

**MINUTES  
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA  
JUNE 14, 2021**

**A Work Session of the Board of Commissioners held on Monday, June 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the C. E. Weir Center with Mayor Tony L. Paulk presiding and Commissioners Edwin Taylor, Mike Gowen, Kentaiwon Durham, Olivia Pearson, and Cindy McNeill were present. Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Moore was absent.**

**REVIEW OF MAY 20, 2021 BUDGET MEETING AND MAY 24, 2021 MEETINGS  
MINUTES**

The first business item presented by Mayor Tony L. Paulk was to review the minutes from May 20, 2021, Budget Meeting, and May 24, 2021 ( (Work Session./Regular Minutes) of the Board Commissioners. Mayor Tony L. Paulk requested that the Commissioners offer any changes so that the City Clerk could correctly record the minutes for historical data.

It was the consensus of the Commission to place this item on the **Consent Agenda**

**DISCUSSED APPROVAL TO ALLOW THE COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF  
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION OFFICE TO QUALIFY CITY CANDIDATES**

Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk, appeared before the Mayor and Commission to seek approval to allow the Coffee County Board of Elections & Registration Office to qualify candidates for election.

Mrs. Bolder stated that the City of Douglas is the only city and entity in the County that does not allow the County to qualify candidates for election. Therefore, when preparing, the clerk only sits to watch the candidates fill out the form, and it is faxed or emailed to the County for approval. It would be convenient if we allow the County to do this task. The City Clerk will continue to do the Campaign Disclosure and the Financial Disclosure during the year. After much discussion, the consensus brought this item back before the Commission after being introduced to the new Election Supervisor James Barnes.

It was the consensus of the Commission to table this item

**DISCUSSED APPROVAL OF THE FEE WAIVER REQUEST FOR THE USAGE OF  
THE CENTRAL SQUARE COMPLEX**

Stevie Young, Parks & Recreation Director, appeared before the Mayor and Commission to seek approval that Action Pact, formerly Concerted Services, pay all fees for facilities usage.

Mr. Young stated that he presented to Mayor and Commission a list of organizations that requested to have their fees waived from previous years. This organization was not on the list, nor have their fees been waived of earlier rentals.

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**DISCUSSED APPROVAL OF THE FEE WAIVER REQUEST FOR THE USAGE OF THE CENTRAL SQUARE COMPLEX-CONTINUE**

Mr. Young also stated that in 2017 Concerted Services rented all the downtown city facilities for \$2,170.00. Mayor Paulk suggested deducting \$400.00 from the total price. Commissioner Pearson requested half off the price.

It was the consensus of the Commission to move this item to the **Regular Agenda**

**RECOGNITION OF STATE TRACK CHAMPIONS AND TEAM**

Stevie Young, Parks and Recreation Director, stated this item would be brought forth at the Regular meeting.

**DISCUSSED APPROVAL FOR THE CONTRACTING OF THE BACON PRISON LABOR DETAIL**

Mike Hudson, Utilities Director, appeared before the Mayor and Commission to seek approval to sign a contract allowing Bacon prison labor detail to continue having a prison detail to work for Public Works and Parks and Recreation at the City cemetery.

Mr. Hudson stated that these are the contracts for the two Inmate crews that we have working in the City of Douglas. One crew paid out of Public Works, and one crew paid out of Parks & Recreation. I have attached a copy of the Entity Letter and the contract for your review. There is no increase in the proposed contract. Total contract is \$98,636.00 (\$49,318.00 Public Works & \$49,318.00 Parks and Recreation)

**FUNDING:** FY' 22 Cemetery Budget Line Item Contract And Extra Labor 100/4950-52.3851 \$49,318.00 FY 22 Highway & Streets Budget Line Item Contract And Extra Labor 100/4200-52.3851 \$49,318.00

It was the consensus of the Commission to place this item on the **Consent Agenda**

**DISCUSSED APPROVAL TO CONDUCT FY'22 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

Charles Davis, City Manager, appeared before the Mayor and Commission to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed FY'22 budget.

Mr. Davis stated that after being properly advertised, the proposed FY'22 budget of \$97,007,045 is ready for a Public Hearing. If the public makes no objections, the FY'22 budget will be presented for adoption at the next City Commission meeting scheduled for June 24, 2021

It was the consensus of the Commission to place this item on the **Regular Agenda**

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**DISCUSSED AND APPROVAL OF THE ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**

Rodger Goddard, City Marshall, appeared before the Mayor and Commission to seek approval for the temporary closure of S. Gaskin Ave. and E. College Park Dr. on June 19, 2021.

Mr. Goddard stated that Commissioner Durham had requested temporary road closures for the Juneteenth Celebration. The request consists of closing S. Gaskin Ave. (from E. Ross St. to E. College Park) and E. College Park (from Brooks Ave. to S. Gaskin Ave.), the requested road closure time is June 19, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

It was the consensus of the Commission to place this item on the **Consent Agenda**

**DISCUSSED AND APPROVE FEES FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CATERING LICENSE**

Rodger Goddard, City Marshall, appeared before the Mayor and Commission to seek guidance and to set a fee for an Annual Alcoholic Beverage Catering License.

Mr. Goddard stated that In March of 2017, Mayor and Commission passed an Alcoholic Beverage Catering License ordinance. This ordinance allowed the city to regulate who is permitted to cater to Alcoholic Beverages. However, there was not a fee set. The Staff has conducted a poll of other cities and their fees. The average was between \$100.00 and \$200.00 for an annual license.

It was the consensus of the Commission to place this item on the **Consent Agenda**

**DISCUSSED AND APPROVE PUBLIC HEARING FOR HAPPY 121, INC.  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE APPLICATION**

Rodger Goddard, City Marshal, appeared before the Mayor and Commission to seek approval to hold a public hearing and approve an alcoholic beverage license application. The applicant is Hiteshi Patel, Happy 121 Inc., d.b.a USA discount food mart, at 121 E. Gordon St, Douglas, Georgia.

Mr. Goddard stated that Hiteshi Patel, Happy 121, Inc. d.b.a. USA Discount Food Mart has applied for an alcoholic beverage license for retail sales off-premises consumption of beer and wine only. The business is the convenience store located at 121 E. Gordon St, Douglas, Georgia. USA Food Mart has a current alcoholic beverage license.

Mr. Goddard also stated that Chief Edmisten had reviewed the application.

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**DISCUSSED AND APPROVE PUBLIC HEARING FOR HAPPY 121, INC.  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE APPLICATION-CONTINUED**

The background investigation was conducted, and based on city ordinance and state law, no cause was found to disqualify the applicant from an alcoholic beverage license.

It was the consensus of the Commission to place this item on the **Regular Agenda**

**DISCUSSED PUBLIC HEARING FOR SAI 1626, INC. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE  
LICENSE APPLICATION**

Rodger Goddard, City Marshall, appeared before the Mayor and Commission to seek approval to hold a public hearing and approve an alcoholic beverage license application. The applicant Hiteshi Patel, Happy 121 Inc., DB A. USA discount food mart, located at 121 E. Gordon St, Douglas, Georgia.

Mr. Goddard stated that Hiteshi Patel, SAI 1626, Inc. d.b.a. T& M Food Mart has applied for an alcoholic beverage license for retail sales off-premises consumption of beer and wine only. The business is the convenience store located at 1626 S. Peterson Ave, Douglas, Georgia. USA Food Mart has a current alcoholic beverage license.

Chief Edmisten reviewed the application and conducted a background investigation. Based on city ordinance and state law, no cause was found to disqualify the applicant from an alcoholic beverage license.

It was the consensus of the Commission to place this item on the **Regular Agenda**

**FIRST READING TO AMEND THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE, CLOSE AND CLEAR  
ORDINANCE (REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA)**

**DISCUSSED AFFORDABLE CARE ACT & PRESIDENT BIDEN EXECUTIVE ORDER**

Commissioner Pearson appeared before the Commission discussing funding regarding the Affordable Care Act and the President Biden Executive Order. Commissioner Pearson stated that on behalf of the Black Coffee on the Move Coalition, comprised of over 15 organizations (faith-based, non-profit, and small business). She proposes to the City of Douglas that Black Coffee on the Move receives 50% of the designated money for people of color.

It was the consensus of the Commission to place this item on the **Regular Agenda**

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**GENERAL COMMENTS**

Martisha Paulk, the spokesperson for the Black Coffee on the Move Coalition, appeared before the Commission to discuss and asked the plans concerning funds from the 13985 Executive Order and the American Rescue Plan.

Commissioner Pearson requests that any information the City Manager or Finance Director receives regarding this funding. She will like the information sent to her.

**DISCUSSED THE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

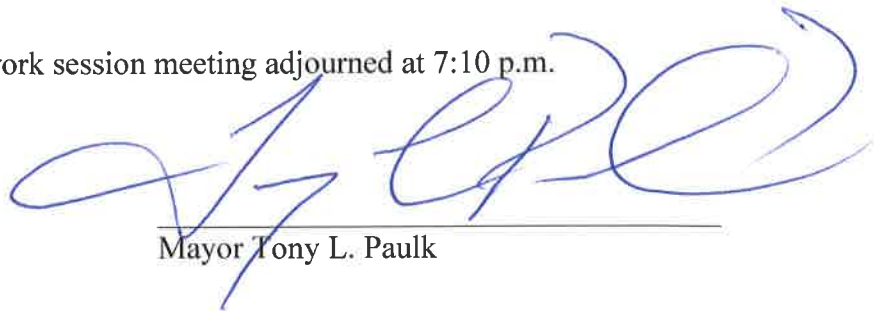
Commissioner Pearson asked for an update on the Citizens Advisory Committee's activities. Mayor Paulk stated that the Committee did not meet for about four months. They met for the first time last month. The Committee has scheduled to meet on June 15<sup>th</sup>. They had to get the officers established, and they agreed to attend the citizen academy.

**CITY MANAGER'S UPDATES**

No comments


**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, the work session meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



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Mayor Tony L. Paulk



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Wynetta J. Bolder, CMC

