

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, September 26, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Jackie L. Wilson presiding. Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson, Commissioners Robert Moore, Johnnie Lee Roper, Dennis Josey and Marty Swain were in attendance. Commissioner Olivia Pearson was absent.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Bob Moore gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Coffee High JROTC led The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GMA REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Terrell Jacobs, City Manager recognized Ms. Kelley Shields of the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). He thanked her on behalf of the Mayor and Commission for her wonderful support and for the impact and influence GMA has made on behalf of the City of Douglas

MINUTE ADOPTION

The Mayor requested the following changes be made to the Minutes of September 12, 2011: The motion to adjourn from the Regular Session should read, "Adjourn into Executive Session".

Work SessionSeptember 12, 2011
Commission Meeting.....September 12, 2011

A MOTION to approve was made by Commissioner Bob Moore, seconded by Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper.

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Commission unanimously approved (6-0) to accept the order of the Agenda.

A MOTION to approve was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson.

RECOGNITION AND PRESENTATION OF HEROISM AWARDS

Mayor Jackie L. Wilson, Fire Chief, Tim White and Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson recognized firefighters David Wolfert and Curtis Gasque for their acts of Heroism in their recent rescue efforts. They were awarded a plaque on behalf of the City of Douglas.

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CITY OF DOUGLAS
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

APPROVAL OF DOUGLAS AIRPORT COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Upon recommendation by Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Mayor and Commission approved three reappointments to the Airport Commission. New three-year terms for Ray Louder, Robert Porter, and Andy Purvis will begin effective October 1, 2011 and expire on September 30, 2014.

A MOTION to approve was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper. The motion was unanimously (6-0) passed.

APPROVAL OF DOT SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT – GASKIN AVENUE PHASE II

Dale Batten, Community Development Director requested the Mayor and Commission's approval of a DOT Supplemental Agreement (Number One) on the Gaskin Avenue – Phase II Project. This Supplemental Agreement deletes Pay Item 441-6012 Concrete Curb and Gutter and adds Pay Item 441-4124 with Raised Edges to the existing contract. Mrs. Batten stated there would be no change in the contract price. She stated that the change was necessary to alleviate a potential drainage problem between Bryan Street and the CSX Railroad.

A MOTION to approve was made by Commissioner Bob Moore, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Lee Roper and unanimously (6-0) passed.

FEMA AWARD RECOGNITION

Mr. Ray Parker, Code Enforcement Division presented the Commission with a plaque recognizing the City of Douglas' participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and acknowledging the City's outstanding efforts in floodplain management. He stated that after a site visit in October 2010 by an ISO Coordinator, he began the application process in the Community Rating System (CRS) and this Award was a result of those efforts. The City was given a rate class of 9, thus providing flood insurance policy holders in the City a 5% premium discount on their policies. No action was necessary on this item. The Mayor commended Mr. Parker on this accomplishment.

APPROVAL OF INSTALLATION OF GAS TO THE VICKERS' POULTRY HOUSES

Mike Hudson, Gas Director requested the Commissions' approval for the installation of gas service to Mr. Michael Vickers' and Mr. Craig Vickers' poultry operations which include a total of 8 poultry houses. Mr. Hudson stated that the proposal had already been approved by the Utility Committee and was now in need of approval by the Commission. Mr. Hudson gave a very detailed breakdown of how the installation would be funded and how the formal Agreement/Contract would be stated.

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

A **MOTION** to approve this recommendation was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson.

The Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to accept the Motion as presented.

APPROVAL OF FIRE DEPARTMENT'S PURCHASE OF 12 PASSENGER VAN

Stanley Merritt, Assistant Purchasing Director requested approval from the Mayor and Commission to award the low bid received from Allen Vigil Ford of Morrow, Georgia for the purchase of one 2012 12-passenger van to be used by the City of Douglas Fire Department Haz-Mat Team. He stated that the bid price was \$23,387.00. Fire Chief, Tim White stated that \$13,000 of this amount would be paid utilizing Haz-Mat funds since the van will be used by the City's Fire Department and the Haz-Mat Team.

A **MOTION** to accept the low bid was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnny Lee Roper.

The Motion was approved unanimously (6-0).

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL WATER METER BID

Stanley Merritt, Assistant Purchasing Director requested the Commissions' approval of the low bids received from Dublin Winnelson of Dublin, Georgia for a grand total of \$119,284.70. This bid allows for a 2-year extension, in 1-year increments if the awarded vendor can hold this bid price and the Water/Wastewater Director is in agreement that this is in the best interest of the City.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson.

The Motion was approved unanimously (6-0).

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS REGARDING RACIAL ISSUES

NAACP Chairman, Larry NeSmith appeared before the Commission to once again voice his concerns regarding two alleged incidents that were discussed at the last Commission Meeting dated September 12, 2011. He began by asking the Commission if anything else had been done to resolve the issues and punish or reprimand those who had allegedly participated in the misconduct. Terrell Jacobs, City Manager stated that we should have additional information regarding the Police incident next week. He stated that the Fire Department investigation was complete and there would be no further disciplinary action

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

CITIZENS CONCERNS CONTINUED

with regard to that department. Mr. NeSmith asked if this problem was going to be passed on to the new Mayor to resolve. Mr. NeSmith said that he is prepared for protests and petitions against the racism issues and asked he stated he would like to involve the Georgia Bureau of Investigation since these are Internal Affairs and the City cannot divulge personnel issues that are protected by Privacy laws. Commissioner Dennis Josey requested information from the City Attorney, Jerome Adams, as to why Mr. NeSmith who is not a City resident is allowed to come forth at each Council meeting to ask the same questions. He stated concerns regarding the time and expense involved in hearing Mr. NeSmith's questions repeatedly, when the answers have already been provided to the best of the City Manager and Commissions' ability. Mr. Jerome Adams requested that Mr. NeSmith call him to discuss his further allegations of "former charges" against the police officer in question. He encouraged Mr. NeSmith not to discuss issues for which he had no proof of former "allegations" and not to state a name unless he had legal proof and facts of the former charges. He offered for Mr. NeSmith to call or come by his office to obtain information that was accurate and available to the Citizens of Douglas.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2011 Health and Safety Fair will be held Saturday, October 1st at the Central Square Gymnasium. There will be a Scarecrow Building Event on Saturday also from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. More information is available from the Parks and Recreation Dept. The first week of October is Natural Gas Week and the City of Douglas is offering to light citizens' pilot lights free of charge during the month of October. Citizens need to sign up or call the Gas department to set up a time during normal business hours, 8 am until 5 pm. Fire Prevention Week is the second week of October with tours of the Fire Station facility and a poster contest for 3rd grade students. Citizens can stop by City Hall to register for free fire extinguishers to be given away and they can obtain very useful safety information. Registration is also underway for the 2011 Festival of Lights Christmas Parade which will be held December 3rd. The Theme is, The Twelve Days of Christmas. Citizens and businesses can download information from the City's website regarding all of these events.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper stated that he had a concern regarding the driveway issues on Pinecrest Drive. He stated that he felt the City should make these repairs at no cost to the citizens. He said the City should not have met with the tenants and that it was the land owners' responsibility to work with the City. Mr. Terrell Jacobs, City Manager stated that he and Mr. Jacob Lott had in fact, advised the tenants that their landlords were

**MINUTES
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SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS CONTINUED

responsible for providing them access to their property and homes. One of the tenants advised the City that there were other issues that the landlord had not taken care of and that they would rather pursue repairs without the landlord's involvement.

Commissioner Roper stated that the money collected for Storm Water Improvements should be spent to fix these people's driveways. Commissioner Anderson stated that the Storm Water Improvement funds were never intended to fix everyone in the entire City's driveways. Mr. Jacobs agreed that if these driveways were repaired and the tenant/landowners were not charged the agreed upon, \$200, that every driveway in the City would need to be repaired at no cost. All funds would be depleted and Other Commissioners agreed that this was not the City's responsibility and that the City's policies and provisions regarding driveway repairs were in place and needed to be followed unless the City was going to change their rules and repair everyone's at no charge. City Attorney recommended that the tenant be advised to deduct the \$200 from her rent and use this to repair the driveway, thus improving the landlord's property and allowing her access to her home.

City Attorney, Jerome Adams stated that he had received a letter on September 15th from the United States Department of Justice stating that they had pre-cleared our elections redistricting under the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He commended the Justice Department on the 52-day turnaround in this application process. Mayor Wilson acknowledged this and stated that voting could now take place with no potential issues arising from earlier concerns from the Board of Elections and Registration.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Bob Moore made a Motion to adjourn and his Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey. The Mayor and Commission unanimously approved (6-0) the Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Jackie L. Wilson, Mayor

Cindy McNeill, Deputy City Clerk