

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
JANUARY 24, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners held a Work Session on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the C. E. Weir Center. Mayor Tony L. Paulk was presiding over the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Edwin Taylor and Commissioners Cindy McNeill, Kentaiwon Durham, Steve Bailey, Olivia Pearson, and Mike Gowen were present.

REVIEW OF JANUARY 9, 2023, MEETINGS MINUTES

The first business item presented by Mayor Tony Paulk was to review the minutes from January 9, 2023 (W.S./Reg Minutes) of the Board Commissioners. Mayor Paulk requested that the Commissioners offer any changes so that the City Clerk could correctly record the minutes for historical data.

The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

DISCUSSED TO PUBLICIZE THE APPOINTMENTS TO AIRBASE PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to seek permission to publicize vacancies on the Airbase Preservation & Development Committee.

Mrs. Henderson stated that the Airbase Preservation & Development Committee is seeking to fill two (2) seats that expired on December 31, 2022, those of Mrs. Stephanie Childers and Mr. Stanley Lott. The staff is seeking permission to follow the standard procedure of publicizing the seats for two weeks. The newly appointed members will serve the standard term for the Airbase Preservation & Development Committee for 3 years. Those with expiring terms have expressed an interest in continuing to serve.

The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Regular Agenda**.

DISCUSSED THE APPOINTMENTS TO DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to seek permission to publicize vacancies on the Downtown Development Authority.

Mrs. Henderson stated that the Downtown Development Authority is seeking to fill two (2) seats that expired on December 31, 2022, those of Mr. Scott Moore and Mr. Michael Newton. Staff would like to follow the standard procedure to publicize the seats for two weeks or until applications are received and then bring the item before the Mayor and Commission for approval of the appointments. The newly appointed members will serve the standard term for the Downtown Development Authority of 3 years. Mr. Scott Moore and Mr. Michael Newton have expressed an interest in continuing to serve.

The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Regular Agenda**.

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**DISCUSSED AND CONDUCTED FIRST READING OF ANNEXATION AND ZONING
UPON ANNEXATION OF 4.33 ACRES AT 1533 GEORGE DRIVE**

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to discuss and conduct the first reading of the Annexation Ordinance to annex 4.33 Acres at 1533 George Drive.

Mrs. Henderson stated that the Applicant and owner, Carlton Dorminey would like to petition the City of Douglas for a voluntary annexation of 4.33 acres, located at 1533 George Drive. Zoning of this property will be established upon annexation. Mr. Dorminey would like to annex this property to better develop it by having city water and sewer services. The current County zoning is Agricultural AG. The zoning requested to be established at annexation is General Commercial (G-C). Although the exact use of the property is unknown at this time, Mr. Dorminey does plan to use and build the property for purposes that are permitted within the G-C zone of the City. The County Commission has been notified and informed of this voluntary petition for annexation and have no objections to the request. In that same vein, the Douglas - Coffee County Planning Commission have reviewed both the annexation and the zoning upon annexation request and also have no objections.

The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Regular Agenda**.

**DISCUSSED FACILITY LEASE-FIRST AMENDMENT TO LEASE WITH UNISON
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to seek approval of a Facility Lease-First Amend to Lease with Unison Behavioral Health.

Mrs. Henderson stated that the Georgia Department of Community Health is reviewing a license application from Unison Behavioral Health, related to the new facility. They have required that the Lease include the street address of the facility, which is 900 West College Park Drive, Douglas, Georgia 31533. The attached amendment also includes the Lease Commencement Date of November 3, 2022. This agreement is in relation to the CDBG 2020 grant and agreement between the City of Douglas and Unison Behavioral Health.

The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

**DISCUSSED AND ADOPTED ORDINANCE DESIGNATING N. GASKIN AVENUE
DISTRICT AS A LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to adopt the ordinance for the proposed designation of the Gaskin Avenue District as a local historic district.

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DISCUSSED AND ADOPTED ORDINANCE DESIGNATING N. GASKIN AVENUE DISTRICT AS A LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT-CONTINUED

Mrs. Henderson stated that Gaskin Avenue is currently recognized as a national historic district and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This only identifies the area as being older than fifty (50) years, along with keeping the integrity of the area and it having some significance. By designating this area, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will have the authority to protect the area by approving, approving with modifications or declining any applications that owners or residences would like to submit to commence any material changes, project plans or demolitions in the Gaskin Avenue District.

Mrs. Henderson also stated the City Commission has held the first and second reading of this ordinance, along with a public hearing. Requirements are to wait 15 days past the public hearing to approve the ordinance.

The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

DISCUSSED AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR THE DESIGNATION OF GASKIN AVENUE AS A LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to affirm the resolution by the HPC to designate the Gaskin Avenue District as a local historic district.

Mrs. Henderson explained that per Section 109-28, e. of the City of Douglas' ordinances, a resolution by the Historic Preservation Committee must be submitted after a public hearing, affirming the designation of a proposed local historic district.

The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

DISCUSSED AND APPROVAL OF "WINGS & THINGS" FESTIVAL AT DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to seek approval allowing the Chamber of Commerce to host a festival at the Douglas Municipal Gene Chambers Airport and the WWII Flight Training Base.

Mrs. Henderson stated that the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce is requesting permission from the City Commission to host a festival at the Douglas Municipal Airport and WWII Flight Training Airbase. The festival will be called the Wings & Things Festival and will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. If approved, staff will work with the Chamber to seek approval from the FAA.

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DISCUSSED AND APPROVAL OF "WINGS & THINGS" FESTIVAL AT DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT -CONTINUED

Mrs. Henderson presented an event summary, a map laying out the scope of the festival, and flyer.

The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

DISCUSSED ALCOHOL SALES AND CONSUMPTION ON CITY STREETS - MARTIN CENTER EVENT

Rodger Goddard, City Marshal, appeared before the Commission to seek approval for alcoholic beverage sales on the sidewalk area, in front of the Martin Center and to allow alcoholic beverage consumption within the boundaries of the approved street closure.

Mr. Goddard stated that Brian Norris, a representative for The Martin Center Preservation Company, has been approved for the street closure of E. Ashley St., between S. Peterson Ave. and S. Madison Ave., for a concert event on February 17, 2023. Mr. Norris is requesting that attendees to the event be allowed to carry open containers of alcoholic beverages, to be legally consumed within the boundaries of the street closures. The beverages will be in a sponsored cup, according to city ordinance. City ordinance Section 4-47 allows for this type of activity upon approval of the Mayor and Commission. Mr. Norris also seeks approval for temporary alcoholic beverage sales on the sidewalk in front of the Martin Center during the event. The staff spoke with Agent Brian Griffin of the Georgia Department of Revenue. Agent Griffin stated this would be allowed upon approval of the Mayor and Commission.

The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

DISCUSSED PROPOSAL FROM WOODROW SAPP FOR WELL 7 REHAB

Mike Hudson, Utilities Director, appeared before the Commission to seek approval to rehab Well (7) Seven.

Mr. Hudson stated that staff has budgeted to rehab well 7. Woodrow Sapp has pulled well 7 and has provided the following list of services.

- Repair existing Peerless 14MD 9 stage pumps
- Replace bowl shaft, bowl bearing set & wear ring •
- Rebuild Packing Box & clean/paint Peerless Discharge Head
- New 10" Epoxy Coated Column with new SS retainer & rubber inserts (250')
- New 1 15/16" Stainless Steel Shaft and Couplings (250')
- New 10"x20' tail pipe with 10"x12" bushing & galvanized Cone Strainer

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**DISCUSSED PROPOSAL FROM WOODROW SAPP FOR WELL 7 REHAB-
CONTINUED**

TOTAL PRICE: \$116,400.00* (Approximate 4–6-week lead time) *Price includes all equipment and labor for installation of the pump

The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

DISCUSSED ADOPTING JUNETEENTH AS A CITY HOLIDAY

Mayor Pro Tem Edwin Taylor appeared before the Commission for the City of Douglas to consider adopting and observing Juneteenth as a City Holiday.

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor stated that Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Deriving its name from combining "June" and "nineteenth", it is celebrated on the anniversary of General Order No. 3, issued by Major General Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865, proclaiming freedom for slaves in Texas. Originating in Galveston, Juneteenth has since been observed annually in various parts of the United States, often broadly celebrating African-American culture. The day was first recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law.

He also stated named some Georgia municipalities that have adopted Juneteenth as a city holiday are City of Augusta, Fayette County, City of Stockbridge, City of Savannah, City of Covington, South Fulton, City of Albany, City of Dacula, City of Madison, City of Warner Robins, City of Athens-Clarke Douglas County, City of Duluth, City of Pearson, City of Waycross and City of Tifton.

The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Regular Agenda**.

DISCUSSED RESOLUTION FOR BISHOP RANDOLPH D. SCOTT

Mayor Tony Paulk appeared before the Commission to seek approval of the Resolution for Bishop Randolph D. Scott.

Mayor Paulk stated that it has come to the attention of the Mayor and the City Commission of the Consecration and elevation as Bishop for Pastor Randolph D. Scott on October 20, 2022 at the National Holy Convocation of the House of God Saints in Christ, Inc. We want to express our congratulations, acknowledgements, and salute the outstanding accomplishments and dedicated service of Bishop Randolph Dewayne Scott and by adoption of this Resolution.

The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

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GENERAL COMMENTS

Tabitha Paulk, NAACP President, (1095 Gus Paulk Rd. Ambrose Ga) appeared before the Commission to express concerns regarding traffic stops on December 31st thru January 1, 2023. She stated there were City of Douglas Police, State Patrol and County Officers circulating in the predominantly black neighbors. Ms. Paulk stated her desire is for the community to receive an equal number of patrols in the neighborhoods. She continued to reiterate this is not a complaint but a concern on behalf of other residence as well. After much discussion Mayor Paulk stated he will look into the situation along with speaking to citizens in the community.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATES

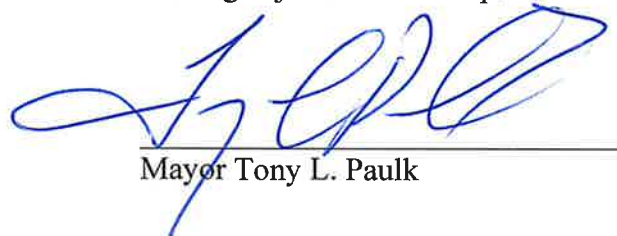
No comments

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the work session meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



Wynetta J. Bolder, CMC



Mayor Tony L. Paulk