

**DOUGLAS CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2016**

The City of Douglas Mayor and Council met in a special meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 425 10th Street. The Honorable Mayor Uribe called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL.

	PRESENT	ABSENT
MAYOR, ROBERT URIBE	X	
COUNCIL MEMBER DANNY MORALES	X	
COUNCIL MEMBER KEN NELSON	X	
COUNCIL MEMBER DONALD HUISH	X (telephonically)	
COUNCILMEMBER PATRICIA LOPEZ		X (Excused)
COUNCIL MEMBER IVAN HUISH	X	
COUNCIL MEMBER FERNANDO BETANCOURT	X	
CITY ATTORNEY, JUAN PABLO FLORES	X	
CITY TREASURER, LUIS PEDROZA	X	
CITY CLERK, BRENDA AGUILAR	X	

3. STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY MAYOR, ROBERT URIBE.

Mayor Uribe proceeded with the following State of the City Address:

“Good Evening, it’s nice to see you all, Presidente de Agua Prieta Hector Rubalcava, Bienvenidos, gracias por acompañarnos, Consul de Mexico, Jorge Ernesto Espejel, bienvenidos, estan ustedes en su casa. Ahora me toca en ingles.

We have been very busy these past couple of months, but before I begin, let me start of by thanking our council members.

Councilmember Morales, Councilmember Nelson, Councilmember Huish, Councilmember Lopez, Councilmember Huish, and Councilmember Betancourt. Thank you for serving our City and for being instrumental in moving our city forward.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Mrs. Aguilar for her dedication and commitment to our city. Mrs. Aguilar, You have been a driving force in keeping our city intact and moving us forward, thank you! Mr. Flores, Alma Andrade, and Brenda Arenas, fantastic job! To our 200 City staff that make our great City run, thank you! Folks, please help me extend a big round of applause to this incredible team. They are unselfish, reliable, and honorable.

Since being elected Mayor I’ve been focused, all I can think about is the City of Douglas. I’ve actually apologized to my wife, hopefully she’s not mad at me! I promised to be a full time Mayor and I’ve kept my promise. I’ve been working hard to perfect the vision we wish for our community. Now, from what I understand, in Douglas, a Mayor has never presented a State of the City Address. Nevertheless, you all have to understand something, inviting you all here is a lot more enjoyable than posting on Facebook.... And to those that haven’t added me as friend, you are all welcome to do so. You can find me under Mayor Uribe. Just an (FYI)

Mayor, what is your Vision? The vision is socio economic growth and development. And what is Socio Economic development? Socio-economic development is a process that seeks to identify both the social and the economic needs of Douglas. Our goal as a team is to create a strategy that will address those needs in ways that are practical and are in the best interest of our community. Believe it or not we actually have a platform to become a globalized community. The world is becoming increasingly interconnected as governments work together to explore different markets. Through our port of entry we can turn Douglas into a broader international place and corridor for commerce. The world is changing and so are we. So now is the time to invest in Douglas!!!

And you all are aware of that, I hear your cries, I hear them, loud and clear. Douglas, is becoming a ghost town, what's happening to G Avenue? How can I eat at our local restaurants when customer service isn't great? Mr. Mayor, when are we going to get our streets fixed?

Well folks, truth of the matter is, if we don't support local businesses we will continue to see a decline in business and sales tax revenue.

Our sister city Agua Prieta, contributes about \$3.6 million dollars a month to our Douglas Economy while local residents contribute about \$1.5 million a month. And as you might be aware of, the peso continues to devaluate and this makes it harder for our neighbors to shop here. So we have to step up tremendously as a bi-national community. Remember, when you spend money in Agua Prieta, it's more likely to come back to Douglas, than let's say if you spend that money somewhere else.

Now why are these numbers important? Sales taxes help the city with our public service amenities such as parks, libraries, and schools. Core Public Safety services, such as police and fire are also supported by your tax dollars. Tax money also help to ensure the roads we travel on are safe and well maintained.

I urge you, to help promote our community and to shop more at home. Here is an example. If you have a bad experience in town, please talk to the owner or the supervisor and let them know about your experiences. Politely express your concerns; we need to have an open dialogue with our business owners. Improving Douglas must be a collective effort; our local government won't be able to do it alone. If we work together we will create a dynamic movement to revitalize our entire City.

One of my favorite quotes from President Obama is, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." And so, now is the time to invest in Douglas.

You know who those abandoned buildings on G Ave belong to? They belong to you! One of my biggest fears is that when the economy picks up and we are booming again that some of you will lose out on opportunities. Investors will come and purchase these buildings and set up shop. History can repeat itself. Our city is full of entrepreneurs. And we need them now to invest in Douglas, and we need to support those already in business. Yes, we welcome investors, we need investors, but they won't come if we don't act first. "The work we face ahead is not an overnight fix, it requires consistency."

The City has started nurturing this vision. The city of Douglas will have an economic developer in the near future. We now have a bi-national consultant focusing on our port of entry, and tonight, we determine our city manager's contract. So we are right now developing the foundation of our future! When I stood before you all and while I campaigned, there were immediate tasks I said I was going to take on as soon as I took office.

And tonight, I am proud to say that we have!

1. Establishing Youth Council: (we are currently in the processes of activating a Youth City Council)
2. Establishing a Douglas Shops local day: We passed a resolution dedicating the whole month of November, Douglas shops local month. We plan to hire a marketing director in the near future who will help push this campaign visually to make a greater impact.
3. Establishing a common calendar: this was a concern with some residents, having too many events in one month or too many events in one day. So (The City of Douglas has jointly worked with U of A south Melissa Silva and Cochise college student Guillermo Gamez Cordova to create a community Calendar) to help promote events happening around town.
4. Establishing a larger informative presence on social media. Since being elected, we have refreshed our online presence and have gained over 380 Likes on Facebook. With the possibility of creating an Instagram and twitter account.
5. In this fiscal year the City budgeted to make the improvement necessary for a new City website. Our website will be a tool we will use to market and attract tourism to Douglas.
6. Infrastructure improvements: This year the city is going to invest close to 1 million dollars in street improvements.
7. Capital improvements: Close to Half a million has been invested. Just to name a few, \$18,000 in replacing Ramada's around our parks. \$13,000 in ground leveling at the Airport Park. \$20,000 at the cemetery for chip and seal, \$25,000 for a new roof at the Fire Department. \$125,000 for two new Ambulances. \$65,000 for Cardiac Monitors, \$15,000 for 2 Automatic Doors for the North and South Entrance of the library. These are just examples of our capital improvements. (Please keep in mind that these funds are specifically used for these types of projects)
8. Revitalization of our Downtown. The city has budgeted over \$40,000 to our Downtown. We are currently fixing the irrigation system and will add curb appeal to entice more people and businesses to our Historic District. Our Downtown offers rich historic insight of our past, present and future. G Ave has an important and exclusive role in our economic and social development. **The downtown district is a reflection of our community;** to rejuvenate our downtown we will continue to support the arts as a hub for arts and culture. We have an international mural exchange with the Dominican Republic in the works.

In the face of impossible people who love Douglas can change it, let's transform our City into a prosperous community, lets thrive again, lets revive Douglas, I know we can do it, we are going to accomplish it, let's start by acting through our civic responsibilities. I am proclaiming that with the grace of God we are going to have a successful 2017-year, this is just the beginning!

At this moment, I would like to show you all a video we have put together that highlights some special moments during the last 6 months.

Thank you!"

Motion by Councilmember Morales, **second** by Councilmember Nelson to adjourn the special meeting at 5:47 p.m. **Roll call:** all members voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

Prepared by:



Alma Andrade, Deputy City Clerk