

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS
OCTOBER 22, 2012**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, October 22, 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 Robert Moore, Richard Hutchinson, Dennis Josey, Ronnie Anderson and Marty Swain were in attendance.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Dennis Josey gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTE ADOPTION

The following minutes were **unanimously** approved:

**Work SessionOctober 8, 2012
Commission Meeting.....October 8, 2012**

A **MOTION** to approve (6-0) the minutes as presented was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

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

The MOTION to approve was made by Commissioner Marty Swain, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Pearson.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF ONE BATWING MOWER FOR THE AIRPORT (BID 10-8-12)

Upon recommendation by Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent, the Commission unanimously approved (6-0) the purchase of a Batwing mower to be utilized at the airport and for mowing larger areas of grass within the City from the low bidder, Crosby Equipment Company of Douglas, Georgia in the amount of \$12,689.00. Mr. Merritt noted that this mower would be purchased with SPLOST Funds.

A **MOTION** to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

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**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE TWO (2) TRACTORS FOR THE SEWER
TREATMENT PLANT AND COMPOST SITE (BID 10-8-12)**

Upon recommendation from Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent, the Commission unanimously approved (6-0) the purchase of two (2) farm tractors to be utilized by the Sewer Treatment Plant and Compost Site. Mr. Merritt stated that low bid had been submitted by Crosby Equipment Company of Douglas and that he recommended the purchase of only the basic warranty at this time instead of the two year extended warranty which had been noted on his Agenda Item. The total bid price of \$140, 636.00 (\$149,436.00 minus (-) \$8,800 which was the extended warranty amount) was approved. Mr. Merritt also noted that the one of the tractors currently in use would be transferred to the Public Works Department to operate the Batwing Mower.

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

APPROVAL OF THE DEMOLITION OF SEVERAL (3) OLD BUILDINGS

Upon recommendation from Jacob Lott, Public Works Director, the Commission unanimously approved (6-0) the request to tear down and dispose of three (3) utility buildings located at the City pole yard. Mr. Lott recommended that the buildings which has been determined to be unsalvageable, be demolished and disposed of at the county Transfer Station. He stated that staff would be responsible for all associated work and cleanup. The projected cost of disposal is estimated at \$300.00 which will be paid with Sanitation Department funds.

A MOTION to approve was made by Commission Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

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REQUEST FROM AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 AND POST 515

Terrell Jacobs, City Manager presented for approval a request made by Jerome Loving and Arnold Parsons for the use of the C. E. Weir Center at no charge, for November 11th and 12th to conduct the Annual American Legion luncheon in honor of Veteran's Day. Mayor James Dennis requested that he and others who might have a conflict of interest as Veterans, please be excused from the discussion. He turned the gavel over to Commissioner Anderson.

Commissioner Dennis Josey made the Motion, seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore. The request was **approved** (4-0) with Mayor Dennis, Commissioner Hutchinson and Mayor Pro Tem Pearson abstaining due to their affiliation with the American Legion Posts.

REQUEST TO CHANGE UPCOMING COMMISSION DATE

Motion was made by Commission Dennis Josey, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson to change the next Commission date from Thursday, November 15th (formerly set with regards to the Veterans' Day Holiday) to Tuesday, November 13th.

The **MOTION** was **unanimously** (6-0) approved.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Georgia Henderson, Central Services Director noted the following upcoming events and gave details for each:

Registration for Youth League Basketball – Through November 2nd

Broxton Rocks Tour – October 27th and November 3rd - 10 am

War Bonds Theatre Production – November 10th

Town Hall Meeting – October 23rd – 6 pm – Central Square Complex

Passionately Pink Day/Breast Cancer Awareness – October 24th

Commit 2B Fit Walk – October 25th – 5:30 pm – Alternative School

Hometown Harvest – October 25th – 4:00-7:30 pm

Halloween/Trick or Treating – October 31st

Masonic/Shriner Fair – October 23rd – 27th at Municipal Park

Job Announcement - Heavy Equipment Operator – October 29th by 5p.m.

Bid Announcement – Pickup Trucks – Information on the City's Website

Registration for the Festival of Lights Christmas Parade – December 1st

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STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS – CONT'D.

Mrs. Henderson offered several Public Service announcements including those regarding the need for Burn Permits prior to burning any items outdoors. CSX has posted an official railroad crossing CLOSING notification for College Avenue October 22nd - 26th. A notification of a street closing for a portion of Alunza Street between north Madison and north Pearl Avenue to allow for the expansion of the First Congregational Christian Church was also noted.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Terrell Jacobs, City Manager stated that he wished to express the viewpoints that many of our staff had shared with him regarding utility billing concerns and the overall economic conditions in our community. He stated the challenges that Staff are facing in attempting to meet all the needs of our customers during these difficult times. He encouraged everyone, including citizens to be better listeners and help one another through this time instead of fueling emotions and raising levels of frustration with one another. He asked that everyone do their level best to be understanding and forgiving of the misspoken words during these emotional times. Staff and citizens applauded Mr. Jacobs' appeal to everyone to work together for the better good of our community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Dennis reminded the public of the rules regarding the Public Comment portion of the meeting and stated that citizens are allowed 3 minutes for their topic. Answers to questions will be part of the 3 minutes.

Mr. Ronnie Johnson, of Ward 2, 1105 South Pearl Avenue stated that his Commissioner is Marty Swain. He stated that the MEAG home office is located in Germany and that the City is outsourcing jobs. He also stated his concerns regarding the increase in their stock prices.

The Mayor recognized Mr. Larry NeSmith who stated that he lives in the County. Mr. NeSmith posed questions regarding an alleged affair which took place in 2010 and made comparisons between an officer who was suspended and one who was terminated for "allegedly" similar conduct. Mr. Jacobs stated that he could not discuss the contents of these officers' personnel files due to privacy issues and asked Mr. NeSmith to provide him with a copy of the document he was reading from.

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CITIZEN COMMENTS

Cheryl Cunningham (Commissioner Richard Hutchinson's Ward) stated that she requested to see the dollar figure in the General Fund for the City of Douglas.

Johnny Lee Roper (Commissioner Richard Hutchinson's Ward) asked questions concerning Ross Street and the rumors of this street being converted into a one-way street. He also stated that he disagreed with the warnings and/or tickets that were issued with regard to this street.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Olivia Pearson requested all information regarding utility bills over \$500 for citizens. Mr. Jacobs reminded Commissioner Pearson of their earlier conversations and emails regarding the privacy of this information and that he had requested an opportunity to go over this information with her before the Commission meeting for several reasons. Mr. Jacobs reemphasized that he would gladly provide her with the information requested, but that an explanation of the printout would be necessary for her to understand the dollar amount owed by individuals.

Commissioner Pearson encouraged everyone to go out and vote in the upcoming election. She also reminded everyone of the Town Hall meeting tomorrow evening.

Commissioner Marty Swain acknowledged Mr. Roper's request for additional information regarding Ross Street and promised him the truth and clarification on these issues.

Mayor Dennis thanked the Central Services Department and Georgia Henderson for their efforts in the 63rd Reunion Event recently hosted. He also reminded everyone of the Town Hall meeting and the need to voice their opinion in the upcoming elections.

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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss in the Regular Meeting, a **Motion** to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson, **seconded** by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson. The Commission unanimously approved **(6-0)** to adjourn.

CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

James H. Dennis, Mayor

Cindy McNeill, Deputy City Clerk