

**MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF DOUGLAS  
APRIL 23, 2012**

**A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, April 23, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James H. Dennis presiding. Commissioners Ronnie Anderson, Richard Hutchinson, Dennis Josey, Marty Swain, and Bob Moore were in attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson was absent due to family illness.**

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Bob Moore called on Reverend Scott Lee, Associate Pastor of First Congregational Christian Church to give the invocation. Mayor Dennis thanked Reverend Lee and recognized him as a Sponsor for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for Coffee and Bacon County.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor James Dennis called on Lieutenant Commander Tina Moya of the NJROTC to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He stated that she was also deserving of praise and recognition for the scholarship she recently received and for her wonderful representation of the youth in our community.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITION**

Mayor Dennis noted that Mayor Pro Tem Pearson would not be present for the meeting due to an unexpected trip to Savannah with an ill family member. He also recognized three members of the Citizens' 101 Academy who were in attendance at the meeting. These three members were: Suzanne Mizell, Patricia Vickers and Kim Carter. The Mayor thanked them for their participation in this program sponsored by the City of Douglas and for their interest in city government.

**MINUTE ADOPTION**

The following minutes were approved:

**Work Session .....April 9, 2012  
Commission Meeting.....April 9, 2012**

**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.

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**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 Bob Moore, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

**APPROVAL OF HARLESS AVIATION/BROOKS AVIATION LEASE**

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Commission unanimously approved **(5-0)** the Motion to allow Mr. Robert Harless to terminate his lease for the hangar located at 150 Airport Circle and the Classroom Building located at 9 Airport Circle and enter into a new lease agreement with Brooks Aviation, Inc. for those same facilities at a rental fee of \$600 per month. Mr. Brooks' initial lease would be for a five (5) year period with three (3) options to renew, each for five (5) year periods.

Commissioner Bob Moore made a **MOTION** to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

**APPROVAL OF 2012 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT**

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Commission unanimously **(5-0)** approved a resolution authorizing Mayor James H. Dennis to execute a Grant application with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Fire Fighters Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program in the amount of \$15,675 to purchase equipment; authorize the required match in the amount of \$825 to be funded by City of Douglas Fire Department FY13 operating budget; and authorize Mayor Dennis to execute Grant documents if awarded the Grant.

Commissioner Marty Swain made a **MOTION** to approve which was seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.

**FIRST READING - ORDINANCE - REZONING OF DEERFIELD II, LTD, LP**

The Commission heard the First Reading of:

**“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA, CHANGING THE ZONING ON CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA LOCATED AT 112 PINECREST DRIVE FROM R-M, RESIDENTIAL MIXED TO P-D, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT, LAND OF DEERFIELD II, LTG, LP.”**

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**FIRST READING – ORDINANCE – REZONING DEERFIELD APARTMENTS -  
CONTINUED**

The Second Reading and Public Hearing will be held May 14, 2012

**APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE – CLUB  
VIP SPORTS BAR AND GRILL**

Upon recommendation from Rodger Goddard, Community Development Department, Code Enforcement Division, the Commission unanimously **(5-0)** approved the request of Victor Allen for an Alcoholic Beverage License, Consumption on the Premises for the Club VIP Sports Bar and Grill, LLC located at 1007 North Peterson Avenue.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Marty Swain, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

**APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR  
AARAV AND TANYA, LLC**

Upon recommendation from Rodger Goddard, Community Development Department, Code Enforcement Division, the Commission unanimously **(5-0)** approved the request of Mr. Sanjay Patel for Aarav and Tanya, LLC, D.B.A., Baker Express located at 1436 West Baker Highway.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

**APPROVAL OF ELECTRICAL RECLOSER EQUIPMENT BID**

Upon recommendation from Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent, the Commission unanimously **(5-0)** approved the bid from Cooper Power Systems for One (1) KNOVA15A 3-Phase Recloser and One (1) KNSTS15 Single-Triple-Single Recloser for a Grand Total cost of **\$34,979.88.**

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF POLICE IN-CAR VIDEO CAMERAS**

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Commission unanimously **(5-0)** approved the purchase of two (2) in-car video cameras from Hasty Communications for the Douglas Police Department with \$10,000 being funded by a Small Agency Incentive Grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and \$3,900 being funded from the Police Department Budget.

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**APPROVAL OF POLICE IN-CAR VIDEO CAMERAS – CONTINUED**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Blondale Thomas, Central Services Department gave a brief summary of upcoming events being held during Georgia Cities Week. The City Cemetery will be hosting a dedication and closing ceremony of its Historic African American Section on April 24th at 10 a.m.

The City will also be hosting “Munch and Music” at Emma Ward Park on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at noon with the Coffee High Show Choir presenting music for that day. The Town Hall Meeting will be held Thursday evening at 6:30 at the Weir Center and this meeting is open to the public with the list of topics being: the summer youth programs, summer children’s meal program and the city’s new “Call Center”.

On Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. there will also be a “Commit-to-be-Fit” walk. The City of Douglas Customer Service Department will host a Customer Appreciation Day on Friday April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. with refreshments and door prizes. Ms Thomas also reminded everyone of the American Cancer Society’s “Relay for Life” event to be held on Friday evening, April 27<sup>th</sup>. She also reminded citizens to come out and register for the Parks and Recreation Department’s summer programs during the Summer Blitz on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Parks and Recreation Director, Roger Johnson reminded everyone that the summer programs fill up quickly so early sign-up is important. He also gave a report on the recent Track Meet sponsored by Wal-Mart Distribution went to Camden to participate in the Region Meet. Mr. Johnson stated that 8 kids qualified and would compete at the State Meet. He also said he would report back to the Commission after the event.

**CITIZENS’ COMMENTS**

Mr. Jessie Vickers of 715 East Baker Highway stated his concerns regarding the traffic on the Baker Highway and the need for radar cars to eliminate speeding cars. He also shared his concern regarding trash in his neighborhood and neighboring citizens who do not follow city ordinances. The Mayor and City Manager assured him that they would have the City Police Department and the Code Enforcement Division look into these matters. Mr. Jacobs stated that the City is in the process of rewriting and “tightening” the ordinances with regard to certain issues, namely the disposal of certain items and the appearance of neighborhoods.

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Mrs. Kim Carter of 1108 West Bryan Street who is a participant in the Citizens' Academy shared her gratitude toward the City of their educational efforts for citizens and their hard work within the organization. Douglas and had recently returned here to live. She praised the City in several regards and stated that she was proud to be a resident of Douglas and Coffee County.

**MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Dennis Josey stated that he attended the Douglas High School Class of 1952's class reunion and after the evening's event, upon reconciling their funds they found they had a surplus of \$600 and they offered to donate these funds to the Heritage Station Museum.

Commissioner Richard Hutchinson acknowledged Ms. Irma Jackson in the audience who is also in the Citizen's Academy.

Commissioner Bob Moore stated his desire to prohibit tractor-trucks from driving on certain city streets within residential neighborhoods. He asked that the Code Enforcement Department be mindful and cite those who do not adhere to our ordinances. Other Commissioners noted that often times, residents who use utility trailers do not adhere to safe parking with regard to street traffic. These can sometimes pose a dangerous situation and also need to be cited or asked to remedy any unsafe parking issues.

Commissioner Swain asked citizens to be mindful and considerate of others within their neighborhoods with regard to loud music and he reminded citizens to ask teens and children to stay out of the way of traffic on city streets due to the dangers they pose.

Mr. Terrell Jacobs thanked everyone who supported the Great American Cleanup Day and recognized Lorinda Gray for her efforts in the very worthwhile project. He also thanked Lorinda Gray and Gina Gibbs for their tremendous efforts and those who worked to raise money and host our site at the Relay for Life event.

Mayor James Dennis thanked all citizens and staff for their participation in the Great American Cleanup and the Junk-Free Week. He requested that citizens utilize the anonymous tip line for any information they may have that could be useful to the Police Department. He stated that May 3<sup>rd</sup> was the date selected for the National Day of Prayer and he encouraged everyone to attend this year's event. Mayor Dennis also wished Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk a speedy recovery from her recent surgery.

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**ADOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Bob Moore made a Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and unanimously **(5-0)** passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

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**Mayor James H. Dennis**

**Attest**

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**Cindy McNeill, Deputy City Clerk**

