

**MINUTES  
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA  
AUGUST 28, 2023**

**The Board of Commissioners held a Work Session on Thursday, August 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Tony L. Paulk was presiding over the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson and Commissioners Steve Bailey, Edwin Taylor, and Kentaiwon Durham Cindy McNeill were present. Commissioner Mike Gowen was absent from the Work Session.**

**REVIEW OF AUGUST 14, 2023, MEETINGS MINUTES**

The first business item presented by Mayor Tony Paulk was to review the minutes from August 14, 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 APPROVAL FOR THE DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS TO DOUGLAS AIRPORT COMMISSION**

Charlie Davis, City Manager, appeared before the Commission to seek permission to publicize vacancies on the Airport Commission.

Mr. Davis stated that the Airport Commission is seeking to fill two (2) seats that expired on September 30, 2023: Mr. Ed Coleman, Mr. Jason Fuller, and Mr. Greg Souther. The staff seeks permission to follow the standard procedure of publicizing the seats for two weeks. The newly appointed members will serve the common term for the Airport Commission for three years. Those with expiring terms have expressed an interest in continuing to serve.

The Commission agreed to move this item forward on the **Regular Agenda**.

**DISCUSSED APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENTS TO DOUGLAS-COFFEE COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY**

Charlie Davis, City Manager, appeared before the Commission to seek permission to reappoint two (2) members to the Douglas-Coffee County Land Bank Authority.

Mr. Davis stated that the Douglas-Coffee County Land Bank Authority is seeking to fill two (2) seats that expired on August 22, 2023: Mrs. Cindy McNeill and Mrs. Dinitra Williams. The staff has followed the standard procedure of publicizing the seats for two weeks and, when submitting agenda items, has not received any applications. Mrs. McNeill and Mrs. Williams are interested in continuing to serve another term.

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

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**DISCUSSED APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED NEW DISTRICT BOUNDARY FOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AND MAIN STREET**

*This item was tabled.*

**DISCUSSED APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FUND DISBURSEMENT**

Mr. Charlie Davis appeared before the Commission to Discuss the National Opioid Settlement Agreement Fund Disbursement.

Mr. Davis stated that in January 2022, Georgia opted into opioid litigation brought by states and local subdivisions against the three largest pharmaceutical distributors - McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen - and manufacturer Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and its parent company, Johnson & Johnson. Georgia will receive a combined \$636 million from these settlements, known as the National Distributor Settlement and Janssen/J&J Settlement. The National Distributor Settlement funds will be disbursed on an 18-year plan, while the Janssen/J&J Settlement funds will be disbursed on a 9-year plan.

Mr. Davis also stated that the State and Local Governments shall work cooperatively to ensure the funds are spent within the spirit of this Agreement and the Settlements reached with the Distributors and J&J and shall further work cooperatively to actively defend the funds from federal clawback and/or recoupment, including, but not limited to, actively participating in any administrative procedure or other case or process related to defense of the funds from federal claw back and/or recoupment. Mr. Davis presented an outline, which was located in Exhibit E.

Mr. Davis also explained that staff has been in discussion with Unison Behavior Health (our CSB) and Waycross Superior Court's Accountability (Drug) Court to use and manage the funds. To ensure that the dispensation of the funds is accurate and accounted for, Mr. Davis recommended that the proceeds be split from the settlement between both entities. The City of Douglas will receive approximately \$270,0000 over 18 years.

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

**DISCUSSED APPROVAL OF THE FY'23 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Charlie Davis, City Manager, appeared before the Commission to seek approval of the amending of the FY'23 City of Douglas Budget to reflect changes that have occurred since the adoption of the FY'23 Budget on June 20, 2022.

Mr. Davis stated Changes in revenue and expenditures have occurred since the adoption of the FY'23 budget on 6/20/2022, making it necessary to amend said budget.

The proposed FY'23 amended budget:

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**DISCUSSED APPROVAL OF THE FY'23 BUDGET AMENDMENT-CONTINUED**

The general Fund is adjusted by \$926,403 to reflect a total increase in revenue and expenditures, changing the total General Fund Budget from \$18,344,097 to \$19,270,500.

Utility Funds are adjusted to reflect a total increase in revenue and expenditures of \$576,979, changing the Total Utility Funds Budget from \$55,423,021 to \$56,000,000.

Special Revenue Funds are adjusted to reflect a total decrease in revenue and expenditures of (\$15,414,036), changing the Total Special Revenue Funds Budget from \$30,493,448 to \$15,079,412.

The Employee Benefit Fund (Health) is adjusted by \$144,683 to reflect the anticipated revenue and expenditures, changing the budget from \$2,375,000 to \$2,519,683.

The Worker's Comp Insurance Trust is adjusted by (\$304,993) to reflect the anticipated revenue and expenditures, changing the budget from \$404,993 to \$100,000.

The total annual budget will be decreased from \$107,040,559 to \$92,969,595.

The Commission agreed to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

**DISCUSSED APPROVAL THE BLACK BUSINESS AND BLACK PHILANTHROPIC MONTH PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson appeared before the Commission to seek approval to adopt the Black Business and Black Philanthropic Month Proclamation.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson stated that Black Business Month, which is observed during August each year, was founded in 2004 by John William Templeton, a historian, and Frederick E. Jordan, Sr., a civilian engineer, to recognize the 2.6 million Black-owned businesses across the nation and to highlight the economic impact in their communities.

The Commission agreed to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

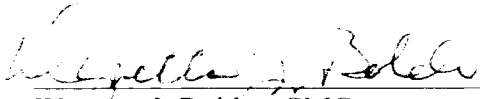
**CITY MANAGER'S UPDATES**

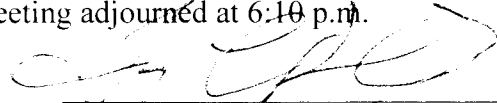
City Manager Charlie Davis briefly discussed Hurricane Idellia. An updated logistic meeting was scheduled for 6:30 Monday night.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Without further discussion, the work session meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

  
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Wynetta J. Bolden, CMC

  
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Mayor Tony L. Paulk