo, with the tag line “Established in 1895” which will be implemented in a three (3) phase process.

A **MOTION** to approve the new logo with the tag line “Established in 1895” was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson.

Commissioner Anderson stated that he would like to see the expenses as we purchase logo products.

Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Josey stated that he liked the old logo better.

Mayor James Dennis, Commissioners Marty Swain, Richard Hutchinson, and Olivia Pearson **voted in favor** of the motion (**4-3**) to adopt the design for the new City of Douglas logo plan. Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioner Bob Moore and Ronnie Anderson **voted against** the motion.

STAFF COMMENTS

Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director announced the following:

- Taking applications for the Douglas 101 Academy
- The Parks and Recreation Department is taking application for winter youth ceramics and track registration.
- Next Community Clean Up will be March 15th at Wheeler Park
- The Parks and Recreation Department will host the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association Basketball Tournament February 28- March 1.
- GMA Essay “If I Were Mayor” this is for the 6th graders in the community and will close at the end of February.
- March 3rd at 10:00 a.m. City of Douglas will have a ground breaking ceremony for our Compress Natural Gas Facility.
- Bid opportunities are on the website.
- Blood Drive Wednesday, February 19th at City Hall.
- Children’s Art Festival will be held March 8th.
- Bikes Blues and BBQ Festival will be held March 28th & 29th, 2014.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Johnnie Lee Roper, 711 South Daughtry (Commissioner Richard Hutchinson) stated that he would like to congratulate the Mayor and Commissioners for messing up Baker Highway. He stated that this is not the City Managers fault but the Board of Commission. Mr. Roper expressed his concern of this becoming a death trap by replacing the traffic light with a flashing light.

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MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Olivia Pearson apologized to Commissioner Roper concerning the traffic light issue on Baker Hwy and stated that she is willing to revisit. Commissioner Pearson apologized to the public concerning the policy that was voted upon, not to hire felons as firefighters.

Commissioner Pearson stated that she has worked in the prison system and has referred several inmates to prisons in the state of Georgia teaching them how to fight fires. This was a great asset to those that were trying to turn their lives around. She doesn't believe in punishing someone for the rest of their lives after they have paid their debt to society. She stated that justice was not served by the Commission with this decision.

Commissioner Ronnie Anderson stated that he wanted to apologize for spending the taxpayer's money foolishly. Everyone that voted to change the City of Douglas logo should be ashamed of themselves. Commissioner Anderson stated that he doesn't see where the change is going to help anything.

Mayor Pro Tem Josey stated that he agreed with the concerns of Mr. Roper about the changes that were made to Baker Hwy and College Avenue. Mayor Pro Tem Josey stated that the Board of Commission had no say so with this matter. This was the decision of the Department of Transportation.

Mayor Dennis stated the following:

- Community Cleanup, Wheeler Park, March 15, 2014
- Volunteers for the Bike, Blues and BBQ
- Advised every one of the Tip Line ---- "See something, Say Something"
- Remove garbage cans from the curbs and keep your area clean

Mayor Dennis stated that he disagreed with Commissioner Pearson's statement. He feels that the city public safety officials are above reproach and set a higher standard than normal. The Mayor stated that he understood about giving people a second chance, but he understood also that you have a professional organization and there are other opportunities for those folks to work.

Mayor Dennis also stated that in regards to the changing the city's logo, he feel it's time for Douglas to move on to a new and better thing. He disagreed with the statement of the money being spent foolishly, he feels it's up to the City Manager and staff to spend the money as they see needed to replace old stuff with new stuff. He doesn't see a huge expense to the city. We will see as time goes on.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss in the Regular Meeting, a motion was made to adjourn the regular meeting and to enter into the Utility Appeals Meeting by Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

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James H. Dennis, Mayor

Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk

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UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tommy Harrell, Customer Service Manager, discussed a request from Jimmy Veal (temp); located at 504 W. Quincy Street concerning the water portion of the bill to be adjusted due to someone broke off the outside faucet. Mr. Veal appeared before the utility Committee on February 5, 2014 to request water adjustment. Mike Hudson, Gas/Water/Wastewater Director adjusted the sewer in the amount of \$484.43. Mr. Veal also requested for the water to be adjusted which was out of the Utility Committee jurisdiction. Therefore he appeared before the Mayor and Commission for an appeal to adjust the water.

After much discussion Commissioner Bob Moore made a **MOTION** to give a credit of \$283.00 off the water bill leaving a balance of \$25.70 on the current bill seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the adjustment for Jimmy Veal (temp) for the amount of \$283.00.