

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA
FEBRUARY 22, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Tony L. Paulk presiding and Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson, Commissioners Bob Moore, Mike Gowen, Kentaiwon Durham, Cindy McNeill and Johnnie Lee Roper Sr. were present.

CALLED TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commission was called to order by Mayor Tony L. Paulk.

INVOCATION

Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk, provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The 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 8, 2016

Commission Meeting.....February 8, 2016

A **MOTION** to **unanimously** approve the minutes as printed was made by Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Cindy McNeill. The motion carried **(6-0)**.

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Commission approved the order of the Agenda as printed. A **MOTION** to approve the order of the Agenda was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Johnnie Roper. The motion carried **(6-0)**.

APPROVAL OF DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMMENT AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, Commission approved the appointment of JoAnne Lewis to fill the vacant position on the Downtown Development Authority.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Cindy McNeill and seconded by Commission Bob Moore. The motion carried **(5-1)**. Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson **opposed** the motion. She stated that it is not very often that we have minorities to apply for these positions. She recommended that we make our boards/committees more diverse. We had two (2) apply for this position and she felt one of the two black males that applied should have been appointed to the position so that they can feel like they are being included. She also recommended that we keep the applications on file of the ones not chosen to give them the first opportunity at the next opening.

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APPROVAL OF HERITAGE POINTE SENIOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, Commission approved a Resolution of Support for Affordable Equity Partners, Inc. for the Heritage Pointe Senior Housing Development Project on W. Gordon Street and approved a Resolution amending the City's Urban Redevelopment Plan to include the Heritage Pointe Development Project.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROPERTY SALE

Upon recommendation from Dale Batten, Community Development Director, the Commissioner approved to proceed with the advertising of the property for sale located at 216 South Letitia Avenue via sealed bids.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Cindy McNeill and seconded by Commissioner Mike Gowen. The motion **carried (6-0)**.

APPROVAL OF THE PRIVATE FIRE HYDRANT ORDINANCE

Upon recommendation from Mike Hudson, Utilities Director, City Attorney, Jerome Adams, conducted the first reading of the Private Fire Hydrant Ordinance. **“AN ORDINANCE PROMULGATED IN ORDER TO REGULATE THE INSPECTION, TESTING, MAINTENANCE, CORRECTION, AND REPAIR OF FIRE HYDRANTS LOCATED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, GEORGIA.”** The second reading will be held on March 14, 2016 at the next meeting after being properly advertised.

No Action was taken

APPROVAL OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Upon recommendation from Stanley Merritt, Purchasing Agent, the Commission approved to declare the presented list of equipment as surplus and to allow the disposal of these items to the highest bidder through GovDeals on-line auction site.

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

APPROVAL OF THE USE OF FACILITIES

Upon recommendation from Stevie Young, Parks & Recreation Director, the Commission approved the use of the gym for the Department of Labor to hold a Farm Labor Forum for Agricultural Business on Thursday, March 10, 2016 and approved to waive the rental fee with exception of \$100 Administration fee.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kentaiwon Durham and seconded by Cindy McNeill. The motion carried **(6-0)**.

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APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Upon recommendation from Charles Davis, Assistant City Manager, the Commission reappointed Luke Morgan and Lidell Greenway to fill the vacancies on the Douglas-Coffee County Economic Development Authority.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Johnnie Roper. The motion carried **(5-1)**. Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Pearson **opposed** the motion.

STAFF COMMENTS

Georgia Henderson, Public Information Director, announced the following:

- Douglas-Coffee County Parks & Recreation Department will host District II Basketball Tournaments this weekend
- Last day to register for Douglas 101 Citizens Academy Program will be February 29th
- Douglas Police Department will offer a Women's Fire Arm Safety Course, March 12th, 8 am to 5 pm
- Wiregrass Arts Guild along with the Douglas-Coffee County Parks & Recreation will host Children's Art Festival at Central Square Complex on Saturday, March 12th from 10 am to 3 pm
- Community Junk Drop-off is Saturday, March 19th at Bryan Street Circle
- Jobs: Full-time City of Douglas Police Officer
- Bid: Aviation Fuels – Deadline is February 24th

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Roper stated that he went out in his ward and took the county with him. He stated that he is going to continue working to serve the people in this community until his time comes to an end.

Commissioner Moore agreed with Commissioner Roper's comments. He also thanked everyone for the work done and told everyone to be safe.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson commended American Legion Post 515 for recognizing and honoring veterans. Both Mayor Pro Tem Pearson and Mayor Paulk were both recognized. Also, she asked for us to continue praying for families who have had deaths in their families. Lastly, she stated that she has been here for the past 16 years to try and serve the community. She stated that she feels like she is being pressured to make decisions without evaluations being done.

Commissioner Gowen stated that he noticed on the city website that there are approximately 16 boards/committees/authorities that city is involved in. He then stated that he agrees with Mayor Pro Tem Pearson. He recommended that as they look at these appointments, maybe they can expand to allow people who have so graciously volunteered to be involved. Another thing,

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COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS CONTINUED

regarding the death of the young man, it was a very tragic. He commended the Law Enforcement for the work they do and for investigating such a horrible crime of the man that was murdered. They have my support for what is needed.

Commissioner McNeill agreed with Commissioner Gowen. In addition to the board/committees/authorities that we advertise for, there are several activities that need volunteers within the community. She stated that she is grateful for folks that will step forward and volunteer their time to serve.

Commissioner Durham asked that everyone continue to pray for our community. We can take back our streets and our community if we pray. Pray for our constituents and our city as a whole. Let your light shine. He also stated that the Boys & Girls Club has a mentor program asking men to give one (1) hour per week to mentor a young boy. Please help mentor.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Tony Paulk expressed that with all of the sad events going on, it makes you stop and think. It takes everyone to mentor our children and spend time with them. Give them more than one option. He stated that as Mayor and Commission, we can impact public safety. Even when law enforcement officers are doing their job, they still get criticized. Encouraged parents to get their children involved in activities such as Eagle Scouts. Congratulated Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Paulk on their wedding on Valentine's Day. Mother's Day is coming. Make sure to take care of your mother as well as the mother of your children. We have to support our children regardless of what they're doing. As the Mayor and Commission, we have one objective and that is to do the best we can.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson made the **MOTION** to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter into Utility Commission Meeting. The Commission approved **(6-0)** to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:45 PM.

Tony L. Paulk, Mayor

Wynetta J. Bolder, City Clerk

**UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF DOUGLAS
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A Utility Commission Meeting was held on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:46 p.m. The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Tony L. Paulk presiding. Mayor Pro-Tem Olivia Pearson, Commissioners Johnnie L. Roper, Bob Moore, Kentaiwon Durham, Cindy McNeill and Mike Gowen were in attendance.

Mike Hudson, Utilities Director; Wynetta Bolder, City Clerk; Charles Davis, Assistant City Manager and Jerome Adams, City Attorney appeared before the Mayor and Commission to discuss and receive recommendations.

Mike Hudson, Utilities Director, presented the following information:

Ms. Almeshia Collins, 315 E. Schley Street

Mr. Hudson stated that Ms. Collins had a water leak at her house. She rents a house from Mr. Allen Peacock. Staff went out and left a door hanger stating that there was a leak at the house. Mr. Peacock fixed the leak. By policy, we could only give a sewer adjustment, which has been done. Ms. Collins appeared before the Utility Committee to seek more adjustments. However, by policy, there were no more adjustments that could be done by the Utility Committee. Ms. Collins is requesting a water adjustment to her account. After much discussion, A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Cindy McNeill to adjust **\$450.00** off the water/sewer bill as well as her AMP be modified to reflect new balance, and seconded by Commissioner Kentaiwon Durham. The motion was carried **(6-0)**.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other issues to discuss, a motion to adjourn the Utility Commission Meeting and enter into Executive Session was made by Commissioner Bob Moore and seconded by Commissioner Johnnie Roper. The Commissioner approved **(6-0)** to adjourn the Utility Commission meeting at 8:10 PM.