

**MINUTES
MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
JANUARY 13, 2025**

The Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 6:13 p.m. at the City Hall Commission Chambers. Mayor Tony L. Paulk presided over the meeting. Commissioners Edwin Taylor, Cindy McNeil, Tony Paulk II, and Steve Bailey were present. Mayor Pro Tem Mike Gowen and Commissioner Brenda Moore were absent.

CALLED TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION (MAYOR PRO TEM MIKE GOWEN-ABSENT)

Fire Chief Casey Wright delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Coffee High Naval JROTC led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The motion was approved unanimously **(6-0)** to confirm the agenda order, with the motion made by Commissioner Edwin Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Cindy McNeill.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (CHARLES DAVIS, CITY MANAGER)

1. **APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 26, 2024, MEETING MINUTES**
2. **APPROVAL OF THE ANIMAL SHELTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AND THE ALAPAHA ANIMAL CONTROL FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ANIMAL SHELTER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025**
3. **APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF GMA'S GEORGIA INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (GIRMA)**
4. **APPROVAL THE PURCHASE AND INSTALL OF ONE (1) DOUBLE FACE ELECTRONIC MESSAGE CENTER**
5. **APPROVAL OF THE REPLACEMENT OF THE 6" GAS METER AT THE COUNTY LINE**
6. **APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENTS TO DOUGLAS-COFFEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**
7. **APPROVAL TO AWARD TO DOYLE HANCOCK & SONS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR 2022 GEFA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**
8. **APPROVAL OF THE SUBMITTAL RESOLUTION FOR CHIP 2025**

As discussed in the Work Session, Commissioner Edwin Taylor made the motion **(carried 6-0)** to approve all Consent Agenda items listed above, which Commissioner Tony Paulk II seconded.

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WORK SESSION ITEMS

APPROVAL AND PUBLIC HEARING OF LA MANSION MEXICAN RESTAURANT & BAR LLC ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Jerome Adams, City Attorney, conducted a public hearing to be followed by action to approve issuing the alcoholic beverage license for La Mansion Mexican Restaurant & Bar LLC, D.B.A. La Mansion Bar & Grill, for on-site consumption of liquor, beer, and wine. No public comments were made. Commissioner Edwin Taylor motioned for the approval, and Commissioner Tony Paulk II seconded. **(4-0)**

APPROVAL AND A PUBLIC HEARING OM SHIV 9 LLC, D.B.A. T & M FOOD MART ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

City Attorney Jerome Adams will conduct a public hearing to be followed by action to approve issuing the alcoholic beverage license for OM Shiv 9 LLC, D.B.A. T & M Food Mart, for retail sales, off-premises consumption, of beer and wine. No public comments were made. Commissioner Edwin Taylor motioned for the approval, and Commissioner Cindy McNeill seconded. **(4-0)**

APPROVAL TO HOLD A SECOND (2ND) READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE REZONE PETITION FOR 2002 OCILLA RD (PARCELS 0097B013 AND 0097B008)

Jerome Adams, City Manager, read the second (2nd) reading and conducted a public hearing on Mrs. Ela Carbajal's rezoning petition for 2002 and 2004 Ocilla Rd (Parcels 0097B013 and 0097B008). Staff and the Planning Commission recommend rezoning these parcels from GC—General Commercial to M1—Manufacturing Light Industrial.

The following individuals appeared before the Commission:

- Attorney Hannah Black, 1007 N. Patterson Street (See Attached information)
- Billy Ray Harper, 1405 Golf Club Rd, appeared to express his concerns against the rezoning of 202 Ocilla Rd.
- Cathy Harper, 1910 Ocilla Rd (part-time residence), appeared to voice strong objections to this proposed rezoning.
- Suzanne Harper, who resides in the Touchton Woods, strongly objected to the proposed rezoning.
- Suzzane Branch presented petitions of those firmly against rezoning 2002 Ocilla Rd. (See Attached)

After much discussion, the Commission voted (4-1) to approve the recommendation to rezone these parcels from GC—General Commercial to M1—Manufacturing Light Industrial. Commissioner Bailey voted against the motion. Commissioners McNeill, Taylor, Paulk II, and Mayor Paulk voted in favor of the recommendation.

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COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

No Comments

STAFF COMMENTS

No Comments

EXECUTIVE SESSION


Mayor Tony Paulk motioned to adjourn into Executive Session for a personnel discussion. Commissioner Edwin Taylor seconded the motion. Commissioner Tony Paulk II, Steve Bailey, and Cindy McNeill voted unanimously. **5-0**

After the discussion, Commissioner Steve Bailey moved to adjourn the executive session and return to the regular meeting, seconded by Cindy McNeill. **5-0**

A motion to approve the personnel discussion in the executive session by Commissioner Steve Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Cindy McNeill. **5-0**

FINAL ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular meeting at 7:15 p.m. The motion was made by Commissioner Steve Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Edwin Taylor (**4-0**)



Mayor Tony L. Paulk



Wynetta J. Bolder, CMC



Affidavit


The undersigned presiding officer, under oath, certifies that at a City of Douglas Commission Meeting held on January 13, 2025, the Mayor and Commission closed its meeting as permitted by the Open Meetings Act of Georgia [O.C.G.A. 50-14-1 through 50-14-6]. The only matters considered or discussed during the closed meeting are as indicated below:

 To discuss future real estate acquisition [O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (4)].

 x To discuss or deliberate the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of an employee [O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (6)].

 To consult with legal counsel about pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the agency or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved [O.C.G.A. 50-14-2].

This day of 13th January 2025



Signature of Presiding Officer

Sworn to & Subscribed Before Me
On the Above Indicated Date:



Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires Oct 25, 2026

The Mayor and Commission unanimously approved the entry into the executive session.