

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
MAY 11, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, May 11, 2015 at 7:10 P.M., in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James Dennis presiding and Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, Dennis Josey, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson present.

INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTES ADOPTION

The following minutes were unanimously approved as printed.

Work Session.....	April 27, 2015
Commission Meeting.....	April 27, 2015

A **MOTION** to **unanimously** approve the minutes as printed was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson. The motion **unanimously** carried (6-0).

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Commission **unanimously** approved the order of the Agenda as set forth in the work session. A **MOTION** to approve the order of the Agenda was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson. The motion **unanimously** carried (6-0).

RECOGNIZED STATE TRACK PARTICIPANTS

Landy Gomez, Athletic Coordinator, along with the Mayor and Commission recognized the Douglas Coffee County Parks and Recreation Track Team for their accomplishments with participating in the State Track Meet held in Jefferson, Georgia. There were 16 participants who placed in the finals.

APPROVAL OF THE AFTER-HOURS CONTRACT SERVICES

Upon recommendation from Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk, the Commission approved the agreement with Interactive Utility Communications to provide after-hours customer service (5 p.m.-8 a.m. Monday thru Friday, weekends and holidays) for the City of Douglas. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain. The motion **unanimously** carried (6-0).

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STAFF COMMENTS

Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director, stated the following:

❖ **Older American Month**

- May 12th- Trip to Waycross, 9 a.m., lunch on your own
- May 19th- Game Day "BINGO", 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m., South end of the Art Center
- May 21st – Yellow Day, 11 a.m. -1 p.m. , Wheeler Park
- May 26th – Crazy Hat Day, 5 p.m., Catfish House
- May 28th –Senior Club Meeting, 11 a.m. -1 p.m., Weir Center
- May 29th, -Yard Snooping/Plant Shopping, 9 a.m.
- For more information, call 383-7332

❖ **Community Junk Drop Off Day**

- Saturday, May 16th, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Unity Park

❖ **Downtown Merchants Association Meeting**

- Tuesday, May 12th at the Ashley Slater House, 6 p.m.

❖ **Memorial Day**

- City offices will be closed Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day

❖ **City Pool**

- Open May 26th, Season passes will be available at the Douglas Recreation Department

❖ **Summer Beach Bash**

- Tuesday June 2nd held in the vacant lot next to City Hall, 4 p.m. to 8p.m.

❖ **City of Douglas Police Citizens Academy**

- Participants must be 18 years of age or older, the classes will be held from 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. beginning August 13th- September 24th

❖ **Carlos Woodard Memorial Golf Tournament**

- Friday, May 15th at noon

❖ **When Pigs Fly Event**

- The Sadie House Child Advocacy Center will host "When Pigs Fly Event" Saturday May 16th at the Municipal Park, 9 a.m. -2p.m.

❖ **Fishing Rodeo Event**

- The General Coffee State Park will host the Fishing Rodeo, 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

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CITIZEN COMMENTS

Frank Jackson, 1314 S. Pearl Avenue (Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson), thanked the Commission for acknowledging the young people for their achievements with the Recreation Department. He also thanked the Mayor for attending his appreciation on April 25th. Mr. Jackson thanked the city for a job well done by taking down the trees at Roundtree Park. He also encouraged everyone to support our local enforcement officers in Douglas and if we see something we need to say something to the law officials so that we can reduce crime in the community.

Johnnie Lee Roper, (Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson) commended Commissioner Olivia Pearson for her statement concerning Roundtree Park needing to be slowed down. He thanked the Commission for listening to him last week. Mr. Roper thanked the City Manager for taking the initiative to take down the trees at Roundtree Park.

Ronnie Johnson 1105 S. Pearl Avenue (Commissioner Marty Swain), appeared before the Commission to recommend the utility penalties reduced from 10% to 5%, and also for the City of Douglas not to purchase any more city vehicles. Mr. Johnson also inquired on how much profit the City of Douglas makes on utilities. He also stated that the city has 35 police officers and all of them don't work at one time, so if you put officers in Roundtree Park the problem would be solved. He also stated that there are a lot of inmates who could clean up the park as well.

Larry Nesmith, Community Awareness Project, "See Something Say Something" Program, stated that they would like to put a stop to the violence early. He is asking everyone to please assist law officials by reporting any information concerning the shooting at Roundtree Park. Mr. Nesmith stated that the community needs to come together. He also stated that trees provide shade, therefore he is requesting to replace the trees with sheds for covering.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Olivia Pearson congratulated the youth who participated with the State Track Meet. She also announced a Debt Free Seminar hosted by Georgia Legal Services that will be held Saturday May 16th 10 a.m. –1 p.m. at the City of Douglas Youth Center. Commissioner Pearson encouraged citizens to return the surveys by May 25th that were recently sent out to her constituents. She will give everyone information on the results at the next Commission Meeting. She stated earlier in the work session that the park possibly needs to be closed for about a week, because the park is not a place for young people to fuss and fight. They are endangering the lives of others. She pleaded that fighting and shooting would be a terrible mistake. She congratulated her nephew Shelton Johnson Jr. who graduated from the Air Force in San Antonio Texas.

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COMMISSION COMMENTS-CONTINUED

She stated that witnessing this military graduation makes her appreciative of our veterans. Commissioner Pearson concluded by thanking Mr. Roper, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Nesmith and Mr. Jackson for their comments.

Commissioner Dennis Josey thanked Mr. Frank Jackson for his comments concerning the Commission and the Police Department.

Commissioner Marty Swain reiterated about the "See Something Say Something" Campaign. He encouraged the citizens, the more you see, the more we know that will assist the police officers with solving the crimes in the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson stated that he commended the kids who went off to Jefferson Georgia to participate with the State Track Meet. He also commended Mrs. Gomez stating the kids represented the City of Douglas well. He encouraged everyone to support our children in Coffee County. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson stated that he feels we have enough community and civic groups in Douglas which can go to Roundtree Park and help police the area on Sundays. He stated that as adults we can't sit down and wait for something to happen, we need to be there to help guide these people. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson stated there is only so much the police can do, but there is a lot we can do. He concluded by thanking all the citizens of Douglas with keeping this city going.

Frank Jackson stated that Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson proposed good ideas. Mr. Jackson suggested that since Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson was a minister, he suggested that along with 4 or 5 other people who are concerned with Roundtree Park to assist him with ministering to individuals in the park on Sundays. Mr. Jackson stated he would assist one or two Sundays a month.

Mayor James Dennis stated this is a community issue and we need all the community to help. He stated that we need to put all of this into action.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Thanked everyone who brought their concerns before the Commission, the city always solicits citizens input.
- Wish all mothers in the community a happy belated Mother's Day.
- He encouraged citizens to help keep Douglas clean by participating with our Junk Free Drop-Off Day.

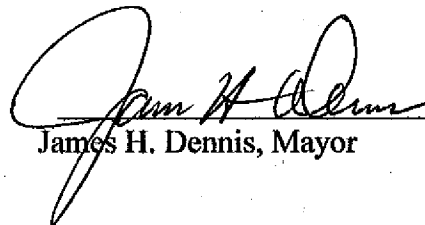
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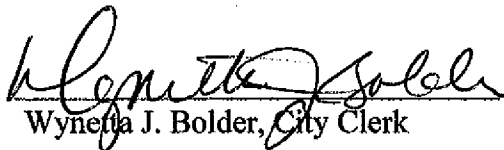
MAYOR'S COMMENTS-CONTINUED

- Reminded everyone there is an ordinance to remove your trash receptacles from the side of the road after trash has been picked up. (citations will be given)
- He acknowledged there was great success with the See Something, Say Something Campaign and encouraged all citizens to continue to assist with these efforts.
- City Hall will be closed May 25th with the observance of Memorial Day. Military and Veterans are special to our community. There will be several programs held in honor of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.
- Thanked staff and everyone who had a part of tonight's meeting

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss in the Regular Meeting, a motion was made to adjourn to Executive Session by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M.


James H. Dennis, Mayor


Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk

**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
MAY 11, 2015**

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

PERSONNEL ISSUE(S)

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

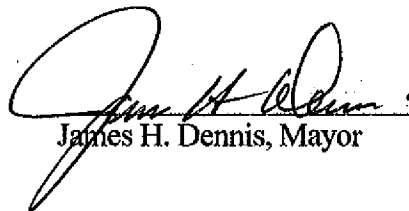
Commissioner Dennis Josey made the **MOTION** to adjourn from Executive Session and, **MOTION** was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson and **approved** by all (6-0).

Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson made the **MOTION** to re-enter into Regular Session and was seconded by Commissioner Anderson.

A **MOTION** to approve hiring Stevie Young, Gray, GA as the Parks and Recreation Director was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore and approved (4-2) with Commissioner Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson voting against.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson made the **MOTION** to adjourn Regular Session. The **MOTION** was seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson. The Commission unanimously approved (6-0) and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.


James H. Dennis, Mayor

Witness:


Judy C. Carter, Human Resources Director

Affidavit

The undersigned presiding officer, under oath, certifies that at a City of Douglas Commission Meeting, held on May 11, 2015, the Mayor and Commission closed its meeting as permitted by the Open Meetings Act of Georgia [O.C.G.A. 50-14-1 through 50-14-6]. The only matter(s) considered or discussed during the closed meeting are as indicated below:

 To discuss future acquisition of real estate [O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (4)].

 x To discuss or deliberate the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of an employee [O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (6)].

 To consult with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the agency or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved [O.C.G.A. 50-14-2].

This day of 11th May, 2015

James H. Dennis
Signature of Presiding Officer

Sworn to & Subscribed Before Me
On The Above Indicated Date

Walter B. [Signature]
Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires September 1, 2018

The Mayor and Commission unanimously approved to enter into executive session.

James H. Dennis
James H. Dennis, Mayor

Witness:

Judy C. Carter
Judy C. Carter, Human Resources Director