

Minutes

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The City of Douglas Mayor and Council met in a **Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 425 10th Street. The Honorable Mayor Huish called the meeting to order.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** by Council
3. **INVOCATION:** by Pastor David Gonzalez from First Baptist Church.
4. **ROLL CALL.**

	PRESENT	ABSENT
MAYOR, DONALD C. HUISH	X	
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE, MARGARET MORALES	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, MITCH LINDEMANN		X (excused)
COUNCILMEMBER, DANYA ACOSTA	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, RAY SHELTON	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, MICHAEL BALDENEGRO		X (excused)
COUNCILMEMBER, JOSE GRIJALVA	X	
INTERIM CITY MANAGER/CITY TREASURER, LUIS PEDROZA	X	
CITY ATTORNEY, DENIS FITZGIBBONS	X	
CITY CLERK, ALMA ANDRADE	X	

5. **PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL IN WRITING OR VERBALLY ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

Alma Andrade stated no public participation forms were submitted.

6. **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:**

5 Years	10 Years	20 Years
Douglas Lumber	Marylou's Salon	Audio Masters
		Budget Towing

Council Member Morales presented the business awards.

7. **DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVAL of CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.**

- A. **EXPENDITURES for the month of APRIL 2021, totaling \$2,968,657.23.**
- B. **APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES for MARCH 31, and APRIL 14, 2021.**

Motion by Council Member Morales, **second** by Council Member Acosta to approve consent agenda items.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Donald Huish, Council Members: Margaret Morales, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton, and Jose Grijalva. **Voted Against:** None.

8. **DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVAL of THIRD READING of Ordinance No. 21-1130, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, LEVYING upon the ASSESSED VALUATION of the PROPERTY within the CITY OF DOUGLAS, subject to taxation, a certain rate upon each ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) of VALUATION sufficient to RAISE the amount estimated to be required in the ANNUAL BUDGET, and providing funds for GENERAL MUNICIPAL EXPENSES: all for the fiscal year ending the 30th day of June 2022, establishing severability of components of Ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.**

Monica Miranda provided background information and stated the following information pertained to the 2021 tax levy:

- The primary assessed value for the City this year is \$56,666,778
- Primary assessed valuation increased \$341,438 or 0.6% (excludes new construction)
- \$940,467 was added to the tax rolls from new construction
- The recommended property tax rate for the year was to keep the City's property tax rate at 1.1591 which would levy \$656,825
- The levy showed a slight increase from \$652,867 to \$656,825 for a total increase of \$3,958, due to new construction added in the year.

Furthermore, Ms. Miranda commented staff recommended to keep the property tax rate at 1.1591 which would slightly increase the levy by \$3,958 due to new construction. The City's portion of the property tax levy on \$100,000 assessed value would remain the same as last year, at \$115.91 per year. On the average home valuation of \$70,000 it would be \$81.14 per year.

Motion by Council Member Shelton, **second** by Council Member Grijalva to approve Ordinance 21-1130.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Donald Huish, Council Members: Margaret Morales, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton, and Jose Grijalva. **Voted Against:** None.

9. **DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVAL of Resolution No. 21-1459, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, APPROVING the CDBG FY2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN for the City of Douglas.**

Xenia Gonzalez provided background information and stated CDBG was an entitlement community which CDBG grant required a consolidated plan every 5-year cycle as well as an annual action plan for every year of cycle prepared and submitted to HUD for approval. Lastly, Ms. Gonzalez stated that CDBG allocated funding for fiscal year 2021 was \$172,222.

Motion by Council Member Acosta, **second** by Council Member Morales to approve Resolution 21-1459.

Council Member Grijalva inquired on projects CDBG funding plans were designated to.

In response Ms. Gonzalez stated it was designated toward public facility improvements at Joe Causey Park to include walkways, pathways in or around the park, LED lighting and other improvements if budget permitted for benches, and ramadas.

Lastly, Council Member Grijalva thanked Ms. Gonzalez for her work.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Donald Huish, Council Members: Margaret Morales, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton, and Jose Grijalva. **Voted Against:** None.

10. **DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVAL of the LAND LEASE RIGHT OF WAY with U.S. CUSTOMS and BORDER PROTECTION to allow them to place electrical equipment over city property south of the Calvary Cemetery.**

Luis Pedroza provided background information and continued to say that the city and USCBP established a \$1.00 per year land lease right of way in 1998 which would allow to place electrical equipment south of the Calvary Cemetery. Mr. Pedroza commented that the lease renewal would continue the use of its equipment over city property with the same terms of \$1.00 per year with a length of 12 months with renewal options.

Lastly, Mr. Pedroza added that in the event CBP were to leave, they would take out all equipment and restore premises to the original condition.

Motion by Council Member Acosta, **second** by Council Member Shelton to approve the Land Lease Right of Way.

Mayor Huish added for public awareness there was no infringement at the cemetery.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Donald Huish, Council Members: Margaret Morales, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton, and Jose Grijalva. **Voted Against:** None.

11. **DISCUSSION/DECISION to APPROVE the ADOPTION of the DOUGLAS INFILL and DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION STRATEGY formulated by RENAISSANCE PLANNING.**

Luis Pedroza provided background information and added the Infill and Downtown Revitalization Strategy brought together stakeholders to produce four strategies that would help in the revitalization of the downtown once the commercial port of entry was built 4.5 miles west of town. Moreover, Mr. Pedroza stated with the new commercial port being build there was opportunity to enhance vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the existing Raul H. Castro port of entry; therefore, with more traffic, there was also opportunity for shops and services to the downtown area.

Mr. Pedroza further stated by taking out commercial operations out of the downtown would vacate warehousing and commercial trucking services in the downtown which could be transformed into shops and services that could be in higher demand with more visitor traffic being handled at Raul H. Castro.

Furthermore, Mr. Pedroza stated that the technical expertise by Renaissance Planning contractors, and a stakeholders team came up with four strategies with specific action steps as followed:

Strategy 1 – Enliven G Avenue starting between 9th and 13th Streets with lighter, quicker, cheaper projects that tap into the talent and energy of the people of both Douglas and Mexico to reuse vacant spaces.
Strategy 2 – Energize and reuse key buildings and sites in the core of downtown to reinforce a sense of place and bring foot traffic to G Avenue.
Strategy 3 – Make walkability and gateway enhancements that create a sense of arrival and an inviting pathway into downtown from neighborhoods, the existing port, and Pan American Avenue.
Strategy 4 – Update policies and codes to reflect the city's vision for the downtown and the new port areas.

Motion by Council Member Acosta, **second** by Council Member Shelton to approve the Douglas Infill and Downtown Revitalization Strategy.

Council Member Acosta expressed excitement on the downtown possibilities and stated it was a beautiful location to include the architecture around Douglas.

Mayor Huish added that the type of documents generated people's interest with the initial study in the downtown due to the strategy and it was crucial being able to show people of what the city has to offer.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Donald Huish, Council Members: Margaret Morales, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton, and Jose Grijalva. **Voted Against:** None.

12. **DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVAL of the SIMPLY BITS SITE LEASE AGREEMENT to PROVIDE FREE INTERNET SERVICE at JOEY CAUSEY LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD.**

Luis Pedroza provided background information and stated Simply Bits was an Internet Service provider who would like to partner with the city and the Douglas Little League to provide free internet service at Joe Causey Little League field in order to live stream the baseball games and provide free WiFi for those in attendance.

Mr. Pedroza stated that Simply Bits approached the city regarding interest to sponsor the league and provide free internet service for baseball games; Simply Bits needed the city's permission to mount equipment to the city's concession stand to be able to distribute WiFi signal.

Motion by Council Member Shelton, **second** by Council Member Acosta to approve the Simply Bits Site Lease Agreement.

Council Member Grijalva expressed gratitude and thanked Simply Bits as they were trying to engage and be part of the community; and was hopeful to have more corporations or companies engaged.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Donald Huish, Council Members: Margaret Morales, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton, and Jose Grijalva. **Voted Against:** None.

13. **DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVAL of the UPDATED CITY OF DOUGLAS ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 5.01 for the DOUGLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY COMPUTER and INTERNET USE POLICIES for PATRON INTERNET USE.**

Margaret White provided background information and stated that the Arizona Revised Statutes prohibited users from damaging, destroying or viewing pornographic materials.

Moreover, Ms. White mentioned that the Library policy needed to be reviewed every three years to comply.

Motion by Council Member Shelton, **second** by Council Member Grijalva to approve the Administrative Policy 5.01 for Internet Use.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Donald Huish, Council Members: Margaret Morales, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton, and Jose Grijalva. **Voted Against:** None.

14. **CITY MANAGER REPORTS.**

Luis Pedroza provided the following reports:

- Rose Bush Donation Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 6:00 p.m. on the 10th Street side of city hall, and successful completion of the project. Mr. Pedroza recognized the community and efforts to all who contributed as the public was also invited to attend the ceremony.
- The Island Stem Express was at Veteran's Park from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.; fun activities for kids as well.
- The movie Grease was featured on the big movie screen, and a costume contest as well for anyone wanting to dress up as the movie Grease. There were several car clubs to show their cars.

Mr. Pedroza invited the community and stated all events were free of charge.

15. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND REPORTS FROM COUNCIL AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS.**

Council Member Grijalva reminded everyone on the distribution day at the Douglas Food Bank, and there was a need for volunteers for two hours from 9am to 11am. Additionally, Council Member Grijalva thanked the Tabernacle Church on Louis Avenue as they invited him to the movie night and would continue every two weeks.


Mayor Huish asked which Monday of the month volunteers needed to show up at the Food Bank.

Council Member Grijalva responded it was the third Monday of the month.

16. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion by Council Member Morales, **second** by Council Member Grijalva to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Prepared by:


Alma Andrade, City Clerk