

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
FEBRUARY 23, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James Dennis presiding and Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson, Commissioners Bob Moore, Marty Swain, Dennis Josey, Olivia Pearson and Ronnie Anderson present.

INVOCATION

Customer Service Manager, Tommy Harrell gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Coffee County NJROTC led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES ADOPTION

The following minutes were unanimously approved as printed in the Work Session:

Work Session.....February 9, 2015
Commission Meeting.....February 9, 2015

A **MOTION** to **unanimously** approve the minutes as printed was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson. The motion **unanimously** carried **(6-0)**.

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Commission **unanimously** approved the order of the Agenda as set forth in the work session. A **MOTION** to approve the order of the Agenda was made by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Marty Swain. The motion **unanimously** carried **(6-0)**.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

The Mayor and Commission along with Chief Casteloos and Deputy Chief Pruette recognized Sgt. Robert Sprinkle for completion of the State Arson Investigator Certification.

APPROVAL OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Commission approved to reappoint Mary Lou Gillespie and Chris Trowell to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission. These terms will be retroactive to January 1, 2015 and will expire December 31, 2017. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey. The motion **unanimously** carried **(6-0)**.

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**FIRST READING- ANNEXATION/REZONING REQUEST OF 360 CONNECTOR 206
NW**

Dale Batten, Community Development Director, and the Douglas-Coffee County Planning Commission recommended the approval to annex and rezone the 55.56 acre parcel of land located at 360 Connector 206 NW Road into the City Limits and that the ordinance be read for the first time at this meeting by Jerome Adams, City Attorney. **"AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX PROPERTY INTO THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 36 OF TITLE 36 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED: TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND OTHER PURPOSES."** The second reading and public hearing to be held on March 9, 2015.

No Action was taken

APPROVAL OF THE DESIGNATION OF 5K ROUTES

Upon recommendation of Rodger Goddard, Code Enforcement Officer, the Commission approved the area in the vicinity of the Coffee County High School and the vicinity of Coffee Regional Medical Center as designated routes for 5K Events and authorized staff to issue permits for 5K events in the designated areas. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Marty Swain and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson. The motion **unanimously** carried **(6-0)**.

APPROVAL OF DECLARING EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS

Upon recommendation from Stanley E. Merritt, Purchasing Agent, the Commission approved to declare the attached list of items as surplus and allow the disposal of these items to the highest bidder through the Gov-Deals on-line Auction Site. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey. The motion **unanimously** carried **(6-0)**.

APPROVAL OF THE ELIMINATION OF COMP TIME

Upon recommendation from Judy Carter, Human Resources Director, the Commission approved the elimination of comp time effective June 30, 2015, with employees reducing their comp time on the books by June 30, 2016 or forfeit any remaining hours after this date. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Commission Marty Swain. The motion was carried **(5-1)**. Commissioner Bob Moore **voted against** the motion.

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APPROVAL OF THE CNG STATION FILTER UPGRADES

Upon recommendation from Mike Hudson, Natural Gas/Water/Wastewater Director, the Commission approved the quote from Atlanta Gas and Light (AGL) in the amount **\$20,899.13** to add additional filters at the CNG Facility. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson. The motion unanimously carried **(6-0)**.

APPROVAL OF THE USE OF FACILITY-BOYS/GIRLS CLUB

Upon recommendation from Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, the Commission approved the use of the Martin Center and the administrative fee be assessed of a \$100.00 and the rental fee be waived for the Boys & Girls Club to hold a fundraiser. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson. The motion unanimously carried **(6-0)**.

APPROVAL OF THE DATE CHANGE FOR MAY MEETING

Upon recommendation from Terrell Jacobs, the Commission approved to change the meeting date scheduled for Monday, May 25, 2015 (Memorial Day) to Tuesday, May 26, 2015. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson. The motion unanimously carried **(6-0)**.

CITIZEN COMPLAINT

Mayor James Dennis stated that Ms. Renata Smith, 518 Cecil Way, (Commissioner Olivia Pearson) appeared before the Commission at the Work Session Meeting to present them with a Notice of Claim regarding the unconstitutional and unlawful arrest.

STAFF COMMENTS

Terrell Jacobs, City Manager stated the following:

- ❖ GMA Essay Contest "If I were Mayor I would...for all 6th graders in the community. Deadline to submit essay will be February 27th.
- ❖ The Douglas-Coffee County Historical Society will host an exhibit at the Heritage Station Museum for the month of February for Black History Month.
- ❖ District II Basketball Tournament will be held February 27th & 28th at the Central Square Complex.
- ❖ Children's Art Festival will be held on March 7th, 10 a.m. -3 p.m. at the Central Square Complex Gym B.
- ❖ City of Douglas Natural Gas Department along with the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia will host a Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle Symposium March 17th and 18th, 2015 at the Central Square Complex.

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STAFF COMMENTS-CONTINUED

- ❖ The Douglas-Coffee County Historical Society will host an exhibit at the Heritage Station Museum for the month of February for Black History Month.
- ❖ Community Junk Drop Off -Day will be held at Bryan Street Circle, March 21st 8 a.m. – noon.
- ❖ Tiny Tots Easter Egg Hunt, will be held March 27th, 11:00 a.m. at the JC Adams Municipal Park.
- ❖ Registration for vendors for the Bike, Blues and BBQ Festival will be held April 10th & 11th at the Gene Chamber Airport and also the South Georgia Expo is scheduled for August 21st & 22nd.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Ms. Renata Smith, 518 Cecil Way, (Commissioner Olivia Pearson) stated that she would like her complaint to go on official record regarding an incident where she was arrested on September 7, 2014 (about 6 months ago). Ms. Smith stated she is touching base on the unconstitutional and unlawful arrest that occurred September 7th. Her complaint is against the Douglas Police Department, regarding unlawful arrest, brutality and excessive force and Ms. Smith sustaining diagnosed injuries. She received a letter dated February 17, 2015 from Commander Bart McCullough, stating that two (2) officers had been exonerated. At the present time she has retained an attorney and wishes to present her Notice of Claim to the Mayor and Commission.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Olivia Pearson congratulated Sgt. Robert Sprinkle for completion of his State Arson Investigator Certification his achievement. Also, Commissioner Pearson acknowledged Mr. Ernest Walker, a local resident of Coffee County for his achievement in the Music Industry. She also wished Minister Leola Johnson and Ms. Mary Allen Williams a happy birthday. She asked all citizens to keep everyone in their prayers.

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson expressed his concerns with the police department's prolonged length of investigation concerning Reata Smith.

Commissioner Marty Swain wished former Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper a speedy recovery.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Wished the following a speedy recovery: Tommy Harrell, Customer Service Manager, former Commissioner Johnnie Lee Roper, Henry Milhollin's (Cemetery Coordinator) wife, Jan Milhollin, Assistant City Manager Charlie Davis, and George Smith, a former well-known athlete in Coffee County.

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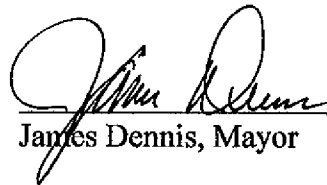
MAYOR'S COMMENTS-CONTINUED


- Children's Art Festival
- District II Basketball Tournament
- Encouraged citizens to contact the anonymous tip line 260.3600 for any suspicious activities.
- Operation Quality of Life

Commissioner Olivia Pearson stated that she was also concerned with the length of time for Ms. Smith investigation to be completed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss in the Regular Meeting, a motion was made to adjourn by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.


James Dennis, Mayor


Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk