

**MINUTES
MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
NOVEMBER 13, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 7:07 p.m. at the City Hall Commission Chambers. Mayor Tony L. Paulk was presiding over the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson and Commissioners Mike Gowen, Steve Bailey, Kentaiwon Durham, Edwin Taylor, and Cindy McNeill were present.

CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Tony L. Paulk called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

INVOCATION (COMMISSIONER EDWIN TAYLOR)

Commissioner Kentaiwon Durham gave the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Tony L. Paulk led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The MOTION carried (6-0) to approve the agenda order as discussed for the Regular Meeting with the motion made by Commissioner Kentaiwon Durham and seconded by Commissioner Edwin Taylor.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF THE WS/REGULAR OCTOBER 23, 2023, MEETING MINUTES
2. APPROVAL OF THE CHANGE ORDER FOR GEORGIA HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND GRANT FOR THE DOUGLAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION DESIGN GUIDELINES
3. APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION GRANT FOR THE DOUGLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
4. APPROVAL OF THE POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF DOUGLAS AND SATILLA EMC
5. APPROVAL OF THE DATE CHANGE OF UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETINGS

As discussed in the Work Session, the **MOTION (carried 6-0)** to approve all Consent Agenda items listed above, a motion made by Commissioner Kentaiwon Durham and seconded by Commissioner Edwin Taylor

**MINUTES
MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
NOVEMBER 13, 2023**

WORK SESSION ITEMS

APPROVAL AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR PUBLIX'S ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE APPLICATION

Rodger Goddard, City Marshall, appeared before the Commission to conduct a public hearing and approve issuing an alcoholic beverage license for Publix Super Markets, Inc. City Attorney Jerome Adams conducted a public hearing. No comments were made from the public, followed by action to approve issuing the alcoholic beverage license for Publix Super Markets, Inc. D.B.A. Publix Sper Markets Store #1870.

The **MOTION** carried (6-0) to approve issuing the alcoholic beverage license for Publix Super Markets, Inc. D.B.A. Publix Sper Markets Store #1870 for the Regular Meeting with the motion made by Commissioner Durham and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson

APPROVAL AND DISCUSSION FOR DISTANCE VARIANCE REQUEST FOR 1002 WARD ST. W. - MCRAE'S PHARMACY AND PUBLIC HEARING

The recommendation is for the City Commission to approve the request for a distance variance from the required 1000 feet by McRae's Pharmacy, located at 1002 W. Ward Street, to sell and dispense low THC Oil (Medical Cannabis) to registered patients.

APPROVAL AND DISCUSSION FOR DISTANCE VARIANCE REQUEST FOR 722 SHIRLEY AVE. - THE MEDICINE CABINET AND PUBLIC HEARING

The recommendation is for the City Commission to approve the request for a distance variance from the required 1000 feet by The Medicine Cabinet, located at 722 Shirley Avenue, to sell and dispense low THC Oil (Medical Cannabis) to registered patients.

APPROVAL AND DISCUSSION DISTANCE VARIANCE REQUEST FOR 225 (223) ASHELY ST. - THE MEDICINE CABINET AND PUBLIC HEARING

The recommendation is for the City Commission to approve the request for a distance variance from the required 1000 feet by The Medicine Cabinet, located at 225 (223) Ashley Street, to sell and dispense low THC Oil (Medical Cannabis) to registered patients.

APPROVAL AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ITEMS #3, 4, AND 5 REGARDING VARIANCE AND SELLING AND DISPENSING LOW THC OIL TO REGISTERED PATIENTS

Rodger Goddard presented all three items. City Attorney Jerome Adams conducted a public hearing for all three items above, requesting a variance. No comments were made from the public, followed by action to approve issuing to sell and dispense low THC Oil (Medical Cannabis) to registered patients.

**MINUTES
MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
NOVEMBER 13, 2023**

APPROVAL AND DISCUSSION OF ITEMS #3, 4, AND 5 REGARDING VARIANCE AND SELLING DISPENSE LOW THC OIL TO REGISTERED PATIENTS - CONTINUED

The **MOTION** carried (5-1) to approve issuing to sell and dispense low THC Oil (Medical Cannabis) to registered patients with the motion made by Commissioner Durham and seconded by Commissioner Cindy McNeill. The Mayor Pro Tem, Pearson, opposed the motion and decided to stay with the state law request.

DISCUSS RESOLUTION AND PUBLIC HEARING ON NEW PROPOSED BOUNDARY FOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND MAIN STREET

Rodger Goddard, City Marshal, appeared before the Commission to make a recommendation for the Downtown Development Authority and staff to adjust the boundaries of the Douglas DDA District. Current boundaries are North at McNeil Dr., South at the Bowen Mills intersection, West to Columbia Ave., and East to Pearl Avenue. The proposed new boundaries will be North at Walker Street, South at Baker Hwy., West to Columbia Ave., and East to Pearl Avenue. Also, it is recommended that the City Commission hold a public hearing followed by approval of a resolution to adopt the proposed new boundary map for the Downtown Development District and Main Street. City Attorney Jerome Adams conducted a public hearing with no public comments.

The **MOTION** carried out (5-1) to approve issuing the boundaries for the downtown district with the motion made by Commissioner Gowen and seconded by Commissioner McNeill.

Discussion: Mayor Pro Tem Pearson stated that she favors including the additional recommended sections but does not favor reducing the area. The Mayor Pro Tem Pearson, opposed the motion.

DISCUSSED AND APPROVED GFL ADJUSTMENTS TO RATES

Charles W. Davis, City Manager, appeared before the Commission to discuss this issue of adjusting the GFL Rates in detail. Mr. Davis explained that per our agreement with GFL, the Service Fee will be increased annually every January 1st, 2024. This will reflect the annual adjustment based on Table 1 of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. City Average by expenditure category and commodity and service group, Water and Sewer and Trash Collection Services. A CPI increase of 5.8% will be implemented for the billing period of January 1st, 2024, for all services. The city will have to increase customer billing rates by 2.7% to recoup the 5.8 vendor increase charged to the city. For residential customers, this is an approximate 0.86 cent increase. He also stated that this is a \$ 125,000.00 deficit that has to come from somewhere. Therefore, GFL will be able to raise it regardless of the decision that is made tonight.

The Motion to table this item was made by Commissioner McNeill and seconded by Commissioner Gowen. It was the consensus of the Commission to table this item until GFL management speaks with their corporation. (6-0)

MINUTES
MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
NOVEMBER 13, 2023

STAFF COMMENTS

No Comment

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

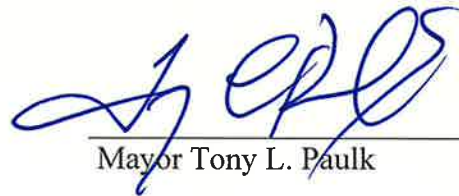
No Comment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular meeting at 7:32 p.m. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Kentaiwon Durham. **(6-0)**



Wyhotta J. Bolder, CMC



Mayor Tony L. Paulk