

**MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA  
JUNE 8, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, June 8, 2015 at 7:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James Dennis presiding and Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Olivia Pearson, Marty Swain and Ronnie Anderson present.

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commission was called to order by Michael Roberts, 2015 "If I Were Mayor, I Would" Essay Contest winner.

**INVOCATION**

Pastor Michael Godwin, Mount Olive A.M.E. Church, gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**MINUTES ADOPTION**

The following minutes were unanimously approved as printed.

Work Session..... May 26, 2015  
Commission Meeting..... May 26, 2015

A **MOTION** to **unanimously** approve the minutes as printed was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson. 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 Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain. The motion **unanimously** carried (6-0).

**RECOGNITION OF THE IF I WERE MAYOR I WOULD...ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS**

Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director along with the Mayor and Commission recognized the local winners of the "If I Were Mayor, I would..." Essay Contest. The following winners were from CCA. The following winners were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Michael Roberts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Waylon Vickers
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Lilly McNair

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**PRESENT AND ADOPT THE FY'16 RESOLUTION**

Charles Davis, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director stated that after being properly advertised and a Public Hearing held according to legal process, the proposed FY'16 Budget of \$74,392,447 was ready for action.

Upon recommendation from Charles Davis, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director, the Commission approved to adopt the Resolution approving the FY'16 Budget of \$74,392,447 as presented in the public hearing on May 26, 2015, which included the FY'15 carryover encumbrances. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey. The motion carried **(5-1)**. Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson voted **against** the motion.

**SECOND READING- OPENING AND CLOSING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION ORDINANCE**

Jerome Adams, City Attorney, stated that a phrase was being inserted in the middle of the page with the following: "*unless prior approval is received from Parks and Recreation staff*". This statement will appear on the official copy. **"AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF DOUGLAS CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 66, HOURS OF OPERATION" BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, IN REGULAR MEETING ASSEMBLED AND PURSUANT TO LAWFUL AUTHORITY THEREOF, SECTION 66 (A) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DOUGLAS IS DELETED IN ITS ENTIRETY AND A NEW SECTION 66 (A) IS ENACTED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: THE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS OF THE CITY SHALL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET DAILY FOR USE BY THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY, UNLESS PRIOR APPROVAL IS RECEIVED FROM PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF.** Jerome Adams, City Attorney stated that this ordinance was ready for action. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey. The motion carried **(6-0)**.

**APPROVAL OF THE TOURISM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT APPLICATION**

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development, the Commission approved a resolution authorizing the filing of an application with Georgia Department of Economic Development Tourism Division and Georgia Council for the Arts in an amount up to \$15,000 for improvements to the World War II Historic Air Base; authorized matching funds up to \$15,000 to be paid from the Airport Rental Receipts Account in the Community Development Department and authorized Mayor James Dennis to execute necessary documents pertaining to the application and grant. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson. The motion **unanimously** carried **(6-0)**.

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**APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBER**

Upon recommendation from Randall Parker and the Board of Appeals, Mayor James Dennis, by his authority, reappointed Mr. Elton Reese to the Board of Appeals, for another three year term to expire on June 30, 2018. .

**APPROVAL OF THE DATE CHANGE FOR JULY COMMISSION MEETING**

Upon recommendation from Charles Davis, Assistant City Manager, the Commission approved changing the date from the regularly scheduled meeting of July 13, 2015 to Thursday July 9, 2015. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson. The motion **unanimously** carried **(6-0)**.

**APPROVAL OF THE FY'15 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Upon recommendation from Charles Davis, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director, the Commission approved to adopt the Resolution to amend the FY'15 Budget to reflect changes in revenues and expenditures that have occurred since the adoption of the amended budget, changing the total annual budget to \$70,799,150. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain. The motion carried **(4-2)**. Commissioner Olivia Pearson and Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson voted **against** the motion.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director, stated the following:

- ❖ **Coffee County Historical Society**
  - June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Heritage Station Museum a reception will be held from 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and the exhibit from the Rogers studios will be on display until August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Coffee County Douglas Parks and Recreation**
  - June 19<sup>th</sup> will participate a Georgia Parks and Recreation Baseball and Softball Tournament that will be held in Waycross Georgia at the Trembling Earth Facilities.
- ❖ **Douglas Information Station**
  - June 19<sup>th</sup> will host a promotion called "Stay-cation".
- ❖ **Community Junk Drop Off Day**
  - Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Eastside Park.
- ❖ **Douglas Exchange Club**
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Freedom Festival will be held at the Municipal Park, gates will open at 5 p.m.
- ❖ **City Hall will be closed Friday, July 3 and will reopen Monday July 6<sup>th</sup>.**

## **MINUTES**

### **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

#### **CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA**

**JUNE 8, 2015**

#### **STAFF COMMENTS -CONTINUED**

❖ **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 13<sup>th</sup>- September 24<sup>th</sup>.

❖ **South Georgia Expo**

- Vendors are being accepted for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual South Georgia Expo.

Stevie Young, Parks and Recreation Director, stated the following:

- Thanked the staff for assisting with the District Swim Meet. (6 agencies participating)
- Football and Cheerleading registration will begin June 22.
- Summer Camps are still going on.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Jerome Loving, American Legion 515 and David Green, Honor Guard Director appeared before the Commission to inform the community to proclaim June as Flag Month and on June 14<sup>th</sup> will be Flag Day. He stated that all United States Flags that need to be replaced can be taken to the Douglas Police Department and June 17<sup>th</sup> they can bring them to the American Legion 515. Tentatively July 25<sup>th</sup> will be scheduled for have a major burn and disposal of flags.

#### **COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Commissioner Olivia Pearson commended the students that participated with “If I Were Mayor, I would...” Essay Contest. She expressed her concerns of the deaths that are occurring with our young people in the community. Commissioner Pearson gave her condolences to those in Coffee County that has lost loved ones over the pass weeks. Commissioner Pearson stated that she was disturbed of the Douglas Enterprise printing in the paper concerning her vote of the Parks and Recreation Director. She stated that in the past the executive session minutes were not exposed to the public to show the vote. She felt that it was stated in the paper as a devices method, she made it clear that she supports Mr. Young as the Parks and Recreation Director. She also stated that her reason for voting for Mr. Crockett, was he is a native of Coffee County and she wanted to give him a chance.

Commissioner Pearson also expressed concern with the Douglas Enterprise printed in the paper stating the “arrest of Dicarado Pearson is the nephew of Commissioner Olivia Pearson”. She stated that she has never read where the Douglas Enterprise has identified another commissioner when something goes on with family member. She concluded to keep our youth in the community’s prayers.

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**COMMISSION COMMENTS-CONTINUED**

Commissioner Ronnie Anderson explained that he has known Willis Crockett since he was a little boy and he respects him. Commissioner Anderson stated that he has nothing against Stevie Young, Parks and Recreation Director, but he felt that Willis deserved a chance.

Commissioner Dennis Josey expressed concerns with the things that are printed in the Douglas Enterprise as well. He also expressed concerns of pedestrians not using the sidewalks in different areas of the city.

Commissioner Marty Swain thanked the Recreation and Public Works Departments for doing a great job with cleaning the parks.

Commissioner Bob Moore stated that if anyone needs a United States flag to contact Woodman of the World at 912.384.6903.


Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson congratulated the participants of the "If I Were Mayor, I would..." Essay Contest. He thanked the Recreation and Public Works Departments for their works in the parks and the drainage system.

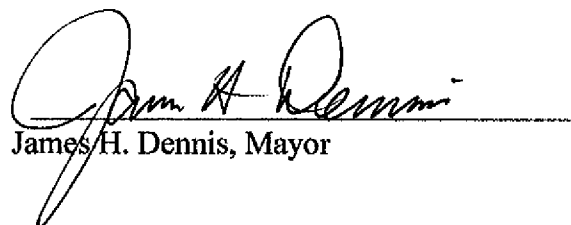
Mayor James Dennis stated the following:

- Encouraged everyone to watch out for our children during the summer break.
- Congratulated the participants and the Public Information Staff with the "If I Were Mayor, I would..." Essay Contest.
- Thanked everyone who helped with the Beach Bash.
- Encouraged everyone with the See Something, Something Campaign.
- Reminded everyone that there is an ordinance to remove your trash receptacles from the side of the road after trash has been picked up.
- Thanked Staff and City Commission for all they do in the community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss in the Regular Meeting, a motion was made to adjourn to Executive Session by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

  
Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk

  
James H. Dennis, Mayor