

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS
NOVEMBER 14, 2011**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, November 14, 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, Olivia Pearson, Dennis Josey and Marty Swain were in attendance.

INVOCATION

Marty Thornton, Assistant Gas Department Director gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Larry Nesmith led The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTE ADOPTION

The following Minutes were unanimously approved as presented:

Work SessionOctober 24, 2011
Commission Meeting.....October 24, 2011

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

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** to accept the order of the Agenda.

A MOTION to approve was made by Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RETIREES

Mayor Jackie Wilson and the City Commissioners acknowledged Jimmy Johnson, with the Police Department, and David Long with the Customer Service Department. They were presented with a plaque recognizing their dedicated years of service with the City of Douglas.

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APPROVAL OF THE DOT CONTRACT FOR AWOS SYSTEM UPGRADE & FUEL FARM REIMBURSEMENT

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Department Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** authorizing Mayor Wilson to execute the Department of Transportation contract for the upgrade of the AWOS System and Fuel Farm Reimbursements for the total amount of \$99,835.06. They also authorized the city's required match for \$2,904.06 which will be funded from SPLOST 2000 funds.

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

APPROVAL OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TITLE VI ASSURANCES

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Department Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** to authorize Mayor Jackie Wilson to execute the Georgia Department of Transportation Title VI Assurances for adoption by the city.

A MOTION to approve was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Lee Roper.

APPROVAL OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Department Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved **(7-0)** to authorize the filing of an application for Energy Efficiency Block Grant funds in an amount up to \$90,000 with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for city facilities. These are ARRA (Stimulus) funds being administered through GEFA.

A MOTION to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Lee Roper.

APPROVAL OF CLUB SECRETS APPLICATION FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Upon recommendation from Ray Parker, Code Enforcement Officer, the Mayor and Commission approved **(6-1)** the request from Larenza Reed for an alcoholic beverage license, consumption, for Club Secrets at 519 S. Gaskin Avenue.

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A **MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Marty Swain, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Lee Roper.

Commissioner Swain, Roper, Pearson, Moore, Mayor Pro Tem Anderson and Mayor Wilson voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Dennis Josey voted against the motion.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL RENEWAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES

Upon recommendation from Ray Parker, Code Enforcement Officer, the Mayor and Commission approved (7-0) the list of applicants for a city license to sell alcoholic beverages in 2012.

A **MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Marty Swain, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Lee Roper.

NOTIFICATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ray Parker, Code Enforcement Officer, informed the citizens that the Douglas-Coffee County Planning Commission will be advertised for a two (2) week period on channel 13 with appointments being made at the November 28th commission meeting. Mr. Parker stated that individuals interested in serving on the Planning Commission should contact the Office of the City Manager or the Community Development Department for an application.

No action was taken for this item. This item was for informational purposes only.

APPROVAL OF DISPOSAL OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Upon recommendation from Stanley Merritt, Assistant Purchasing Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved (**7-0**) to allow the sale and disposal of old computers, monitors, networking and telecom equipment, and other electronic equipment that does not work, to be sold, or disposed of by Creative Recycling Systems of Tampa, Florida at the discretion of the City Manager.

A **MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Marty Swain seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore.

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APPROVAL OF DECLARING EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS

Upon recommendation from Stanley Merritt, Assistant Purchasing Director, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved (7-0) to declare the list of equipment presented from various departments as surplus and allow the City Manager and the Assistant Purchasing Director to dispose of these items through GovDeals on-line auction, and also allow the donation of 100 feet of 1 ½ inch fire hose to Wiregrass Youth Park of Nicholls, Georgia for cleaning of Livestock Stalls.

A **MOTION** to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Lee Roper.

APPROVAL OF RESCHEDULING TWO COMMISSION MEETINGS

Upon recommendation from Terrell Jacob, City Manager, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved (7-0) to change the commission meeting scheduled for Monday, December 26th to Tuesday, December 27th due to Christmas Holidays: Commission Meeting scheduled for Monday, January 23rd to Thursday, January 19th due to GMA Mayor's Day in Atlanta.

A **MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey, seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson.

APPROVAL OF THE FACILITY FEE WAIVER REQUESTED FROM THE MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMITTEE

Upon recommendation from Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, the Mayor and Commission approved (7-0) the Martin Luther King Committee to use the Martin Center at no charge for the upcoming Youth Explosion on Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 13, 2012.

A **MOTION** to approve this recommendation was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson, and seconded by Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Larry Nesmith, 6410 Tinsley Street stated that he is requesting the truth concerning the ongoing allegations of racial incidences in the Douglas Police Department. Mr. Nesmith stated that it has been three months and no one has heard any information concerning the outcome of this investigation. Mr. Nesmith also stated that the only thing that has come out of this investigation is that an officer was fired, another officer has retired and the third officer is on vacation or in training.

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Mayor Wilson stated that the Mayor and Commissioners have answered the questions that Mr. Nesmith asked, in the work session to the best of their abilities. Mayor Wilson also stated that he could not expect to come up to the podium asking questions and expect the Mayor and Commission to respond at that point.

Mr. Nesmith asked if racism in the workplace is authorized by the City of Douglas Board of Commissioners. Mr. Nesmith proceeded to question the Mayor and Commission by asking what the city is doing with this problem. Mr. Nesmith also asked if the city will allow the officer, who has committed this act of racism, to be allowed to go before the Mayor and Commissioners and will they hire him back. He also asked concerning the employee who was terminated from the Customer Service Department, if they will allow her an appeal. Mr. Nesmith stated that in the past, the city terminated another employee from the Customer Service Department. When she went before the appeals the Mayor and Commission would not give her a chance to be reinstated. Mr. Nesmith stated, "It sounds like racism".

Mayor Wilson stated that the city does not allow racism in the workplace.

City Manager, Terrell Jacobs requested that Mr. Nesmith give the city time to conclude this investigation. Mr. Jacobs stated the completion of the investigation should be by the end of November.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Commit 2 B Fit will be held Saturday November 19, 2011 at the former Pre K Academy.
- Holiday Downtown Open House will be Sunday November 20, 2011, 1pm-5pm.
- A Community Wide Golf Tournament will be November 26, 2011; proceeds will go toward the Mayor's Motorcade.
- The City of Douglas will be receiving items or a donation of \$11.00 for the Mayor's Christmas Motorcade, at City Hall and at Central Square Complex. Delivery to the hospital with items for the Mayor's Motorcade is on December 7, 2011 in Savannah Georgia.
- The 10th Annual Santa Stroll will be held Saturday December 10, 2011. The Kiwanis, Main Street and The City of Douglas Special Programs Department sponsored this event.

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- The City of Douglas is continuing to take registrations for those who wish to sign up for the Festival of Lights Christmas Parade to be held December 3, 2011.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Anderson expressed concerns of Ricketson Construction completing Gaskin Avenue Project. Mr. Anderson stated that the city needs to get a set day of completion from Ricketson Construction and if they do not complete the project at that time, the city should cancel their contract, do not pay any more money and find someone to complete the project.

Mr. Jacobs explained that the city has asked for extensions due to unexpected issues. Mr. Jacobs stated that by his standpoint the completion of the project must be by Christmas.

Commissioner Roper stated that he appreciated those who supported him for the Mayor's race and those who did not support him as well.

Commissioner Josey stated that he appreciated the clean race that both candidates ran for the mayor's race.

Mayor Wilson commended Commissioner Roper for being the gentleman that he is.

Commissioner Pearson requested that the Board of Elections to send information that will help decipher the information concerning the outcome of the elections.

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 (7-0) the Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Jackie L. Wilson, Mayor

Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk