

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
AUGUST 26, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, August 26, 2013 at 7:00 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, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Dennis Josey present.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Richard Hutchinson gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Coffee County School Navel JROTC Cadets led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES ADOPTION

The following minutes were unanimously approved:

Work Session.....August 12, 2013
Commission Meeting.....August 12, 2013

A **MOTION** to unanimously approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the minutes with the corrections.

MAYOR'S UPDATES

Mayor James Dennis welcomed Commissioner Pearson who was continuing to recover from her surgery.

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 Commissioner Bob Moore, and seconded by Commissioner Richard Hutchinson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, and Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the order of the Agenda as discussed in the work session.

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RECOGNITION OF THE SLOGAN/CONTEST PARTICIPANT

Terrell Jacobs, City Manager along with Mayor James Dennis recognized Leslie Smith, who participated in the Slogan/Nickname Contest with the City of Douglas that was held last year. The City of Douglas launched a contest inviting citizens to participate in the Slogan/Nickname Contest. Nicknames and slogans are believed to have economic value and are used to identify cities. The City of Douglas wanted to see what bold and distinctive slogan citizens could come up with that captured the essence of our great city. The contest was open to all residents inside and outside of Douglas who were 18 years of age or older. The winning slogan would have been used in conjunction with the city seal, other branding, or separately. Although the City did not use the slogan submitted by Mr. Smith, Mayor, Commission and staff recognized him for his outstanding effort and enthusiasm.

SECOND READING & PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2013 TAX ORDINANCE

City Attorney, Jerome Adams conducted the second reading and public hearing of the 2013 Tax Ordinance. **“AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA PROPOSED FOR LEVYING OF A TAX UPON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF DOUGLAS SUBJECT TO TAXATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA AND THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF DOUGLAS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2013 AND FOR ALL PURPOSES”** Jerome Adams, City Attorney, proceeded to call for a public hearing. There were no comments from the public and the public hearing was closed. Mr. Adams stated that this ordinance was ready for action.

A **MOTION** to approve the 2013 Tax Ordinance was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the 2013 Tax Ordinance.

APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR SR 135 WATER LINE CONSTRUCTIONS

Upon recommendation of Mike Hudson, Gas/Water/Wastewater Director, a **MOTION** to approve a contract with Radney Plumbing Inc. in the amount of **\$223,993.20** for S.R. 135 12” water line construction was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Marty Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** a contract with Radney Plumbing Inc. in the amount of \$223,993.20 for S.R. 135 12” water line construction.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION
APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

Dale Batten, Community Development Director announced the upcoming vacancies on the Airport Commission. Mrs. Batten stated that the terms of Joey Hand, Jim Rimes and Tom Smith will expire on September 30, 2013. All of these gentlemen have agreed to server another term if reappointed. The Airport Commission unanimously approved a motion recommending the City Commission approve their reappointment. All of these gentlemen are good members and attend regularly. These vacancies on the Airport Commission will be advertised for two weeks on Channel 13 and appointments/reappointments will be made at the September 9, 2013 meeting. Applications can be picked up at City Hall or the Airport Terminal.

No Action Taken

**APPROVAL FOR OF THE RESOLUTION FOR (STWP) SHORT TERM WORK
PROGRAM TRANSMITTAL**

Upon recommendation of Dale Batten, Community Development Director a **MOTION** was made to approve the resolution to transmit the 2013 STWP (Short Term Work Program) update to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, who will submit to the Department of Community Affairs for review the motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Marty Swain and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the resolution to transmit the 2013 Short Term Work Program Update.

**APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO FILM AT ASHLEY –SLATER
HOUSE BY GHOST HUNTER/PILGRIM STUDIOS**

Upon recommendation from Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director, A **MOTION** granting permission to allow Pilgrim Studios to utilize the Ashley-Slater House to record footage for a possible segment that may appear on the popular television show, *Ghost Hunters*, which airs on the SyFy channel was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously** approved **(6-0)** the request for permission to film at Ashley-Slater House by Ghost Hunter/Pilgrim Studios.

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STAFF COMMENTS

Mrs. Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director, noted the following upcoming events:

- Thanked everyone that participated with the South Georgia Expo
Commissioner Bob Moore requested a financial report concerning the South Georgia Expo.
- Community Clean Up will be Saturday, August 31st from 8 AM – 12 PM at Unity Park.
- The Annual Christmas Parade will be celebrating 50 years. This event will be held Saturday December 7th. The theme of this year's parade will be "Celebrate the Golden Years". Registration for the parade will be September 1st.
- Hometown Harvest will be held on October 31st at the vacant lot next to City Hall.

- City Manager Terrell Jacobs reiterated the success and participation of the South Georgia Expo.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Larry Nesmith, President of the NAACP Coffee County Chapter/Community Awareness Project, appeared before the Mayor and Commission to ask for forgiveness if he offended anyone on the Commission. Mr. Nesmith stated that sometimes he comes across issues that he has to fight. Mr. Nesmith stated he was pleased with the attendance of the City and County Officials at the meeting held at Gaines Chapel. Also Mr. Nesmith stated that he would like to have a massive march against violence on November 9th. Mr. Nesmith requested that the City join in to assist with having a job fair at the Central Square Gym. Mr. Nesmith concluded by stating he has made a vow, as a citizen of Douglas and Coffee County, to bring unity and justice.

Mayor Dennis asked Mr. Nesmith to get a request concerning using the Gym.

MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Olivia Pearson thanked everyone for the prayers during her time of illness also she thanked Georgia Henderson and her staff for doing an excellent job with the South Georgia Expo. Also Commissioner Pearson commended Mr. Roscoe Allen for coming forward with his concerns.

Commissioner Richard Hutchinson thanked Georgia Henderson and her staff and also the citizens for stepping up and speaking out against violence.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain asked everyone to pray for those who are less fortunate.

Mayor Dennis stated the following:

- Follow up on the ongoing investigation of the (2) homicides
- Thanked the staff and all our workers for their hard work and for the input of everyone's ideas.
- Encouraged those who can, to participate in the Clean up Campaign on August 31st at Unity Park.

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MAYOR AND COMMISSION COMMENTS-COMMENTS

- Asked that if anyone had any information regarding Crime Cases, to please contact the Tip Hotline or Police Department.
- Be safe during the Labor Day Holiday weekend.
- A Demographic Specialist from the MEAG Conference stated that in our region Douglas is progressively increasing in population.
- Mayor Dennis gave condolences to Johnny Wilkerson with the loss of his father and the continued prayers of former Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper.

With no further business to discuss in the Regular Meeting, a motion was made to adjourn to enter into the Utility Appeals Meeting by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore.

UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tommy Harrell, Billing and Collections Manager discussed a request from Pamela James who has property at 901 South Pearl Avenue concerning an adjustment with her water. Mr. Harrell stated that the city has given her an adjustment with her sewer. Mike Hudson, Water/Wastewater Director explained that the water meters are now being tested by an individual in Waycross Georgia. Mr. Hudson stated that Mrs. James water meter was 98% accurate. Also Mr. Hudson stated that Mrs. James would need another adjustment on her water due to overlapping on the bill.

Commissioner Olivia Pearson made a **MOTION** to adjust ½ of the water bill along with adjusting the sewer that is on the current bill seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Marty Swain.

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, and Olivia Pearson **approved**. Commissioner Ronnie Anderson **denied the motion** to adjust ½ of the water bill (**5-1**).

Mayor Pro-Tem Marty Swain, Commissioners Bob Moore, Dennis Josey, Richard Hutchinson, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson **unanimously approved (6-0)** to adjourn to executive session.

With no further business to discuss in the Utility Committee Appeals Meeting, a motion was made to adjourn to enter into the Executive Session by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Commissioner Ronnie Anderson made the **MOTION** to adjourn from Executive Session and to return to the regular meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey and **approved** by all. **(6-0)**

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bob Moore made a motion to adjourn Regular Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

James H. Dennis, Mayor

Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk