

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS
MARCH 26, 2012**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, March 26, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James H. Dennis presiding. Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson, Commissioners Ronnie Anderson, Richard Hutchinson, Dennis Josey, and Marty Swain were in attendance. Commissioner Bob Moore was attending Electric Cities of Georgia’s Annual Convention.

INVOCATION

Pastor Booker T. Rose of Young’s Chapel Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor James Dennis called on three of the City’s newest Police Academy graduates to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR POLICE OFFICERS

Mayor Dennis performed the Oath of Office Ceremony with the assistance of Police Chief Gary Casteloes, Deputy Chief Brannen Pruitt and Commissioner Richard Hutchinson. Deputy Chief Pruitt introduced each officer and their family members or guests. The newest members of the City of Douglas Police Department are Officers Joseph W. Brackett, Frederick Crowder, and Kyle Wayne Spivey. Deputy Chief Pruitt also announced that Officer Brackett earned the honor of “Top Gun” in his class at the Police Academy.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF “SEAMLESS SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM”

Mayor Dennis invited Mrs. Dawn Lewis, of the Coffee County Board of Education to come forward to share the details of the upcoming Summer Feeding Program. The City, County and the Ministerial Association will partner to assist with the joint-venture of this federally-funded program. This will involve the school nutrition program providing the resources and preparing breakfast and lunch for children who might otherwise go hungry during the summer months. Mrs. Lewis gave the details of the program and appealed to the Commission and the community to volunteer sites within the community where these lunches can be served. This program will be held May 28th through July 20th and will be conducted for children 18 and under.

MINUTE ADOPTION

The following minutes were unanimously approved:

**Work SessionMarch 12, 2012
Commission Meeting.....March 12, 2012**

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (CONT'D)

A **MOTION** to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey, seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson and the Commission unanimously (**5-0**) approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Mayor and Commission unanimously approved (**5-0**) to accept the order of the Agenda.

A **MOTION** to approve was made by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson, seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain.

**APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT**

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Commission unanimously approved (**5-0**) the renewal of the Intergovernmental Lease Agreement between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the City of Douglas for the property located at 1 Airport Circle.

A **MOTION** to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.

**APPROVAL OF THE GEOTECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR THE DOUGLAS
GREENWAY TRAIL**

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Commission unanimously approved (**5-0**) the proposal submitted by Geotechnical Environmental Consultants, Incorporated in the amount of \$11,290.00 to conduct the required testing on the Greenway Trail Transportation Enhancement project #CSTEE-0009-00(017) to be paid out of TE Project funds.

A **MOTION** to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

TEXT AMENDMENT ORDINANCE FIRST READING

The Commission heard the first reading of an ordinance amending the Unified Land Development Code of the City of Douglas Georgia, Chapter 3, Zoning districts, Table 3-1 of Permitted Uses, Commercial, Professional Offices. The second reading and Public Hearing will be held on April 9, 2012.

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APPROVAL OF SOUTHWIRE’S REQUEST FOR USE WEIR CENTER FOR “BACK TO SCHOOL” RALLY

Upon recommendation by Charlie Davis, Assistant City Manager, the Commission unanimously approved (**5-0**) the request from Southwire Incorporated for the use of a community-wide, back-to-school rally on July 20, 2012 at no charge. This is an annual event in which the Chamber and various industries, churches and organizations work together to provide school supplies for children.

A MOTION to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain.

APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION’S WEIR CENTER REQUEST

Upon recommendation from Charlie Davis, Assistant City Manager, the Commission unanimously (**5-0**) approved the request submitted by the Board of Education to use the Weir Center for their “Community Conversations” meeting on April 5th at no charge.

A MOTION to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.

APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE OF WEIR CENTER BY COFFEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES

Upon recommendation from Charlie Davis, Assistant City Manager, the Commission unanimously approved (**5-0**) the use of the Weir Center for emergency needs for the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS). The Commission also authorized the Mayor to enter into an agreement with DFCS for this usage for up to 90-days.

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

STAFF COMMENTS

Dale Batten announced the ‘Downtown Second Tuesday’ will be held Tuesday evening April 10th from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. and on that same night, the Coffee Alliance for the Arts will be presenting “Honky-Tonk Angels” which is a musical production of past female country music stars. Tickets for the show are \$15 each and can be purchased at the Heritage Station Museum.

The “Tiny Tot Easter Egg Hunt” will be held April 7th at 10 a.m. for kids ages 1-7 at the J. C. Adams Municipal Park.

The community-wide spelling bee will be held at the Coffee Middle School Auditorium on April 24th at 6:00 p.m.

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“Munch and Music” will be held every Wednesday in April at Emma Ward Park with music provided by local talent.

“Spring Fling” gigantic indoor yard sale presented by the City will be held Saturday, April 21st.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ms. Vera Freeman, President of the Douglas Energy Relief Association (DERA) stated that their organization had just met to discuss the results of the hearing that took place last week in Waycross, Georgia. In that meeting, City Attorney Jerome Adams and the DERA attorney, Mr. Whatley from Atlanta, Georgia were both present. She said that additional information had been requested at that time but she wanted to encourage people to remain confident in their vigil. She stated that the end to the 8-year legal battle was drawing to a close. Ms. Freeman stated that the lawsuit is over \$122 million dollars and is very near to being resolved.

MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Richard Hutchinson requested that all parents of school-age children attend the meeting at the Weir Center to better understand the improvements the Board of Education is working toward.

Mayor James Dennis thanked everyone for coming and congratulated the new Police Officers on their accomplishments. He recognized the Douglas Fire Department for their efforts in the railway hazardous waste incident last week. Mayor Dennis reminded citizens that the downtown parking ordinance was being enforced. He also reminded everyone to attend the NAACP Banquet on May 12th at the Coffee High Cafeteria.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Dennis Josey made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson. The Commission unanimously approved (**5-0**) the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

James H. Dennis, Mayor

Cindy McNeill, Deputy City Clerk

