

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
FEBRUARY 24, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, February 24, 2014 at 7:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James H. Dennis presiding and Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Richard Hutchinson, Bob Moore, and Marty Swain were present. Commissioners Ronnie Anderson and Olivia Pearson were absent.

INVOCATION

Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor James Dennis stated that Commissioner Pearson had been hospitalized. Commissioner Anderson had a previous engagement.

MINUTES ADOPTION

The following minutes were unanimously approved:

Work Session.....February 10, 2014
Commission Meeting.....February 10, 2014

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

Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, and Richard Hutchinson **unanimously** approved (**4-0**) the minutes as corrected.

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

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

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, and Richard Hutchinson **unanimously** approved (**4-0**) the order of the Agenda as discussed in the work session.

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CHECK PRESENTATION TO FIRE DEPARTMENT BY THE MODERN WOODMEN OF THE WORLD

Representatives of Modern Woodmen of the World presented a check in the amount of \$2,121.15 to Tim White, Fire Chief, J.D. White City of Douglas Fire Department, Mayor James Dennis and Commissioner Marty Swain for the purchase of a new Sparky Suit. Chief Tim White stated that Modern Woodmen of the World spearheaded the collection efforts of the donated funds to support the Children Safety Education Program.

SECOND READING-ALCOHOL BEVERAGE ORDINANCE-SPECIAL EVENTS

Jerome Adams, City Attorney read the second reading to amend Alcohol Ordinance 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,”**

A **MOTION** to amend the Alcohol Beverage Ordinance Section 6-54 of Temporary Permits for Special Events was made by Commissioner Marty Swain, and seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.

Commissioners Moore, Swain and Hutchinson, ***approved (3-1)*** the amending of the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance that was read by Jerome Adams, City Attorney.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey ***voted against*** the amending of the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.

APPROVED THE STATE OF GEORGIA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REHAB STANDARDS CHIP GRANT 2013-882

Upon recommendation of Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Mayor and Commission approved a resolution adopting the State of Georgia Policies and Procedures/Written Rehab Standards for Housing Rehabilitation and the Section 3 Plan for CHIP Grant No. 2013-882 received from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

A **MOTION** to approve the State of Georgia Policies and Procedures Rehab Standards CHIP Grant 2013-882 was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Josey.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, and Richard Hutchinson ***unanimously approved (4-0)*** the State of Georgia Policies and Procedures Rehab Standards CHIP Grant 2013-882.

APPROVED THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CHIP 2013-882 DOCUMENTS

Upon recommendation of Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Mayor and Commission approved a resolution authorizing the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk to execute the drawdown forms and any other necessary documents pertaining to CHIP Grant No. 2013-882 and designate direct deposit account at SunTrust Bank of Coffee County.

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APPROVED THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CHIP 2013-882 DOCUMENTS

A **MOTION** to approve the resolution authorizing execution of CHIP 2013-882 was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, and Richard Hutchinson **unanimously** approved (**4-0**) the resolution authorizing execution of CHIP 2013-882.

APPROVED THE 2014 CDBG SUBMITTAL RESOLUTION

Upon recommendation of Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Mayor and Commission approved a Resolution authorizing the filing of the 2014 CDBG application in the amount of \$500,000 with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; authorized cash match in the amount of \$92,664 from the Community Development Department for a total project cost of \$592,664; and authorized the Mayor to execute the necessary documents if the grant is approved.

A **MOTION** to approve the 2014 CDBG Submittal Resolution was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, and Richard Hutchinson **unanimously** approved (**4-0**) the 2014 CDBG Submittal Resolution.

APPROVED THE FACILITY FEE WAIVER FOR THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Upon recommendation of Roger Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director, the Mayor and Commission approved to waive the facility fees for the Chamber of Commerce for the use of the Martin Center on March 5, 2014 to hold a Political Forum open to all candidates

A **MOTION** to approve of waiving the fees for the Chamber of Commerce was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Josey.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, and Richard Hutchinson **unanimously** approved (**4-0**) waiving the fees for the Chamber of Commerce.

APPROVED THE FEE WAIVER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ITEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA DURING WORK SESSION

APPROVED THE LEASE OF TEEN CENTER POLICY

Upon recommendation of Roger Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director, the Mayor and Commission approved to do away with the age requirement for leasing the Teen Center and to increase the lease amount from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per event.

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APPROVED THE LEASE OF TEEN CENTER POLICY-CONTINUED

A **MOTION** to approve to do away with the age requirement for leasing the Teen Center and to increase the lease amount from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per event was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, and Richard Hutchinson **unanimously** approved (**4-0**) to do away with the age requirement for leasing the Teen Center and to increase the lease amount from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per event.

APPROVED THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAVING ROAD BETWEEN HUCKABY COMPLEX AND FAIRCLOTH FIELD

Upon recommendation of Roger Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director, the Mayor and Commission approved to allow the Board of Education to pave this section of the road, placing traffic calming devices on the road and being aware of the water valve next to the road, without any cost to the city.

A **MOTION** to approve the Board of Education paving road between Huckaby Complex and Faircloth Field was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, and Richard Hutchinson **unanimously** approved (**4-0**) the Board of Education paving road between Huckaby Complex and Faircloth Field.

APPROVED DECLARING OF EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS

Upon recommendation of Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent, the Mayor and Commission approved and declared the presented list of items as discussed at the Work Session meeting from various departments as surplus and allow the disposal of these items to the highest bidder through the GovDeals On-line Auction site, excluding the items which were discussed in the Work Session Meeting.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, and Richard Hutchinson **unanimously** approved (**4-0**) and declare of equipment as surplus.

APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF TRACTOR AND MOWER FOR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (BID 2-20-14)

Upon recommendation of Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent, the Mayor and Commission approved to accept the low bid for one (1) Kubota M-7060 Farm Tractor and one (1) Land Pride heavy duty rotary mower model RCF 3684 from Crosby Equipment of Douglas, Georgia for a grand total of **\$42,093.00**. This tractor and mower will be utilized by the Public Works Department.

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APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF TRACTOR AND MOWER FOR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (BID 2-20-14)-CONTINUED

A **MOTION** to approve the purchase of tractor and mower for Public Works Department was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, and Richard Hutchinson **unanimously** approved (**4-0**) the purchase of a tractor and mower for Public Works Department.

APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF THE NEW CNG PICKUP TRUCK (GAS DEPARTMENT) BID 2-10-14

Upon recommendation of Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent, the Mayor and Commission approved as discussed in the Work Session Meeting the purchase of one (1) new 2014 Dodge Compressed Natural Gas truck to be utilized by the Gas Department from the low bid meeting specifications from Walker Jones of Waycross, Georgia for a grand total of **\$33,107.00**.

A **MOTION** to approve the purchase of the new CNG pickup truck for the Gas Department was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Josey, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, and Richard Hutchinson **unanimously** approved (**4-0**) the purchase of the new CNG pickup truck for the Gas Department.

STAFF COMMENTS

Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director announced the following:

- The Parks and Recreation Department will have registration for track and field ages 8-14.
- Next Community Clean Up will be March 15th at Bryan Street Circle.
- 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" 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.
- Children's Art Festival will be held March 8th.
- Bikes Blues and BBQ Festival will be held March 28th & 29th, 2014.
- Thanked all sponsors for the Bike, Blues and BBQ Festival.
- Raffle tickets for a cargo trailer.

Gina Gibbs, Fitness Specialist announced the following:

- Thanked the Mayor for participating with Arbor Day
- Discussed the Maintain Don't Gain Program
- Announced Tammy Pittman, Police Department as the City of Douglas "Biggest Loser"
- Leisure Program is available.
- Commit to B Fit
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STAFF COMMENTS-CONTINUED

- Pong Holton will be teaching “How to Cook Thai Food”, basket weaving and basic drawing
- Water Aerobics held at South Georgia State College
- Wiregrass will host the Children’s Art Festival March 8th.
- Tiny Tot’s Event
- Basic Sewing Class
- High Intensity Training with Adrian Lewis
- Summer Blitz held in May 6th

GENERAL COMMENTS

Johnnie Lee Roper, 711 South Daughtry Avenue (Commissioner Richard Hutchinson) stated that there will be a presentation of a civil rights plaque at the Coley Center on Roper Street Friday February 28, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Larry Nesmith, Representative of the Community Awareness Project Group appeared before the Mayor and Commission concerning the storm that hit Douglas on Friday, February 21st. Mr. Nesmith stated that Martha Watts’ home had major wind damage and he is requesting the community to give monetary donations along with volunteers in helping her in rebuilding the damages to her home. The point of contacts will be Pastor Turner, Sears Street Church of God in Christ, Terrell Jacobs, City, Frank Jackson, County and Larry Nesmith. Mr. Nesmith stated that Saturday, March 1st they will be assisting in removing limbs from Ms. Watts’s property. Mr. Nesmith stated that there are possibly others with damages and he encouraged them to call for assistance.

MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Marty Swain apologized to the citizens concerning the traffic lights taking so long to change. He explained that it was discussed at the Work Session and will be resolved within the next few days.

Commissioner Richard Hutchinson stated that on behalf of Young’s Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and the (GMBC) Georgia Missionary Baptist Church Association, he would like to thank the City for the great hospitality during the State Adjournment Session.

Mayor Dennis stated the following:

- Arbor Day (remove a tree replace a tree)
- Condolences to Pat Baker, former Executive Assistant and her family with the loss of her husband Wayne Baker.
- Community Cleanup, March 15, 2014
- Thanked the Modern Woodmen of the World for the donation.
- 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
- Thanked Staff for all their work

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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 Richard Hutchinson. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

James H. Dennis, Mayor

Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk

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UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tommy Harrell, Customer Service Manager, discussed a request from Terrance Simpson dba Triple T Property Sol (temp) located at 800 Crescent Circle concerning the increase of the electric the bill. Mr. Harrell stated that Carl Murray, Electric Department reread the meter and tested the meter, which was correct. Mr. Simpson stated that no one lives there and everything in the house was replaced (wiring, sheet rock etc.). He also stated that he did not have a problem with paying the utilities but he felt like if there is nothing there and he has a bill averaging \$400.00 what will someone who lives there would have to pay for utilities.

After much discussion it was recommended by the Commission for staff to read the meter at least 5 times a day and Mr. Simpson get a certified electrician to come and check the wiring. This will be brought back to the Mayor and Commission at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss in the Utility Appeals Meeting, a motion was made to adjourn the by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.