

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
OCTOBER 12, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, October 12, 2015 at 7:08 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, Marty Swain, and Olivia Pearson were present. Commissioner Ronnie Anderson was absent.

CALLED TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commission was called to order by Mayor James H. Dennis.

INVOCATION

Former City Commissioner Oscar Street provided 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 corrected in the Work Session.

Work Session.....	September 28, 2015
Commission Meeting.....	September 28, 2015

A **MOTION** to **unanimously** approve the minutes as corrected was made by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson. The motion **unanimously** carried (5-0).

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 Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey. The motion **unanimously** carried (5-0).

APPROVAL OF ROUNDTREE PARK TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURT IMPROVEMENTS

Upon recommendation from Stevie Young, Parks & Recreation Director, the Commission approved the Change Order request to the Davis Wade, Eastside and Wheeler Park Tennis Court Resurfacing Contract in the amount of \$23,120 for improvements to the tennis and basketball courts at Roundtree Park. A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey. The motion **unanimously** carried (5-0).

APPROVAL TO COMBINE BBQ FESTIVAL AND OUTDOOR EXPO

Upon recommendation from Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director, Mayor and Commission approved to merge the BBQ Festival and South Georgia Expo into one event and change the date to the second weekend in September 2016. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain. The motion **carried** (4-1). Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson voted **against** the motion.

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APPROVAL OF DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN CONSULTANT SELECTION

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, Mayor and Commission approved the consulting firm of Lord Aeck Sargent to prepare the Downtown Master Plan for a total cost of \$60,000.00 (funding breakdown - \$55,000.00 City Planning Budget and \$5,000.00 Main Street Funds in Community Development).

A motion to table this item was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson until she has an opportunity to review all the RFPs and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain. The motion was **not carried (2-3)**. Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson and Commissioners Dennis Josey and Bob Moore voted **against** the motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bob Moore to proceed with the agenda item, as presented by Dale Batten, and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey. The motion was **carried (3-2)**. Commissioners Olivia Pearson and Marty Swain voted **against** the motion.

APPROVAL OF AMERICAN LEGION USE OF FACILITIES

Upon recommendation from Jerome Loving, on behalf of the three Veterans Organization, American Legion Post 18, 515 and VFW, Mayor and Commission allowed the usage of the C. E. Weir Center on November 11th to feed Veterans and to waive rental fee. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson. The motion **carried (5-0)**.

Mayor James Dennis stated that the rental fee would be waived but there will be an administrative charge, as customary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM JEROME LOVING (AMERICAN LEGION)

Mr. Loving announced the following events:

- October 15th - Feed the 63rd Army/Airforce World War II Veterans for lunch at 11:30 a.m.
- November 11th - Veterans Day Program, 9 a.m. at the Coffee High School
- November 25th - Collect non-perishable items and purchase or donate Boston Butts to feed needy families.
- December 12th - A ceremony "Wreaths across America" will be placed on the Veterans graves at the City Cemetery.

STAFF COMMENTS

Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director, announced the following:

- The City of Douglas will be hosting the 63rd Army Airforce Flight Detachment Group, October 11th – 16th.
- Douglas-Coffee County Parks and Recreation Department is holding early registration for Basketball. Regular registration is October 12-30, there is a \$10 penalty for late registration.
- Early Election voting will take place until October 30th at the Coffee County Board of Elections.
- The Broxton Rocks will conduct tours on October 17th and 24th.
- Next community Junk Drop off day will be held October 17th at Unity Park from 8am-12pm

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STAFF COMMENTS - CONTINUED

- The Douglas Police Department will host a Domestic Violence Workshop, September 22nd, at 6pm.
- The Visitor Information Center will be offering Ghost Trails Tours October 22nd at the Ashley Slater House at 5:15pm and 6 pm.
- Taking Community Agencies who wish to sign up for the Hometown Harvest event being held on October 29th on the vacant lot next to City Hall from 4-7:30pm.
- The 311 Call Center is continuing Customer Service Month by allowing customers to register for a \$500.00 credit towards their utility bill. The winner will be announced at the Hometown Harvest on October 29th.
- Bid: Vehicle Maintenance Service Truck, deadline October 19th.
- Bid: Downtown Street Lighting and one John Deere field rake deadline October 26th.
- Jobs: Customer Care Specialist deadline, October 19th.
- Jobs: Fulltime Gas Distribution Tech, deadline October 20th.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cheryl Cunningham, (Ward 1 Richard Hutchinson) resides at 207 Pinecrest Drive, expressed concerns of not having sidewalks available for the safety of the children. Also stated that she has to contact the Public Works Department to maintain the grass. Ms. Cunningham stated that the individuals are driving extremely fast for pedestrians that are walking along the side of the street.

Larry Nesmith appeared before the Mayor and Commission to apologize for his actions concerning an incident that occurred last Monday. Mr. Nesmith stated that the Douglas Police Department treated him fairly and did their job. He encouraged citizens if you see something, say something even if it's him.

Commissioner Josey stated that he commended Mr. Nesmith for doing what was right.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Olivia Pearson questioned Ms. Batten, Community Development Director, regarding the Downtown Master Plan Consultation agenda item as to whether there were fees accompanied. Mrs. Batten responded that there were fees on all of them. Mayor Dennis stated that the fees were around the same amount.

Commissioner Pearson stated that she was not going to get into the incident that occurred last week. She stated to the public that those that know her know what she stands for and to use common sense with what you read and watch on the news. She stated that she was upset of how the truth was turned around.

Commissioner Marty Swain commended Stevie Young and Willis Crockett for their leadership and teamwork on supervising the Recreational Department.

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COMMISSIONER UPDATES - CONTINUED

Commissioner Bob Moore commended Mr. Nesmith on the stand that he took.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson stated that he doesn't condone fighting but commended Mr. Nesmith for taking a stand. He also stated to the citizens to evaluate whatever they read and whatever they see for what it is. The newspaper has a right to write.

Commissioner Pearson asked for an explanation from the Commissioners on the statement regarding commending Mr. Nesmith on taking a stand. She stated that she takes an offense to the statements that were stated and the newspaper took it that she supported the opposite side of Nesmith, which was a lie.

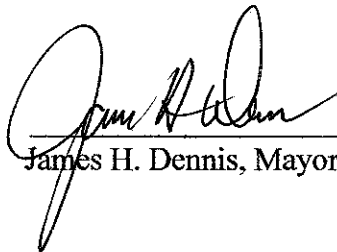
MAYOR'S COMMENTS

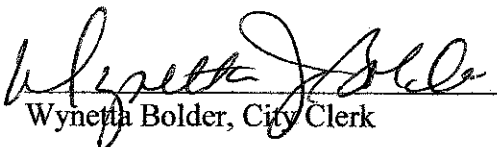
Mayor James Dennis stated the following:

- Encouraged all citizens to participate with the See Something, Say Something Campaign
- Keep our community clean
- Thanked the Police Department for conducting the Citizens Police Academy
- Thanked everyone that participated with the Day of Prayer at the Capital
- Visit our City of Douglas website
- The City will address Ms. Cunningham's concerns
- Utility Committee and Executive Session will be held after the Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Dennis Josey made the **MOTION** to adjourn to the Utility Committee Meeting. The **MOTION** was seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain. The Commission unanimously approved (**5-0**) and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.


James H. Dennis, Mayor


Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk

UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING

CITY OF DOUGLAS

OCTOBER 12, 2015

A Utility Commission Meeting was held on Monday, October 12, at 7:40 p.m. The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James Dennis presiding. Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson, Commissioners Olivia Pearson, Dennis Josey, Bob Moore and Marty Swain were in attendance. Commissioner Ronnie Anderson was absent.

Kentice Brockington, Gas Department Compliance Officer; Lamar Hill, Electric Department; Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk; Amanda Gilliard, Customer Service Specialist; Terrell Jacobs, City Manager; Jerome Adams, City Attorney and Tommy Harrell, Customer Service Manager appeared before the Mayor and Commission to discuss and receive recommendations.

Tommy Harrell, Customer Service Manager, presented the following information:

Douglas Masonic Lodge 609 S Gaskin Avenue

Mr. Harrell stated that several people appeared before the Utility Committee concerning the usage of 22 gal of water. They admitted that there were toilet issues. After much discussion, it was decided to postpone the meeting until parties were given a chance to appear before the Commission.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore to postpone the meeting due to a no show, and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson. The motion was carried **(5-0)**.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other issues to discuss, a motion to adjourn the Utility Commission Meeting and enter into Executive Session was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson. A motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson at 7:50 p.m.


James H. Dennis, Mayor


Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk

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