

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS
SEPTEMBER 13, 2010**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, September 13, 2010 at 7:10 P.M. The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Jackie L. Wilson presiding. Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson, Commissioners Robert Moore, Johnnie Roper, Olivia Pearson, Dennis Josey and Marty Swain were in attendance.

INVOCATION

Ernie Crussel, Water/Wastewater Director, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTE ADOPTION

The following minutes were unanimously approved following amendments by Mayor Jackie L. Wilson:

**Work Session..... August 23, 2010
Commission Meeting..... August 23, 2010**

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with amended corrections as stated; it was seconded by Commissioner Johnnie L. Roper. The motion was unanimously carried by the Mayor and Commission. **(7-0)**

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** to accept the order of the agenda.

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson, for approval of the order of the agenda; Commissioner Dennis Josey seconded the motion.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING CITY EMPLOYEES

Upon presentation from Judy Carter, Human Resources Director, the Mayor and Commission recognized retiring employees Alton Hammontree from the Public Works Department with twenty-two (22) years of service and also Henry Mizell from the Fire Department with 31 ½ years of service.

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**APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) 2010 DODGE CHARGER PURSUIT
POLICE CARS PURCHASE/POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Upon recommendation from Jerald Guthrie, Purchasing Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved (7-0) consent at the Called Work Session on August 31, 2010 to purchase four (4) 2010 Dodge Charger Pursuit cars for the Police Department at a total cost of \$81,117.44 and also approved for City staff to travel to Winder, Georgia to pick up the four (4) vehicles to save shipping charges.

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson for approval and seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore.

APPROVAL OF GMA SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE

Upon recommendation from Joyce B. Taylor, Finance Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved (7-0) to authorize Mayor Wilson to execute the Lease Supplement documents under the GMA Direct Leasing Program for funding of four (4) 2010 Dodge Chargers with equipment for the Police Department.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore for approval and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson.

APPROVAL OF NEW S & C ALDUTI RUPTER SWITCHES BID

Upon recommendation from Jerald Guthrie, Purchasing Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved (7-0) to purchase four (4) new S & C Alduti switches needed by the Electric Department with one (1) to be used on the Gaskin Avenue Project and the other three (3) will be used as necessary back up. The low bid was received from Stuart C. Irby Company located in Marietta, Georgia for a grant total of \$17,100.00.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Johnnie L. Roper for approval and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain.

**APPROVAL TO REPAIR/RESURFACE DRIVEWAY AT FIRE STATION #3 (1333 S.W.
BOWENS MILL ROAD**

Upon recommendation from Jerald Guthrie, Purchasing Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved (7-0) for S & S Asphalt & Concrete (S&S) located in Douglas, Georgia, to repair/resurface driveway at Fire Station #3 at a cost of \$7.20 per square foot for a total cost of \$25,000.00.

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A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson for approval and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY REPAIR TO 88 HP PUMP AT THE TNT LIFT STATION/WATER DEPARTMENT

Upon recommendation from Jerald Guthrie, Purchasing Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** the emergency repair of the 88 hp pump at the TNT Lift Station by ITT Water & Wastewater U.S.A. located in Pittsburgh, PA for a total cost of \$25,417.00.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Johnnie L. Roper for approval and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain.

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN TO EPD (ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION)

Upon recommendation from Ernie Crussel, Water/Wastewater Director, the Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** to authorize Mayor Wilson to execute the submittal letter for approval of the Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) to EPD (Environmental Protection Division) no later than September 26, 2010 to meet the time line set forth by WPCP.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey for approval and seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson.

APPROVAL TO CONTRACT AND PURCHASE STAND-BY GENERATOR FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Upon recommendation from Ernie Crussel, Water/Wastewater Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** to enter into a contract with Power Secure of Wake Forest, N.C. to provide Emergency Stand-by onsite generation for the Wastewater Treatment Plant for a turnkey project price of \$289,901.00 with a monthly portable generator rental for temporary stand-by power at a cost of \$5,800.00 per month, while project is being completed (billed only as needed) with payment schedule as documented in the proposal on an emergency basis.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson for approval and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson.

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ADVERTISE AIRPORT COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS OR REAPPOINTMENTS

For information only - Dale Batten, Community Development Director, stated staff would proceed with advertising three (3) vacancies on the Douglas Airport Commission for qualified applicants and appointments will be made at the September 27th Commission meeting. Applications will be available at the Airport Terminal, City Clerks' Office or the Community Development Offices and it is desired that those applying have aviation knowledge or experience.

APPROVAL OF MANDATORY HEALTH SCREENING

Upon recommendation from Judy Carter, Human Resources Director, the Mayor and Commission approved **(6-0)** mandatory bio-metrics (health screening), that will be offered in October 2010, for all city employees who are on the city's health insurance plan. Those who do not participate will be dropped from the health insurance and cannot enroll until the 2012 annual enrollment which will be held in December 2011.

Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson stated he did not want to see an employee lose their health insurance and emphasized for staff to work with employees so this would not happen.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey for approval and seconded by Commissioner Johnnie L. Roper. Commissioner Olivia Pearson abstained.

Commissioner Olivia Pearson stated that the health insurance was a benefit and wanted to know the legality of mandatory health screening in order to keep the insurance. City Attorney Jerome Adams stated that he didn't see any problem since we will be giving the employees every opportunity to do the health screening.

Ms. Carter also explained that there would be an education meeting for all employees to receive information on the mandatory bio-metrics screening and also there will be no cost to the employee.

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE VEHICLES FOR NARCOTICS TASK FORCE

Upon recommendation from Police Chief, Gary Casteloes, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** to purchase three (3) new/used vehicles for use by personnel assigned to the Joint Drug Task Force up to an amount of \$45,000 to be funded from the Asset Forfeiture Account.

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Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson made the motion for approval and Commissioner Olivia Pearson seconded the motion.

**ADVERTISE – COFFEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPOINTMENT**

Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, stated that staff would proceed to advertise on Channel 13 for one (1) vacancy on the Coffee County Public Library Board of Trustees. Mr. Hans Ove Nilsen, City appointee, has resigned due to moving out of state. Applications will be received for two weeks and information will be brought back for appointment approval at the September 27th Commission Meeting.

Mayor and Commission expressed appreciation to Hans Ove Nilsen for his dedicated service as a Library Board member and for his involvement in our community.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Johnnie L. Roper expressed appreciation for the citizens that came to the 9/11 Remembrance Prayer Event

Mayor Jackie L. Wilson also thanked Mr. Ragsdale for organizing this event and also expressed appreciation for the citizens that participated.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT

Mayor Jackie L. Wilson stated that citizens will be allowed the maximum of ten (10) minutes to speak and stick to the issues and no personal attacks.

Upon a **Motion** from Commissioner Johnnie L. Roper and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson, it was approved for citizens to be allowed five (5) minutes to speak instead of ten (10) minutes. Commissioners Bob Moore and Dennis Josey voted for the motion. Commissioners Olivia Pearson and Marty Swain voted against the motion.

Commissioners and citizens will be recognized by the Mayor before they speak. There will not be any interruptions from anyone while that person is addressing the Commission.

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CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tammy Tim of 508 S. Gaskin Avenue stated that she had received a letter from Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, concerning her request to be reimbursed for loss of revenue at her business, Tammy's Unique Fashion, due to utility services not being reconnected after she had paid her bill. Ms. Tim commented that she was not satisfied with the City Manager's response and requested for Mayor and Commission to review her request for reimbursement.

Commissioner Olivia Pearson inquired as to why the utilities were not turned back on after she made payment.

Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, stated that customer was disconnected for not paying and when she came to pay did not tell Customer Service Clerk that her business had been disconnected. With our present system, it does not show if an account is disconnected during cash receipting and usually customers prompt cashier that utilities are disconnected. Customer's utilities had been off for about two (2) weeks.

After discussion, Commissioner Olivia Pearson made a **MOTION** to reimburse Ms. Tim for her loss of revenue at Tammy's Unique Fashion, 508 South Gaskin, due to utilities not being turned back on. Ms. Tim was requested to bring report of estimated loss of sales for Friday, Saturday and Monday morning and this report will be reviewed by City Manager and Board of Commission for amount to reimburse. Commissioner Johnnie L. Roper seconded the motion with Commissioner Marty Swain voting in favor of the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson, Commissioners Bob Moore and Dennis Josey voting against the motion. Mayor Jackie L. Wilson voted in favor of the motion **(4-3)**.

Ms. Cheryl Cunningham 207 Pine Crest Drive stated she had a concern with the inconsistency of the board – you had a policy of ten (10) minutes and now you changed it to five (5) minutes to speak.

Ms. Cunningham also stated that she felt like the Ethics Board is already corrupt – it's like an enemy camp and you might as well be talking to Jackie Wilson because the whole camp is Jackie Wilson. Ms. Cunningham commented that there are connections on that board because you have Hennesy working for Farrar and Farrar and they are connected to the Lotts and Ms. Jackie, you sit on the lap of Francis Lott and I know that.

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Mayor Jackie L. Wilson cautioned Ms. Cunningham to hold her personal comments unless you want to be seated. Ms. Cunningham then stated that it was her “observation”. Mayor Jackie L. Wilson stated the comment was pretty personal.

Ms. Cunningham also accused Commissioner Josey of telling her to check the records that when Mayor Tony Paulk was in office that he always voted for the black folks and that’s why he’s not in office now. Ms. Cunningham stated that he didn’t always vote for the black folks; he voted for whatever was right to do. If ya’ll are sitting on the board trying to get revenge for what Paulk did or did not do then that’s not right. I hope ya’ll are pleased with what ya’ll are doing with this board because I am not.

Ms. Cunningham would like to know why she has not received a response to her complaint as Ms. Tim stated she had received two (2) responses.

Ms. Cunningham stated that she thought the Ethics Board needed to be fined as they have taken more than 30 days on her complaints.

Commissioner Olivia Pearson stated she was ready for this issue to be over and would like for Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, to respond in writing to Ms. Cunningham on the two-week final out policy on utilities. Mr. Jacobs stated that he had met with her one on one in his office and offered explanation, but he would respond to her complaint in writing.

Commissioner Johnnie L. Roper stated he was ready for this issue to be over and let’s get on with business.

City Attorney Jerome Adams stated he thought the Ethics Committee would have an answer to Ms. Cunningham’s complaints before the next Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Olivia Pearson stated she thought the correct thing that should have been done was to have given Ms. Cunningham a response on her first complaint since the City did not have anything in writing on the two-week final out policy on utilities.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to discuss in the regular meeting, a motion was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson to adjourn to the Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issue. The Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** to adjourn to Executive Session.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

PERSONNEL ISSUE

Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, discussed personnel issue with the Mayor and Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson made the motion to return to the regular meeting from Executive Session and seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore and approved by all.

UTILITY COMMITTEE

Ms. Lorraine Presley, 522 Cecil Way, requested to make a payment of \$200.00 per month on her utility bill which is now more than \$1300.00 with next payment being due on September 16, 2010. The high utility bill was due to problems with hot water heater. She stated that she had contacted the landlord and he wasn't going to help her with the bill – but did repair hot water heater.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson to approve the request from Ms. Presley to pay \$200.00 per month on utility bill until paid in full and to make an adjustment off the water/sewer charge in the amount of \$52.00 and was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson. Mayor and Commission unanimously approved this motion **(7-0)**.

Ms. Winnie Frost, whom resides in Florida, requested by her daughter that she be allowed to pay \$75.00 per month on an old utility bill from 510 Pine Street until bill was paid in full.

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson to approve request of Ms. Frost to pay \$75.00 per month on an old utility bill from 510 Pine Street until bill was paid in full and was seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson. Mayor and Commission unanimously approved this motion **(7-0)**.

Ms. Betty Smith, 407 S. Chester, stated that her bill was due the next day in the amount of \$230.00 and she had all but \$19.00 of the amount and requested to put the \$19.00 on her next bill.

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No action was taken on Ms. Smith's issue as the City Manager stated he would address this request.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Bob Moore made the motion to adjourn and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson and approved by all at 9:35 pm.

Jackie L. Wilson, Mayor

Pat A. Baker, Deputy City Clerk