

**MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA  
JULY 22, 2013**

**A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, July 22, 2013 at 7:10 P.M., in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James H. Dennis presiding and Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Ronnie Anderson, Bob Moore, and Dennis Josey present. Olivia Pearson and Richard Hutchinson were absent due to illness.**

**INVOCATION**

Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Kevin Davis, Assistant Water Director led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**MAYOR'S UPDATES**

Mayor James Dennis stated that Commissioner Hutchinson had successful surgery and was doing fine. Also Commissioner Pearson was continuing to recover from her back surgery.

**MINUTES ADOPTION**

The following minutes were unanimously approved:

Work Session..... July 8, 2013  
Commission Meeting..... July 8, 2013

A **MOTION** to unanimously approve the minutes with the corrections was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(4-0)** the minutes with the corrections.

**APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

The Commission **unanimously** approved the order of the Agenda.

A **MOTION** to approve the order of the Agenda was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(4-0)** the order of the Agenda as discussed in the work session.

**FIRST READING-REZONING REQUEST OF DAVID VARNADORE, JR.**

Dale Batten, Community Development Director and the Douglas-Coffee County Planning Commission, recommends approval of the re-zoning request. The recommendation will be for the first reading of the ordinance re-zoning land of David Varnadore, Jr., located at 1815 South Peterson Avenue from M-1 (Wholesale Light Industrial District) to C-G (Commercial

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**FIRST READING-REZONING REQUEST OF DAVID VARNADORE, JR.**

General). City Attorney Jerome Adams read the first reading tonight. **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 1815 SOUTH PETERSON AVENUE FROM M-1, (WHOLESALE LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT) TO C-G, (COMMERCIAL GENERAL DISTRICT), LAND OF DAVID VARNADORE, JR.** The second reading for the second time at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Commission after properly advertising as required under the Charter of the City of Douglas, Georgia on August 12, 2013.

**No action was taken at this time**

**APPROVE WRITE –OFFS THROUGH SECURITY CREDIT ADJUSTMENTS, INC.**

Upon recommendation of Tommy Harrell, Customer Service Manager, the Mayor and Commission have approved to continue using the Blue Book for collection of old debt prior to June 1, 2001 when possible.

A **MOTION** to approve using the Blue Book for collection of old debt was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved (**4-0**) to continue using the Blue Book for collection of old debt prior to June 1, 2001 when possible.

**APPROVAL OF THE UNITED TOGETHER AS ONE VIOLENCE AWARENESS MARCH**

Upon recommendation of Randall Parker, Permit and Inspections Division, the Mayor and Commission approved the request from Pastor Fran Robinson, Congregation of Macedonia Baptist Church and citizens that have formed a group called United Together As One to allow the use of certain public streets in the proposed route to have the Violence Awareness March at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 27 2013, and that the Police Department provide assistance in busy traffic areas.

A **MOTION** to approve the request from United Together as One Violence Awareness March was made by Mayor Pro Tem Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved (**4-0**) to approve the request from United Together as One Violence Awareness March.

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**FRG (FAMILY READINESS GROUP)**

Mayor James Dennis introduced Patti Vick, a volunteer member of the Douglas FRG (Family Readiness Group). Ms. Vick told what the FRG is and provided a list of needed items for the care packages.

Ms. Vick stated that she is a volunteer member of the Douglas FRG (Family Readiness Group) with the 848<sup>th</sup> Engineering Group of the National Armory. Mrs. Vick explained that she wanted to bring awareness to the community concerning the FRG and its needs for the soldiers who are currently serving in Afghanistan. Mrs. Vicks explained that in May 2013, the FRG successfully sent 98 care packages to our troops and this was accomplished through the support of this community. Mrs. Vick encouraged everyone to try to bring a little bit of "home" to the hearts and minds of the soldiers serving in a foreign land. In August, the FRG will be sending 98 more care packages to the troops. Ms. Vick provided a list of needed items and asked the community to help make this a success.

No Action taken, informational purposes only.

**APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF (2) PATROL CARS**

Upon recommendation from Deputy Police Chief Brannen Pruette, the Mayor and Commission approved the purchase of two (2) 2013 Dodge Charger Police package patrol vehicles in the amount of \$23,188.04 each for a total price of \$46,376.08 from Akins Ford, Dodge, Jeep, Chrysler in Winder, Ga., under State Contract price.

A **MOTION** to approve the purchase of (2) Patrol Cars was made by Mayor Pro Tem Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Ronnie Anderson and Dennis Josey were in favor of the **MOTION**. Commissioner Bob Moore was opposed to the **MOTION**. Therefore, the **MOTION** carried (3-1).

**APPROVAL OF THE 2014 TOURISM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Commission unanimously approved a resolution authorizing Mayor James H. Dennis to execute an application for a Tourism Product Grant from the Georgia Department of Economic Development in an amount up \$15,000 to aid with the expenses of the Bikes, Blues & BBQ Festival; authorized City matching funds up to \$9,000 from the Tourism Special Activities Fund, and authorized the Mayor to execute the necessary documents if the grant is approved.

A **MOTION** to approve the 2014 Tourism Productive Development Grant was made by Mayor Pro Tem Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

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**APPROVAL OF THE 2014 TOURISM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT GRANT-  
CONTINUED**

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(4-0)** to approve the 2014 Tourism Productive Development Grant.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Mrs. Georgia Henderson, Central Services Director, noted the following upcoming events:

- Cemetery Board has (1) one vacancy and the Housing Authority Board has (2) two.
- Water Department Quality Report can be seen on-line or 320 South Pearl Avenue.
- Compost will be given away Monday through Friday 8 AM – 11:30 AM, and 1:30 PM-4:30 PM at 1009 Wendell Sears Rd.
- Recreational Department will be taking applications for football and cheerleading
- South Georgia Expo will be held August Friday, August 23rd 1 PM – 7 PM and Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> 9 AM – 5 PM. The Wild Game Supper will be held Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Annual Christmas Parade will be celebrating 50 years. This event will be held Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

Larry Nesmith, President of the NAACP Coffee County Chapter announced that there will be a blood drive held Saturday, August 3, 2013 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM at Wal-Mart. Also Mr. Nesmith encouraged citizens to contact the Police Department concerning information regarding the homicides that have taken place in the community.

Roscoe Allen Jr. 765 Estelle Mercer Road (County) questioned the status of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Mayor Dennis explained that it was brought forth and Mrs. Carter, Human Resources Director along with the Benefits Committee and Commission made recommendation for changes. Mayor Dennis stated that the recommendations will be brought forth at the August 12<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting for consideration.

**MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain encouraged everyone to lift up former Commissioner Roper in their prayers.

Mayor Dennis stated the following:

- Participate in the blood drive that will be held Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at Wal-Mart.
- Thanked the volunteers that participated with the Community Clean-up.
- Encouraged everyone to do their part and help keep the community clean.
- Please pick up behind yourself and be cognizant of the trash in the back of your trucks.

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**MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS**

- He requested that if you put signs on the City's right-of-way to please remove them so the crews can cut grass and clean up
- Gaines Chapel will be having a benefit for Johnnie L. Roper, former Commissioner, on July 27, 2013 at 6 PM to help with some medical issues
- Thanked staff and all our workers for all of the hard work

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss in the Regular Meeting, a motion was made to adjourn to Executive Session was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(4-0)** to adjourn to executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor James Dennis, Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, and Ronnie Anderson were in attendance of the Executive Session.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain made the **MOTION** to adjourn from Executive Session and to return to the regular meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and **approved** by all. **(4-0)**

A **MOTION** to approve the discussion that was recommended in Executive Session was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson approved by all. **(4-0)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Ronnie Anderson made a motion to adjourn Regular Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

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James H. Dennis, Mayor

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Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk