

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOTHAN, ALABAMA
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2007**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Dothan, Alabama, met in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Roy Driggers Municipal Building at 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, August 7, 2007 with the following members present: Mayor Pat Thomas, Associate Commissioners Larry Matthews, Amos M. Newsome, Jr., Paul Lee, Jason Rudd and Taylor Barbaree. Commissioner Phillip Tidwell was absent. Also present were City Manager Michael West, City Clerk Pam McCoy, Secretary Tammy Danner, who recorded the Minutes of the Meeting, and the local news media representatives.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order. Pastor Jeff Noles, Pointe Ministries, then led in prayer, afterwhich Commissioner Lee led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Lee moved that the Minutes of the Meeting of July 31, 2007, be approved, motion seconded by Commissioner Matthews and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Barbaree said the 186th Engineer Company should be coming home in September from their year of deployment overseas. Also, the 1203rd Engineer Battalion who is in training now will be departing overseas. They are at their remote station now. Mayor Thomas said they have an opportunity to come back to Dothan and spend five days here before they are deployed. He said the local VFW has set up an account at Regions Bank to raise \$2,800.00 to help them come home for the five days before they are deployed overseas. Commissioner Barbaree asked that everyone keep them in their prayers as well as our Army Reserve Unit that is deployed now.

Commissioner Barbaree said he would not be here on August 21st. He will be away on annual training with his guard unit.

At last week's meeting, Commissioner Barbaree asked for an update on the Air National Guard Property at Westgate. He said the City Manager emailed him information about the Armory and property. Commissioner Barbaree asked Mr. West to email that information to the other Commissioners. He said once the Commissioners have time to review the information he would like for the Mayor to appoint a three member Commission committee to look at possibilities for the Air Guard property. Commissioner Barbaree said we need to start looking at possibilities for that.

Larry Muench, General Services Director said whenever the City was given care and custody of that property the big issue involved was the remediation of environmental pollutants that were left on the property as a result of underground storage tanks containing fuel. The National Guard Bureau has contracted with a firm out of Atlanta, Georgia to do monitoring studies and come up with a remediation plan for that property. They are doing quarterly samples on that property at the present time. There are monitoring wells on the property. Mr. Muench said he talked with ADEM yesterday and the last round of sampling was done July 23rd. They closed down a number of the monitoring wells that have been having negative results on them. The monitoring well closest to the building where the 10,000 gallon underground gasoline storage tank had been has come back with a positive for free product from gasoline that was in the tank at one time. Mr. Muench said in talking with ADEM yesterday they said it would probably be 30 to 45 days before they get the report from the monitoring that was done on July 23rd. He said when they get the report then they will be able to review it and see what direction things are going. Mr. Muench said it was their speculation that it would still be sometime before those remediation efforts were completed and a satisfactory resolution to the problem is reached.

Commissioner Barbaree said once it is resolved we need to have a plan in place of viable options to go ahead and move forward with that property.

Commissioner Barbaree said there was brush burning in Westbrook Subdivision, which is in District 5 off of John D. Odom Road where the developer was piling debris up and burning it. Commissioner Barbaree said he had several residents complain. Commissioner Barbaree asked City Manager West to poll the Commissioner individually and see if they have any suggestions they may want to add to the current ordinance regarding this issue. City Manager West said this is being investigated. He said we have not been able to find a local rental place that has the fire curtains that they use. Mr. West said we are going to try to determine the cost of what that would be. He said one of our options would be to require a fire curtain for all outdoor burning and the building of a pit like we did at the Dothan Pavilion.

In regard to the National Guard property, Commissioner Newsome said if the National Guard Bureau is willing to assume the liabilities for any damage or any negative causes it is obvious that we are going to purchase the property; he asked if they do that could we proceed in some way in getting ourselves lined up on exactly what we are going to do and how we are going to do it with that property. City Manager West said the main issue is going to involve, for example, if the remediation plan says you cannot have any open grass. One of the ideas from Parks and Recreation was to build two soccer fields there. It could be that the remediation plan requires that asphalt be put down and a building could be built. Mr. West said until we understand the extent of what has to be done with the property it is difficult to do anything. He said they may make a determination that you cannot have a child care facility on that site. Until we understand if the remediation process will include a prohibition of certain types of use of that property it is difficult. Commissioner Newsome said that is what he was thinking in terms of outdoor activity such as soccer fields, which will be on top of the ground and the problem is underneath the surface. He said we could be using that property as a soccer field if we do not have any possibilities of those who play on the soccer field becoming infected from whatever the environmental problems are. Commissioner Newsome said if we could look into the possibility of that we could be playing soccer for years while they try and find out how they are going to stop the underground environmental problems. City Manager West said we are looking into it.

Commissioner Matthews said he attended the meeting in Troy last week where ALDOT held their public meeting. He said it was not too much of a surprise why we cannot get anything done here because we get the lowest amount of allocation of dollars. Their report showed, back in May, that we only get \$49 million. Some places get \$177 million. Commissioner Matthews said the other place that was as low as we were was Tuscaloosa. They are getting \$54 million so we are at the bottom of getting any work done down in this area. Commissioner Matthews said we are going to have to look at how we select our leaders for this state and what we get and what they are going to do for Southeast Alabama.

In regard to what was identified this past week with the traffic on the Ross Clark Circle and the lack of attention it is going to get over the next year or two, Commissioner Lee said in the past we have put up signs with an alternate route to the east side. He asked if that is possible now. City Manager West he has not had the chance to sit down with Charles Metzger. He said it could be a possibility that we could do that at 231 North and at 231 South trying to push them to the other side of the Circle. Commissioner Lee said it is basically local traffic and then drive through traffic. Many of them are not planning to stop and they are trying to get through the City as quickly as possible. That would help the local traffic on the other side of town. Commissioner Lee said this is an opportunity we are missing if we do not do that. City Manager West said he would talk with Charles Metzger and Jerry Corbin about doing that.

Mayor Thomas said we are not giving up on the transportation issue. We are going to continue to get together with our state representatives and meet with the Governor and see if we can work something out so that the work continues. Mayor Thomas said waiting on 2012 is not acceptable.

Commissioner Newsome said it would be good if the lobbyist that the City retained could provide us with some insight or report on progress they are making toward insuring that this part of the state gets its fair share of funds when it comes to transportation. City Manager West said he would talk to them about that.

In regard to the City's Recycling Program, City Manager West said we are in the process of preparing our biennial budget and during that process we will insure that the funds are available for the capital purchase required to do this as well as the operating of it. We should be finished with the budget within the next 30 to 45 days. The Commission will be in the process of approving that in September because it takes effect October 1st.

City Manager West announced that the August 14, 2007 City Commission Meeting will be held at the Doug Tew Recreation Center at 5:30 p.m.

Larry Patrick, Leisure Services introduced coaches and team members of the Dixie Youth Ozone All Stars who captured the State Championship and also coaches and members of the Dothan Ponytails World Series Champions.

City Manager West said this afternoon we will start our second annual "National Night Out". The event will be from 4-8 p.m. at the Houston Farm Center.

City Manager West reminded everyone that a second public hearing will be held tonight at 6:00 in the City Commission Chambers regarding the proposed purchase of park land on Fortner Street.

City Manager West said on August 9th, cleaning and preparation for painting of the Civic Center will begin. Paint applications should begin on August 15th and hopefully be finished by mid-September. Mr. West said there may be times during that period that parking places will be restricted.

Mayor Thomas introduced the application of William Joseph Evans for a Retail Beer License for Kangaroo Express #3905, located at 2357 Reeves Street. Commissioner Barbaree moved for approval, motion seconded by Commissioner Matthews and unanimously carried.

Mayor Thomas introduced the application of William Joseph Evans for a Retail Table Wine License for Kangaroo Express, #3905, located at 2357 Reeves Street. Commissioner Barbaree moved for approval, motion seconded by Commissioner Matthews and unanimously carried.

Mayor Thomas introduced the application of DeNiece Steele Smith for a Special Retail License for VINO VINO Marketplace, Inc., located at 2620 Montgomery Highway. Commissioner Barbaree moved for approval, motion seconded by Commissioner Newsome and unanimously carried.

Mayor Thomas introduced the application of Ashley James for a Special Retail Liquor License for Performing Arts (Civic Center), located at 126 North Saint Andrews Street. Commissioner Barbaree moved for approval, motion seconded by Commissioner Newsome. Commissioner Rudd asked what company is this. Mr. West said Quality Inn. Commissioner Rudd asked why we did not put that on here. City Clerk Pam McCoy explained that Quality Inn gave power of attorney to this attorney's office. State Code says that the applicant's name will appear on here and Ms. James is the one that signed as applicant. Mr. West said a business itself cannot have a license it has to be an individual. There being no further discussion the application was and unanimously approved.

Mayor Thomas introduced the application of Ashley James for a Special Retail Liquor License for Performing Arts (Opera House), located at 115 North Saint Andrews Street. Commissioner Rudd moved for approval, motion seconded by Commissioner Barbaree and unanimously carried.

Mayor Thomas introduced Resolution No. 2007-285 (recorded in Ordinance Book No. _____ at Page _____), adopting the 2007 Year Three Annual Action Plan

and the Consolidated Plan Amendments. Commissioner Lee moved for adoption, motion seconded by Commissioner Newsome. Commissioner Rudd said, in looking at the sign in sheet from the public hearing dated June 14, 2007, there were three people who signed it; Todd McDonald, City employee, Larry Matthews, Commissioner and one other individual. Commissioner Rudd said we would always want more participation. City Manager West said since he has been here that is all we have been getting. He said we did not receive any other comments during the comment period. There being no further discussion the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mayor Thomas introduced Resolution No. 2007-286 (recorded in Ordinance Book No. _____ at Page _____), appointing Aline Mays as a member of the Substance Abuse Board. Commissioner Matthews moved for adoption, motion seconded by Commissioner Lee and unanimously adopted.

Mayor Thomas introduced Resolution No. 2007-287 (recorded in Ordinance Book No. _____ at Page _____), awarding the following bids received by the City. Commissioner Rudd read each item in the meeting.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Re-Bid One (1) or more Four-Post Surface Mounted 40,000 lb. Extended Lift and optional Rolling Bridge Jack	Metro Lifts & Equipment, LLC Mobile, AL	\$26,495.00
Distribution Transformers-Overhead Conventional Type	Gresco/Capstone Utility Supply Dothan, AL	\$ 704.00 – 1185.00
	H D Supply Dothan, AL	

Commissioner Lee then moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2007-287, motion seconded by Commissioner Newsome and unanimously carried.

Mayor Thomas introduced Resolution No. 2007-288 (recorded in Ordinance Book No. _____ at Page _____), approving the following advance travel requests for City employees:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Angie Lowe Rosa Ford Tony Thorne	Fall Camporee at Camp Ascca Jackson Gap, AL	\$ 2,312.50
David M. Thornton Scott Heath Eric Easley Mike McCall	Twenty Eighth Annual Career Fair Tuskegee, AL	\$ 787.00
Renee Howell	Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama Certified Governmental Accounting Technician Program Tuscaloosa, AL	\$ 302.69

Commissioner Barbaree then moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2007-288, motion seconded by Commissioner Matthews and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Lee moved for acceptance of an easement from Laver Hills Community Association, Inc. for a Sanitary Sewer Line through Laver Hills Subdivision to serve Greystone Subdivision, motion seconded by Commissioner Barbaree and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Lee moved for acceptance of easements and statutory warranty deeds from Private Holdings, LLC and Tom A. West, III; Martin E. Margolies and wife Abbie L. Margolies; Spann Farm Realty Co., Inc.; and Spann Farm Property Owners Association, Inc. for the Beaver Creek Tributary 3 Storm Drainage Project, motion seconded by Commissioner Barbaree and unanimously carried.

There being no further business, Commissioner Lee moved that the meeting be adjourned, motion seconded by Commissioner Barbaree and upon the unanimous vote of "yea," the meeting was duly adjourned.

/s/Pam McCoy, City Clerk

Approved:

Pat Thomas, Mayor

Larry Matthews, Associate Commissioner

Amos M. Newsome, Jr., Associate Commissioner

Paul Lee, Associate Commissioner

Jason Rudd, Associate Commissioner

Taylor Barbaree, Associate Commissioner

Phillip Tidwell, Associate Commissioner

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