

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS
OCTOBER 8, 2012**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, October 8, 2012 at 7:37 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

Elder Roosevelt Williams of Saint James Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor called on Ms. Kim Carter to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

RECOGNITION OF BETA SIGMA PHI – PASSIONATELY PINK PROMOTION

Mayor Dennis recognized the Beta Sigma Phi Alpha Theta Chapter in their efforts to promote Breast Cancer Awareness during the month of October 2012. A Proclamation was signed proclaiming October 24th as “Passionately Pink for the Cure” day. The Beta Sigma ladies invited everyone’s participation and support in this fund-raising event.

MINUTE ADOPTION

The following minutes were unanimously approved:

**Work SessionSeptember 24, 2012
Commission Meeting.....September 24, 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.

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

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APPROVAL OF CHANGING DATES FOR COMMISSION MEETINGS DUE TO VETERANS' DAY, THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS AND MAYORS' DAY

Upon recommendation from Charlie Davis, Assistant City Manager, the Commission unanimously approved rescheduling the following meeting dates:
Monday, November 12th to Thursday, November 15th due to Veterans' Day
Monday, November 26th to Thursday, November 29th due to Thanksgiving
Monday, December 24th to Thursday, December 20th due to Christmas Eve
Monday, January 28th to Thursday, January 24th due to Mayors' Day

A MOTION to approve was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

APPROVAL OF THE STATEWIDE ENGINEERING CONTRACT – CDBG PROJECT

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Commission unanimously approved **(6-0)** the engineering contract submitted by Statewide Engineering, Inc. for the recently approved CDBG project for water and sewer improvements to the North Pearl Avenue area. Mrs. Batten reminded the Commission that at the March 14, 2011 Commission Meeting, the firm of Statewide Engineering, Inc. was selected as engineers for this project and to prepare the engineering report. Since approval of the application, Statewide has submitted a contract for execution in the amount of \$47,474.00. Upon approval and execution of this contract, Statewide will begin the development of the construction plans and specifications.

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

APPROVAL OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Commission unanimously approved **(6-0)** the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute grant documents and any other documents necessary in the administration of the grant. Mrs. Batten recommended that Commission authorize the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk to draw down funds for CDBG No. 12-px-034-2-5475 received from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Mrs. Batten also stated that this approval would allow the City to re-open a CDBG account with SunTrust Bank.

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

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DISCUSSION OF COFFEE COUNTY EMA ORDINANCE PROVISIONS

Mr. Steve Carver, Director of Emergency Management Association, requested the Commission's approval and the Mayor's signature authorizing the new local County-wide EMA ordinance which provides guidelines for the establishment of local EMA and defines the roles and responsibilities of such in the event of a natural disaster or emergency situation. These guidelines were presented in the Work Session providing clarification and outlining the emergency response plan to the Commission. Mr. Carver stated that these ordinances had already been approved by all other municipalities in the County. Mayor Dennis asked Commissioner Pearson if she had any questions regarding the former discussion since she was not in attendance at the Work Session. She stated that she was fine with moving forward with the approval. Commissioner Ronnie Anderson made the **Motion** to approve and Commissioner Dennis Josey seconded the **Motion**. The Motion was **approved** unanimously (6-0).

STAFF COMMENTS

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

Fire Prevention Week – October 7th – 13th
Public Power Week – October 7th – 13th
Natural Gas Week – October 7th – 13th
Broxton Rocks Tour – October 13th, November 3rd - 10 am
War Bonds Theatre Production – November 10th
Second Saturday Downtown Market – October 13th – 9am – 1pm
WWII 63th AAFSTD Reunion – October 14th – 19th
Town Hall Meeting – October 23rd – 6 pm – Central Square Complex
Commit 2B Fit Walk – October 25th – 5:30 pm – Alternative School
Hometown Harvest – October 25th – 4:00-7:30 pm
Job Announcement – Part-Time Museum Assistant
Bid Announcement – FY13 Water Meter Bid and New Cat 430 Backhoe
Registration for the Festival of Lights Christmas Parade
Notify Me – Module on City's Website

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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.

Mayor Dennis recognized Mr. Ronnie Johnson who came forth with recommendations to the Commission regarding the use of flat-rate billing. He recommended making the 12th and final month's billing due each February due to tax returns being received at that time. He also recommended the Commission change and/or stagger due dates for electrical usage, water/sewer and garbage collection. Mr. Johnson also stated that he planned to pay someone else's bill for them and challenged the Mayor and Commission to do the same.

Mr. Larry NeSmith came forward with questions regarding MEAG and the use of settlement/refunds received by the City. He requested that an Internal Affairs investigation be performed regarding affairs within the City. He restated several remarks he had made in the Work Session portion of the meeting earlier in the evening.

Mr. Carlos Wardlaw, founder of B.O.S.S. (Band of Spirited Saints) stated they would be hosting a March on October 17th at 6 p.m. beginning at the Roundtree Center and ending at City Hall. He gave the reasons for the march and invited everyone to join this group on this date.

Ms. Pat King, 802 Jamestown Drive, presented her opinion on the need for assistance with utility bills.

Mr. Mitchell Simpson, 409 Park Avenue, also shared his concerns regarding utility bills.

Ms. Cheryl Cunningham, 207 Pinecrest Drive, stated that she had made an Open Records Request and had not received her information. She was told that it was ready and could be picked up at the City Manager's office the following day.

Mr. Thomas Paulk stated his concerns regarding utility bills.

Mr. Calvin Smith, who is not a City resident also gave his opinion of the Utility billing process and addressed Commissioner Anderson's comments regarding the City's obligation to provide streets, lighting, and other services to everyone (including county residents) who come into the City to shop and work.

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MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson requested a listing of names and addresses of those whose bills exceeded \$500. She stated that she would like to review this information prior to the next Commission Meeting. She stated that she was not aware that the MEAG monies could be potentially given back to customers in need. She requested that everyone be registered to vote and reminded those who are registered to do so.

Commissioner Richard Hutchinson expressed concern once again of the needed repairs on the railroad crossing which intersects College Avenue.

Commissioner Marty Swain stated that he had met with the City Manager and that the City as a whole is working on some solutions to many of these problems. He stated that he too was concerned about the elderly of this community and the challenges they face.

Mayor Dennis encouraged citizens to participate in the activities mentioned by Mrs. Henderson and encouraged those citizens with unusually high utility bills to seek help through our Customer Service Department. He also thanked everyone for coming and for the comments presented.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss in the Regular Meeting, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey and was seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson. The Commission unanimously approved (6-0) to adjourn.

CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

James H. Dennis, Mayor

Cindy McNeill, Deputy City Clerk

**UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF DOUGLAS
September 24, 2012**

A Utility Commission Meeting was held on Monday, September 24, 2012 at 8:30 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.

Kevin Davis, Assistant Water and Sewer Director appeared before the Mayor and Commission to discuss and receive recommendations for the following adjustments:

RENKOTA K. NEWKIRK- 934 THRASH CIRCLE

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson approving Ms. Newkirk's water and sewer bill with a credit of **\$271.00. Approved (6-0)**

LYNETTE MCCOY RICHARDSON- 525 CECIL WAY

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson approving Ms. Richardson's water and sewer bill with a credit of **\$201.84. Approved (6-0)**

BETTY ODOM-1359 S. GASKIN AVENUE

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson approving Ms. Odom's water and sewer bill with a credit of **\$304.71. Approved (6-0)**

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Utility Commission Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.