

**MINUTES  
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA  
NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

**A Work Session of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, November 22, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the C. E. Weir Center. Mayor Tony L. Paulk was presiding, and Mayor Pro Tem Edwin Taylor, Commissioners Mike Gowen, Cindy McNeill, Kentaiwon Durham, and Olivia Pearson were present.**

**REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 8, 2021 MEETINGS MINUTES**

The first business item presented by Mayor Tony L. Paulk was to review the minutes from November 8, 2021 ( W.S./Reg 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 move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**

**DISCUSSED AND APPROVAL OF THE CITY APPOINTMENT TO RECREATION BOARD**

Stevie Young, Parks & Recreation Director, appeared before the Mayor and Commission to discuss appointing Mr. Johnny Wilkerson to the vacant City post on the recreation board.

Mr. Young stated that the post for a recreation board member has been properly advertised. Staff recommends to appoint Mr. Johnny Wilkerson to the Recreation Board.

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

**DISCUSSED AND APPROVAL OF THE FY'22 FIRE TURN OUT GEAR BID**

Casey Wright, Fire Chief, appeared before the Mayor and Commission to seek approval from the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to Purchase New Fire Turn-Out Gear to be utilized by the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Wright stated that this bid was advertised October 7th and 14th, 2021 in the Douglas Enterprise and was publicly opened on November 8, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. Bids were sent to eighteen (18) vendors with seven (7) responding. This Fire Turn-Out Gear will be purchased and utilized by the Fire Department to replace old and worn-out Turn-Out Gear to be in compliance with NFPA regulation and standards. Fire Chief Casey Wright and Purchasing Agent Nikki Thompson have reviewed this bid and are in agreement to accept the low bid submitted by Municipal Equipment Co., located in Tifton, GA, for a grand total bid of \$12,925.00.

**FUNDING:** FY22 Budget 100-3501-53.1607

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

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**DISCUSS AND REVIEW SURVEY RESULTS AND APPROVE APPLICATION FOR FUNDING - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)**

Charles W. Davis, City Manager, appeared before the Commission to present the results of the ARPA Survey, to seek approval of the application that will be used in determining eligibility of applicants to receive utility credits or reimbursement funds and to seek direction in next steps.

Mr. Davis stated that at the October 25, 2021 meeting, staff informed Mayor and Council of the preliminary ARPA process. The City's ARPA Committee set a timeline that was shared with the Commission on Nov 3rd and Nov 8th. Staff has been working diligently to ensure that the City meets the ARPA requirements and in determining the recommended allocations of the approximate \$2.3 million ARPA funds.

Mr. Davis also stated that the Committee released a survey, during the period of November 3 - 14, 2021, via Survey Monkey, to collect responses from citizens on their preference and priority use of fund. On November 9, 2021, the City held a meeting with the Coffee County Black Economic Coalition to hear their needs and recommendation for allocation of funds. On November 16, 2021, the Committee held a public Community Listening Session to hear from citizens on their needs and recommended use of funds.

Mr. Davis explained that the Committee (Georgia Henderson, Community Development, Charlie Davis, City Manager, Tommy Harrell, Finance Director, and Mike Hudson, Utility Director) prepared a summary of collected information from the survey and two community meetings, which are included with this agenda. To move forward, Mayor and Council have to make definite decisions as to the next steps. For example, more meetings, no more meetings, expanded committee members, move forward with what we have, etc. To move the process forward, the Committee is also presenting a draft of the application that will be used to determine the eligibility of applicants and entails the rules during the process. Also, we will have a draft budget detailing the recommended expenditure of funds by the meeting and hopefully will have emailed to you during the weekend. This proposed budget will be a modification of the earlier version that you had. If approved, staff is prepared to start the application process on November 23, 2021 through December 3, 2021. Committee plans to present the approved list of applicants and budget during the December 13, 2021 City Commission Meeting.

After much discussion, Commissioner Gowen, McNeill and Mayor Pro Tem Taylor recommended to move this item forward.

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