

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
JULY 8, 2024**

DISCUSSED AXON 10-YEAR CONTRACT FOR IN-CAR CAMERAS, BODY CAMERAS, AND TASERS

Bart McCulloch, Captain, Police Department, appeared before the Commission to seek the approval of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to allow the entering of a ten (10) year contract with Axon Enterprise Inc. for the purchase of an In-Car Video Camera Body Camera, Tasers, Docking Station, and needed Software. The Douglas Police Department will utilize these items.

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

DISCUSSED DONATING OUTDATED SURVIVAIR SCBAS AND CYLINDERS TO THE TELFAIR COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Casey Wright, Fire Chief, appeared before the Commission to seek approval to donate these items to the Telfair County Fire Department.

Chief Wright stated that These units have been taken out of service and replaced by the DFD. 12 - 4500 psi SCBA's (pack only) 6 - 2216 psi SCBA's (pack only) 16 - 4500 psi air cylinders 11 - 2216 psi air cylinders.

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

DISCUSSED RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT A RURAL ZONE APPLICATION

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to seek approval to submit the Resolution for a Georgia Department of Community Affairs Georgia Department of Economic Development Rural Zone application.

Mrs. Henderson explained that the city successfully submitted a Rural Zone Application in 2019; as the current time for this designation is ending, we must submit a new application. The Job Tax Credit Program provides additional benefits to specified census tracts or additionally designated areas that are less developed or have a higher rate of poverty. The Rural Zone designation was approved and signed into law in May 2017 and provides enhanced state tax credit incentives to promote the revitalization of vacant rural Georgia downtowns by encouraging investment, job creation, and economic growth in long-established business districts. Establishing up to 10 zones annually will enable businesses and investors to obtain tax credits for qualified activities within designated Rural Zones. DCA will receive applications and designate zones each year to incentivize job creation and private investment in the specified locations in partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Credits will be available for job creation activities, investment in downtown properties, and renovation of properties to make them usable.

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

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The Board of Commissioners held a Work Session on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Tony L. Paulk was presiding over the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Mike Gowen and Commissioners Edwin Taylor, Tony Paulk II, and Cindy McNeill were present. Commissioner Steve Bailey was absent.

REVIEW OF JUNE 27, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

The first business item that Charlie Davis, City Manager, presented was to review the minutes from the June 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes (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 FY25 PAD MOUNT TRANSFORMERS BID

Mike Hudson, Utilities Director, appeared before the Commission to seek approval from the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to purchase four (4) pad-mount transformers for the Electric Department.

Mr. Hudson stated that This bid was advertised on May 16 and 23, 2024, in The Douglas Enterprise and was publicly opened on June 24, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. in City Hall. Bids were sent to seven (7) vendors, and thirteen (13) total bids were received. These transformers will be installed at new businesses and other locations within the city. They will also be used to replace old and damaged transformers. Purchasing Agent Nikki Thompson and Utilities Director Mike Hudson have reviewed the bids and agree to accept the low bids submitted by the following vendors. These awards were based on delivery times:

Vendor	Items awarded	Total	Delivery Times
Pulse MAC Solutions-San Antonio, TX	Two (2) 1000-E Transformers	\$113,690.00	20 weeks
JCL Energy-Sharon, PA	Two (2) 1500-F Transformers	\$150,000.00	One week
			\$263,690.00

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

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DISCUSSED MORATORIUM ON LEASING OF AIRBASE BUILDINGS

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission. Amy Paulk, a representative of First Baptist Church, appeared before the Commission to answer questions and to clarify the construction plans.

Mrs. Henderson stated that per the recommendation of the Airbase Preservation and Development Committee, the staff is seeking approval to place a moratorium on leasing historic Airbase buildings for up to 6 months for non-aviation-related businesses and purposes. However, aviation-related companies seeking to rent will be eligible to apply to the Airbase Preservation and Development Committee or Community Development Director for review during this time.

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

DISCUSSED TRANSFER OF DEED TO COFFEE COUNTY FOR THE IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOOD OUTCOMES IN DISPROPORTIONALLY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES GRANT

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to seek approval to transfer the deed of Soccer Fields to Coffee County for the Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities Grant.

Mrs. Henderson said that Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities invests in neighborhood features, including parks, recreation facilities, sidewalks, and healthy food access, which can work to improve physical and mental health outcomes. Allowing people access to nature, including parks, has been connected to decreased levels of mortality and illness and increased well-being. Urban Park use during the COVID-19 pandemic may have declined among lower-income individuals. Encouraging physical activity can also affect health outcomes, as a sedentary lifestyle is a risk factor for chronic diseases and more severe COVID-19 outcomes. Parks, recreation facilities, and sidewalks can promote healthier living environments by allowing for safe and socially distanced recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Coffee County was awarded an Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities grant by the Georgia Governor's Office of Budget and Planning grant number GA-0013741 for new soccer fields at Huckaby Sports Complex for \$2,000,000.00. The project aims to increase the number of soccer fields in the complex from 1 to 4 to increase participants. Through these funds, Coffee County residents will benefit from the primary activities for this grant, which include the construction of 4 soccer fields, including subsurface drainage, grading, stormwater drainage, grassing, sidewalks/concrete, seating, goals/netting/backstops, scoreboards, fencing, lighting, utilities, and signage. For this project to be completed, the city must deed the property, a total of 13.85 acres, to the county. A plat of the exact location is also attached.

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

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DISCUSSED RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT A LAND WATER CONSERVATION FUND APPLICATION FOR GREENWAY TRAIL AMENITIES

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to seek approval to approve the Resolution to Submit a Land Water Conservation Fund Application for Greenway Trail Amenities.

Mrs. Henderson stated that the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program is a federal program authorized by Congress to acquire federal lands and assist states and local governments with funds to acquire land and develop and renovate outdoor recreation facilities. Congress appropriates LWCF funds to the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service (NPS). NPS allocates the funds through state agencies as a grant program to state and local governments. Grantees must match the grant award dollar by dollar. The Greenway Trail project will enhance the trail amenities and parking. In this application, we will apply for amenities such as bicycle racks, trash receptacles, signage, bottle filler stations, lighting exercise break-out stations, and more.

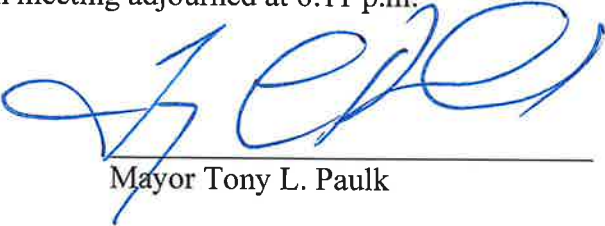
The Commission's consensus was to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

GENERAL COMMENTS -No comments

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATES-No comments

ADJOURNMENT

Without further discussion, the work session meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.



Mayor Tony L. Paulk



Wynetta J. Bolder, CMC

