

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
OCTOBER 26, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, October 26, 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, Dennis Josey, Marty Swain, Ronnie Anderson and Olivia Pearson was present. City Manager, Terrell Jacobs was absent.

CALLED TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commission was called to order by Mayor James H. Dennis.

INVOCATION

Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Dennis acknowledged the JROTC placing 1st at a competition held in Ponte Vedra Florida

MINUTES ADOPTION

The following minutes were unanimously approved as corrected in the Work Session.

Work Session	October 12, 2015
Commission Meeting	October 12, 2015

A **MOTION** to **unanimously** approve the minutes as printed was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Josey. 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).

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE REZONING WWII AIR BASE

Dale Batten, Community Development Director, recommended that the City Attorney, Jerome Adams, conduct the first reading of an Ordinance for the rezoning of the property at 1725 South Peterson Avenue of the WWII Army Air Force Base. **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 1725 PETERSON AVENUE SOUTH FROM C-G, COMMERCIAL GENERAL, TO P-D, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT, LAND OF CITY OF DOUGLAS.** After properly advertising the caption as required under the Charter of the City of Douglas, the second reading and public hearing will be held on November 9, 2015 at the Regular Commissioners Meeting.

No action was taken at this time

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APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL POLICY #057 FINANCIAL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

Upon recommendation from Judy Carter, Human Resources Director, Commission approved for any newly hired applicant who has an Associate Degree receive 2.50% increase; Bachelor Degree receive 5.00% increase; Master Degree receive 7.50% increase or Doctorate receive 10.00% increase above entry level salary. All degrees must be in a job related field. Also, approved for any employee who receives an Associate, Bachelor, Master or Doctorate going forward to receive 2.5% increase for each degree received and for any employee who has received an Associate, Bachelor, Master or Doctorate degree since January 1, 2015 to receive a 1.25% (1 step increase) to be in lined with new pay structure.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson. The motion was **unanimously** carried (6-0).

APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW 2016 VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SERVICE TRUCK

Upon recommendation from Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent, Commission approved the low bid meeting specifications from Wade Ford of Smyrna, Georgia as discussed in tonight's work session for one (1) new 2016 service truck to be utilized by the Vehicle Maintenance Department for a Grand Total Cost of \$27,128.00.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Bob Moore. The motion was **unanimously** carried (6-0).

PRESENTATION OF MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT UPDATES

Linda Gail, Georgia Cares Coordinator, SGRC, gave information concerning the open enrollment for Medicare. She stated that open enrollment began October 15th and will run thru December 7th. Those in Coffee County can visit the Senior Citizens building and Mrs. Connie Lott will be available to assist with any questions or concerns.

APPROVAL OF FACILITY FEE WAIVER

Upon recommendation from Charles Davis, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director, Commission approved to waive the rental fee for Bethel Family Worship Center to use the C E Weir Center to provide Thanksgiving Dinner for the Community. The \$100.00 administrative fee will remain in place.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson. The motion **carried** (6-0).

STAFF COMMENTS

Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director, announced the following:

- 12th Annual Hometown Harvest will take place October 29th 4p.m.-7p.m.
- The 311 Call Center is continuing Customer Service Month by allowing customers to register for a \$500.00 credit towards their utility bill. The winner will be announced at the Hometown Harvest on October 29th. (Commission, employees and families are not eligible)

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rayford McRae appeared before the Commission to express concern of furniture that has been disposed on the side of the roads for long periods of time. He stated that he was a person that took pride in the community being clean.

Mayor James Dennis stated that we are trying to identify this problem and the city has given opportunities for our citizens to bring trash to our Junk Free sites that are set-up once a month. He encouraged Mr. McRae to contact Public Works or Code Enforcement to report these activities in the community.

Hal Pressley appeared before the Commission to discuss the incident on October 3rd, regarding himself and Commission Pearson appearing on the front page of the Douglas Enterprise that was not accurate. He stated that these statements were very hurtful to Commissioner Pearson. He stated that a retraction was done in the newspaper and he is hoping this will calm some people in the community down.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Marty Swain announced that Bethel Family Worship Center, Douglas Community Churches and Business will be feeding the Community on November 15th and the C.E. Weir Center, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Commissioner Dennis Josey stated that he did not see anything derogatory towards Mr. Pressley and Commissioner Pearson in the Douglas Enterprise. He stated that the paper only put what was on facebook concerning Mr. Worthy.

Commissioner Ronnie Anderson stated that the Coffee High Trojan Football Team has two games to play and if they win both they will be the Regional Champion, which has not been done since 2001. He encouraged everyone to support the football team.

Commissioner Olivia Pearson stated that she supports the comments of Commissioner Anderson concerning the Coffee High Football Team. She also stated that she worked very hard the last 15 years bringing this community together. She expressed the hurt and stress that she has endured during the last few weeks concerning the accusations of her being a racist. Commissioner Pearson stated that she loved everyone and was not a racist.

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson expressed concerns of drivers being more cautious when a school bus lights are flashing and children are being loaded and unloaded.

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MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor James Dennis stated the following:

- Encouraged all citizens to participate with the See Something, Say Something Campaign
- Encouraged citizens to bring their children out to the Hometown Harvest
- Thanked Commissioner Pearson, City Clerk and the Police Department for hosting the Domestic Violence Workshop
- Halloween will be Saturday, October 31st, he encouraged everyone to watch for the kids and be safe
- Thanked staff and Department Directors for all they do for the City
- City Manager, Terrell Jacobs was absent due to a MEAG meeting in Atlanta
- Utility Committee will be held after the Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson made the **MOTION** to adjourn to the Utility Committee Meeting. The **MOTION** was seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson. The Commission unanimously approved **(6-0)** and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.



James H. Dennis, Mayor



Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk

**UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF DOUGLAS
OCTOBER 26, 2015**

A Utility Commission Meeting was held on Monday, October 26, at 7:51 p.m. The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor James Dennis presiding. Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Hutchinson, Commissioners Olivia Pearson, Dennis Josey, Bob Moore, Ronnie Anderson and Marty Swain were in attendance.

Mike Hudson, Gas/Water/Wastewater Director; Kentice Brockington, Gas Department Compliance Officer; Lamar Hill, Electric Department; Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk; Charles Davis, Assistant City Manager; Jerome Adams, City Attorney and Tommy Harrell, Customer Service Manager appeared before the Mayor and Commission to discuss and receive recommendations.

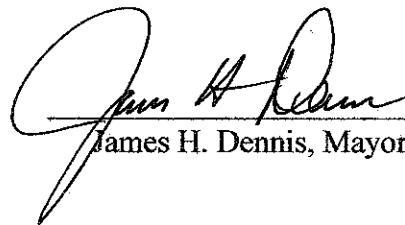
Tommy Harrell, Customer Service Manager, presented the following information:

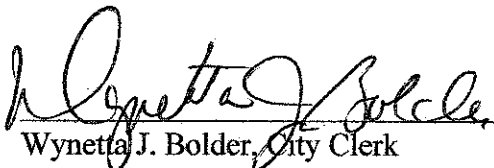
Douglas Masonic Lodge 609 S Gaskin Avenue

Mr. Harrell stated that several people appeared before the Utility Committee concerning the usage of 22 gal of water. They admitted that there were toilet issues. Dr. Jimmie Veal stated that the outside water faucet had been left on. After much discussion, A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore to adjust \$1,000.00 off the water/sewer bill, and seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson. The motion was carried (5-1). Mayor Pro Tem Richard Hutchinson **voted against** the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other issues to discuss, a motion to adjourn the Utility Commission Meeting and enter into Regular Meeting was made by Commissioner Dennis Josey and seconded by Commissioner Olivia Pearson. Commissioner Marty Swain made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting and seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Anderson at 7:51 p.m.


James H. Dennis, Mayor


Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk

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