

**MINUTES
MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
MAY 28, 2024**

The Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Monday, May 28, 2024, at 6:25 p.m. at the City Hall Commission Chambers. Mayor Tony L. Paulk was presiding over the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Mike Gowen and Commissioners Steve Bailey, Tony Paulk II, Cindy McNeil, Kentaiwon Durham, and Edwin Taylor 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 Edwin Taylor gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Coffee High Naval JROTC led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The MOTION (6-0) was carried out to approve the agenda order with the motion made by Commissioner Kentaiwon Durham and seconded by Commissioner Tony Paulk II.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL/TEEN COURT 22024 AND THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ACHIEVERS

Mayor Tony Paulk and Dinitra Williams, Mayor's Youth Council/Teen Court Coordinator, appeared before the Commission to recognize the graduating students of 2024 who have participated this year with the Mayor's Youth Council and Teen Court. The following students are Jameson Cummings, Jr., Mayor (MYC), and Jakeelie (Meia) Batten, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem (MYC & Teen Court), who both attended Coffee High School. Jeremiah Bazell, Zipporah Wilcox, and Jada Marshall are also acknowledged as this year's Community Service Achievers.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (CHARLES DAVIS, CITY MANAGER)

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 9, 2024, BUDGET WORK SESSION & MAY 13TH, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**
2. **APPROVAL OF MAYOR TONY L. PAULK TO EXECUTE THE CSX PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM.**
3. **APPROVAL TO ALLOW MAYOR PAULK TO EXECUTE ANY PAST AND PRESENT CONTRACTS WITH STATEWIDE ENGINEERING, INC. FOR THE 2018 AND 2024 TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT (TIA), A.K.A. T-SPLOST PROJECTS.**

As discussed in the Work Session, Commissioner Kentaiwon Durham made the motion (carried 6-0) to approve all Consent Agenda items listed above, which Mayor Pro Tem Mike Gowen seconded.

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WORK SESSION ITEMS

DISCUSSED AND CONDUCTED THE SECOND READING FOR ANNEXATION & ZONING UPON ANNEXATION FOR 98.48 ACRES OF VACANT LOT PARCELS (8) LOCATED OFF GINGERWOOD RD., CLINTON MURRAY RD., & L.G. POPE ROAD

Jerome Adams, City Attorney, appeared before the Commission for the second reading of an Annexation Ordinance to annex and zone 98.48 acres of parcels: 0099 066, 0099 066A, 0099 066B, 0099 067A, 0099 095, 0099 096, 0099 097 & 0100 156A, requested by the The City of Douglas, with M1 - Light Industrial Zoning. **“AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX PROPERTY INTO THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 36 OF TITLE 36 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND OTHER PURPOSES.”** The second reading will take place on May 28, 2024, followed by action of the Mayor and City Commission.

The MOTION was carried out (6-0) to approve the Annexation & Zoning Upon Annexation for 98.48 Acres of Vacant Lot Parcels (8) Located Off of Gingerwood Rd., Clinton Murray Rd., & L.G. Pope Road with the motion made by Commissioner Kentaiwon Durham and seconded by Commissioner Edwin Taylor.

APPROVAL AND A PUBLIC HEARING FOR VARIANCE REQUEST FOR REAR SETBACK AT MURPHY OIL USA INC., 1448 BOWENS MILL ROAD

Jerome Adams, City Attorney, held a public hearing followed by action to approve or deny the 38.75 ft rear setback variance. Staff and the Fire Department agree that this will not significantly disrupt the design or traffic because of the proposed new development.

The MOTION was carried out (6-0) to approve the Variance Request for Rear Setback at Murphy Oil USA Inc. 1448 Bowens Mill Road with the motion made by Commissioner Kentaiwon Durham and seconded by Commissioner Edwin Taylor.

APPEAL BY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH TO DEMOLISH 419 E. ASHLEY STREET

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, recommends that the City Commission either approve First Baptist Church's request to demolish the structure located at 419 E. Ashley Street or deny this request and uphold the decision of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Commissioner Steve Bailey stated that this item was a conflict of interest due to attending First Baptist Church. Therefore, he will not vote or discuss this request.

The motion (5-0-1) to approve First Baptist Church's appeal to Demolish 419 E. Ashley Street was carried out, with Mayor Pro Tem Mike Gowen making the motion and Commissioner Cindy McNeill seconding it. Commissioner Kentaiwon Durham abstained.

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DISCUSSED AND CONDUCTED FY'25 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Jerome Adams, City Attorney, will conduct a public hearing about the proposed FY'25 \$149,043,302 budget after it has been advertised correctly in Douglas Enterprise. Also, if there are no objections, allow staff to present the FY'25 Budget for adoption at the next City Commission meeting scheduled for June 10, 2024.

STAFF COMMENTS

No Comment

MAYOR PAULK'S COMMENTS


ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular meeting at 6:25 p.m. The motion was made by Commissioner Edwin Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Cindy McNeill. **(6-0)**



Wynetta J. Bolder, CMC





Mayor Tony L. Paulk

