

MINUTES
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
NOVEMBER 25, 2024

The Board of Commissioners held a work session on Monday, November 25, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Tony L. Paulk presided over the meeting, with Mayor Pro Tem Mike Gowen and Commissioners Edwin Taylor, Steve Bailey and Cindy McNeill in attendance. Commissioner Tony Paulk II, and City Attorney Jerome Adams were absent.

REVIEWED OF NOVEMBER 12, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

The first business item that Charlie Davis, City Manager, presented was to review the minutes from the November 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes, 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 agreed to move this item forward on the **Consent Agenda**.

DISCUSSED JAY MADI 5 LLC ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Georgia Henderson, the Community Development Director, appear before the Commission to conduct a public hearing and approve the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license for Jay Madi 5, LLC.

Mrs. Henderson informed the Commission that Jay Madi 5, LLC has applied for an alcoholic beverage license for the retail sale and off-premises consumption of beer and wine. The establishment will be located at 1020 Baker Hwy E., Douglas, Georgia. Nimeshkumar Patel is the licensee and owner. Both Jay Madi 5, LLC and Nimeshkumar Patel meet all the requirements set forth by state law and city ordinance to receive an alcoholic beverage license. Chief Pruette has reviewed and approved the application.

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

**DISCUSSED HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISTANCE VARIANCE
REQUEST FOR 901 W BAKER HIGHWAY - TMC APOTHECARY, LLC**

Georgia Henderson, the Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to discuss and hold a public hearing on a distance variance request by TMC Apothecary, LLC to sell and dispense low THC Oil (Medical Cannabis) to registered patients.

In her report, Mrs. Henderson explained that TMC Apothecary, LLC, located at 901 W Baker Hwy in Douglas, Georgia, has applied to the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy for a license to dispense low THC oil (medical cannabis). This would serve as an additional therapeutic option to help alleviate symptoms related to chronic pain, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, chemotherapy-induced nausea, and other disorders.

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**DISCUSSED HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISTANCE VARIANCE
REQUEST FOR 901 W BAKER HIGHWAY - TMC APOTHECARY, LLC-CONTINUE**

Current regulations prohibit the sale or dispensing of such products within one thousand (1,000) feet of a "covered entity," which includes public or private schools, early care and education programs, as well as churches, synagogues, and other places of public worship, as defined in Georgia State Code Section 20-1A-2. The proposed location is within this one-thousand-foot restriction of these protected entities.

Additionally, Mrs. Henderson noted that State Law O.C.G.A. 16-12-215 (a) states that local governments have the authority to permit dispensing licenses to be granted in locations outside of these restrictions, provided that such exceptions are necessary to allow retail outlets to serve registered patients residing within the local jurisdiction.

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

**DISCUSSED APPROVAL OF THE REVISED LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN FOR GA
DCA, HUD, AND OTHER FEDERALLY FUNDED GRANT PROGRAMS**

The Community Development Director, Georgia Henderson, requested the Commission's approval to revise the Language Access Plan (LAP) for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and other federally funded grant programs.

Mrs. Henderson explained that in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166, grant recipients must take timely and reasonable steps to provide Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals with meaningful access to programs and activities funded by the federal government and administered by the Georgia DCA.

The City of Douglas has developed this Language Access Plan to address its responsibilities as a recipient of federal financial assistance, ensuring that individuals with limited English language skills can access services provided through Federal and State programs. The plan aims to identify reasonable measures for providing language assistance to LEP individuals. As defined by Executive Order 13166, LEP persons are those who do not speak English as their primary language and have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English.

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

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DISCUSSED ADVERTISING TWO EXPIRING TERMS ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to gain permission from City Commission to advertise two expiring terms on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mrs. Henderson reported that the Historic Preservation Commission seeks to advertise filing two expiring terms on their board, those of Mrs. Melissa Rowell and Mrs. Darlene Salazar, both of which expire on December 31, 2024.

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

DISCUSSED ADVERTISING FOUR EXPIRING TERMS ON KEEP DOUGLAS BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE

Georgia Henderson, Director of Community Development, appeared before the Commission To gain permission from City Commission to advertise three expiring terms on the Keep Douglas Beautiful Committee.

Mrs. Henderson stated that the Keep Douglas Beautiful Committee seeks to advertise filling four expiring terms on their board, those of Mrs. Courtney Dorsett, Mrs. Dinitra Williams, Mr. Mike Bazell, and Mr. William Thompson, all of which expire on December 31, 2024.

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

DISCUSSED ADVERTISING TWO EXPIRING TERMS ON DOUGLAS-COFFEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Georgia Henderson, the Community Development Director, presented a request to the Commission for permission to advertise two expiring terms on the Douglas-Coffee County Planning Commission.

Mrs. Henderson explained that the Planning Commission would like to announce the upcoming expiration of terms for Mr. Johnny Deems and Mr. Kevin Koepler, both of which will end on December 31, 2024.

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

GENERAL COMMENTS (3 MINUTES)

No Comments

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DISCUSSED FILLING TWO VACANT POSITIONS ON THE KEEP DOUGLAS BEAUTIFUL BOARD

Georgia Henderson, the Community Development Director, presented to the Commission to request appointments to fill two vacancies on the Keep Douglas Beautiful Board.

Mrs. Henderson explained that the Keep Douglas Beautiful organization is looking to fill two open seats. The newly appointed members will serve a term of three years. The mission of Keep Douglas Beautiful is to promote environmental sustainability and educate the community on actions they can take daily to enhance safety, reduce litter in our open spaces and waterways, improve recycling efforts, and maintain the beauty of Douglas.

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

DISCUSSED ADVERTISING SIX EXPIRING TERMS ON WWII FLIGHT TRAINING BASE COMMITTEE

Georgia Henderson, the Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to seek approval for permission to advertise six expiring terms on the WWII Flight Training Base Committee.

Mrs. Henderson reported that the committee is looking to fill in three expiring terms serving on the board. The current members whose terms are set to expire on December 31, 2024, include Mr. Andy Varnadore, Dr. Carl McDonald, Mr. Donnie Parsons, Mr. Edward Coleman, Mrs. Georgia Henderson, and Mr. Thomas Smith.

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

DISCUSSED ADVERTISING TWO EXPIRING TERMS ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Georgia Henderson, the Community Development Director, appeared before the Commission to seek approval for advertising two expiring positions on the Downtown Development Authority.

Mrs. Henderson reported that the Downtown Development Authority intends to advertise the two expiring positions currently serving are Mr. Brian Norris and Mr. Jeff Hennesy. These terms will expire on December 31, 2024.

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

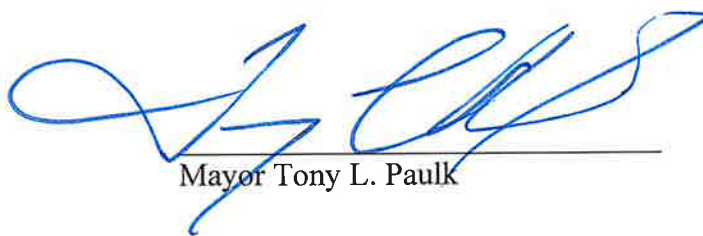
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CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Charles W. Davis, the City Manager, proposed changing the date of the Commission Meeting from December 9, 2024, to December 12, 2024. This adjustment is necessary to accommodate the Commission's attendance at a conference. The Commission agreed to hold the meeting on December 12, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Without further discussion, the work session meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.



Mayor Tony L. Paulk



Wynetta J. Bolder, CMC



