

MINUTES

The City of Douglas Mayor and Council met in a Special Meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., at City Hall Council Chamber, 425 10th Street. The Honorable Mayor Donald Huish called the meeting to order.

1. **CALL TO ORDER. 5:30 p.m.**
2. **ROLL CALL.**

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
MAYOR, DONALD C. HUISH	X	
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE, MARGARET MORALES	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, JOSE MONTANO		X (Excused)
COUNCILMEMBER, DANYA ACOSTA	X (Virtual)	
COUNCILMEMBER, RAY SHELTON	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, MICHAEL BALDENEGRO	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, RICHARD C. ACOSTA		X (Excused)
CITY MANAGER, ANA URQUIJO	X	
CITY ATTORNEY, DENIS FITZGIBBONS	X	
CITY TREASURER, LUIS PEDROZA	X	
CITY CLERK, ALMA ANDRADE	X	

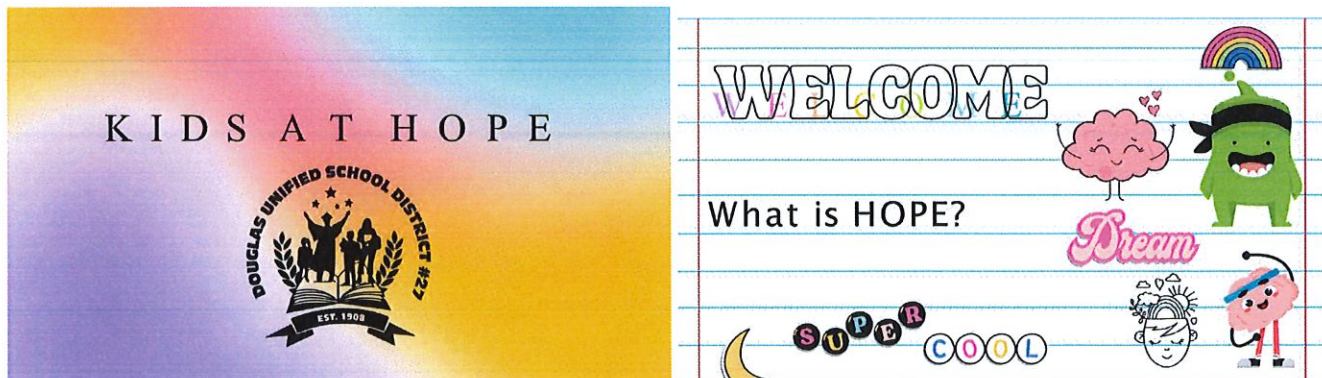
3. **PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL IN WRITING OR VERBALLY ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

Ms. Andrade stated no public participation forms were submitted.

4. **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION.**
 - A. The **DOUGLAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT** pertaining to **KIDS at HOPE**.

DUSD Superintendent Ana Samaniego expressed honor in representing the district and introducing its "Kids at Hope" philosophy. She highlighted the district's commitment to embracing this philosophy in collaboration with the community and were accompanied by two teachers who shared insights into the district's efforts and vision for the initiative.

Paloma Navarro presented on Kids at Hope.



"Hope possesses both the capacity and ability to mentally time travel by positively imagining one's future within life's four major destinations: home and family, education and career, community and service, and hobbies and recreation, return to the present and prepare for the journey."

-Rick Miller



COMPONENTS

1) Goals

2) Pathways

3) AGENCY



UNIVERSAL TRUTH

Children / youth succeed when they are surrounded by adults who believe they can succeed, NO EXCEPTIONS!

UNIVERSAL TRUTH



4 ACES



* Anchor/Parent

* Other Caring Adults

* High Expectations

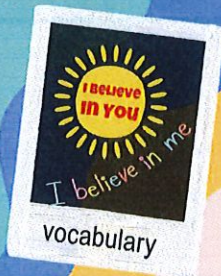
* Opportunities for Success

TIME TRAVEL

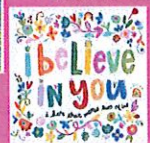


OUR PLANS

- 1.read the pledge
- 2.train the trainer.
- 3.NO EXCEPTIONS



OUR PLANS



Ms. Navarro invited the kindergarten students to recite the pledge.

Student version

I am a kid at hope
I am talented, smart, and capable of success
I have dreams for the future, and
I will climb to reach those goals every day.
All kids are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS

Teacher version

As an adult and treasure hunter, I am committed
to searching for all the skills, talents, and
intelligence that exist in all children because I
believe that all children are capable of success,
NO EXCEPTIONS.

Melanie Molina expressed gratitude for the opportunity to discuss the Kids at Hope initiative, highlighting its transformative impact on their own perspective during a challenging time. She shared her journey, emphasizing that Kids at Hope is not an additional program but a shift in mindset—a way to empower students to "bounce forward" despite life's challenges. The initiative focuses on eliminating the label "at risk" and replacing it with "at Hope," fostering a culture where every child is seen as capable of success, no exceptions. Ms. Molina described attending a conference that brought together educators, probation officers, CPS workers, and community members, all united in their belief in the potential of every child. They noted the importance of engaging students at different educational levels—especially the ease of inspiring elementary students and the unique challenges of working with middle and high school students. The goal is to encourage students to envision their futures, set goals, and involve the entire community in supporting their journey. A proposed idea from the conference was a themed career night to showcase the diverse jobs within the school district and the broader city, helping students imagine and plan their futures. Ms. Molina concluded with an invitation for others to join the initiative and adopt the Kids at Hope philosophy, reciting a pledge to seek out and nurture the potential in all children.

Mayor Huish emphasized the importance of implementing the Kids at Hope initiative in everyday interactions and highlighted the belief that everyone is a teacher, capable of influencing others positively. He encouraged fostering hope by reaching out to individuals who may seem down and engaging with young people, especially in today's society, where protecting and supporting children is crucial. By showing genuine interest—through friendly gestures, asking about school, life, or hobbies—adults can help children feel valued and inspired, reinforcing the message that they matter and giving them hope for the future.

5. DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVALS.

A. **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-1203**, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **REZONING** a **0.15 ACRE PARCEL** of land within Douglas lots 21 and 22 block 96 (11th Street and F Avenue) from **GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC)** to **MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (MFR)**; and **AMENDING** the **OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP**; establishing severability of components of ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

Casandra Gomez provided background and reported a proposal to rezone a 0.15-acre parcel at the corner of 11th and F avenue from General Commercial to Multi-Family Residential to align with current land use. The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the proposal on November 7, 2024, and recommended approval. The amendment aligns with the General Plan's goals, including offering a range of affordable housing options, fostering conducive neighborhoods, and addressing the city's current residential needs.

Motion by Council Member Morales, second by Council Member Shelton to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 24-1203.

Motion PASSED by a vote of 5-0. Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Donald Huish, Council Members: Margaret Morales, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton and Michael Baldenegro. Voted Against: None.

B. **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-1204**, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona **REZONING** a **2.66 ACRE PARCEL** of **LAND** located at 1120 15th Street and 1151 16th Street with legal description of Meguire all of BLK 1 7-04 LV 50 COMMERCIAL from **MULTI-FAMILY**

RESIDENTIAL (MFR) to GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC); and AMENDING the OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP; establishing severability of components of ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

Casandra Gomez provided background and reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission met on November 7, 2024 and recommended approval for a rezone aligning with the General Plan's goals to increase commercial land use. The rezone supports compatible development patterns and is intended for the pediatric Chiricahua Community Health Center. This development aims to provide essential healthcare services, enhance Douglas economic viability, and integrate commercial and community-oriented objectives in the area.

Motion by Council Member Shelton, second by Council Member Baldenegro to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 24-1204.

Motion PASSED by a vote of 5-0. Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Donald Huish, Council Members: Margaret Morales, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton and Michael Baldenegro. Voted Against: None.

C. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-1205, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, (1) **APPROVING the SALE, EXECUTION and DELIVERY of PLEDGED REVENUE OBLIGATIONS, SERIES 2025**, evidencing all the interest of the owner thereof in a **PURCHASE AGREEMENT; (2) APPROVING the FORM, AUTHORIZING the EXECUTION and DELIVERY of NECESSARY AGREEMENTS, INSTRUMENTS and DOCUMENTS** related to the **SALE, EXECUTION and DELIVERY** of such obligations; (3) **ADOPTING POST-ISSUANCE TAX COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES** in connection with issuance of obligations of the city; (4) **DELEGATING AUTHORITY** to the Mayor, the City Manager, the Deputy City Manager and the Finance Director to determine certain matters and terms with respect to the foregoing; and (5) **AUTHORIZING the taking of all other actions necessary to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this ordinance; establishing severability of components of Ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.**

Alejandro Martinez provided background and reported that on June 12, 2024, the payoff for the call center loan was approved, freeing up \$462,000 in annual debt service for FY 2025. These funds are earmarked for financing the acquisition of a new asphalt plant and related equipment. The ordinance presented seeks authorization to begin the financing process, with staff recommending approval. The financing parameters include a maximum amount of \$4 million, an interest rate cap of 8%, and a maturity date no later than 2040, allowing flexibility as the city solicits bids. Guided by financial advisors, the recommended loan terms are a 10-year term with an estimated 4.5% interest rate, aligning with the annual debt capacity of \$462,000. While these terms will be finalized after the bidding process, more specific details will be included in the second ordinance reading at the January 2025 meeting. The finance committee reviewed the proposal on November 20, 2024, with no objections, and the city attorney is currently reviewing the acquisition contract.

Motion by Council Member Baldenegro, second by Council Member Shelton to approve the placement of Ordinance No. 24-1205.

Motion PASSED by a vote of 5-0. Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Donald Huish, Council Members: Margaret Morales, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton and Michael Baldenegro. Voted Against: None.

Motion by Council Member Baldenegro, second by Council Member Shelton to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 24-1205.

Motion PASSED by a vote of 5-0. Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Donald Huish, Council Members: Margaret Morales, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton and Michael Baldenegro. Voted Against: None.

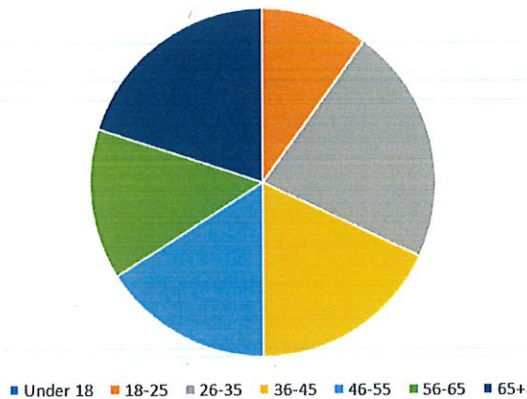
D. CITY FLAG DESIGN.

Ms. Urquijo provided background and an update on progress toward selecting an official city flag for Douglas. The process began after it was identified that the city lacks an official flag. Inspired by a suggestion from Mayor Huish, the initiative engaged local art students to incorporate elements representing Douglas's history and culture. Feedback from students, as well as artistic input from staff member Nikki De La Torre, led to the development of design concepts presented at the November council meeting.

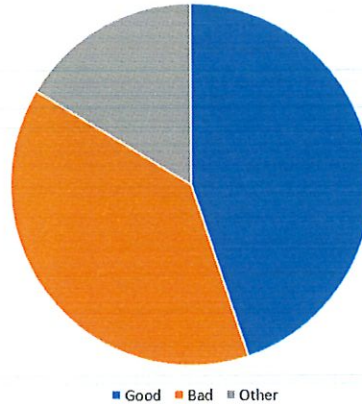
Ms. Urquijo summarized community feedback on the proposed designs, gathered through a survey with 56 responses. The results showed positive reception overall, with the majority expressing approval or neutrality toward the designs after learning about the symbolism behind the elements. The survey also included feedback on the inclusion or adjustment of specific symbols, colors, and elements, emphasizing the city's history, culture, geography, and values.

Survey Results Infographics

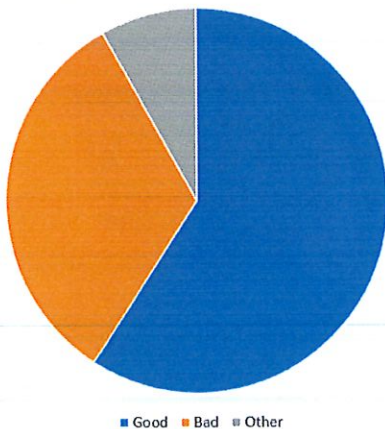
Age Demographics



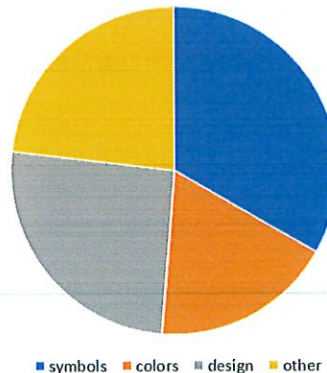
What are your thoughts on the City of Douglas flag design after learning about the symbolism behind each element?



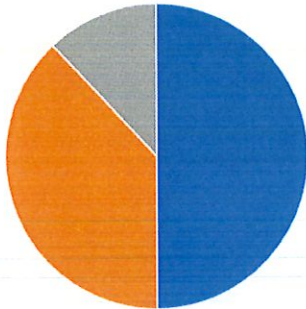
How would you rank your thoughts on the City of Douglas flag design after learning about the symbolism behind each element?



What symbols, colors, or elements would you include or change, if any? Consider what makes Douglas unique—its history, culture, geography, and values.

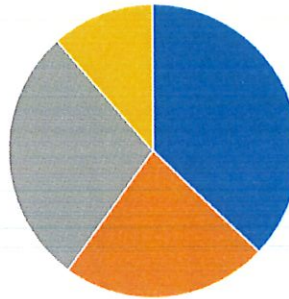


Do you believe the flag design represents the core values of Douglas?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

Considering Douglas' motto: "Embracing our heritage, Advancing our future." What do you consider to be a part of our heritage? And what do you think is in the future for Douglas?

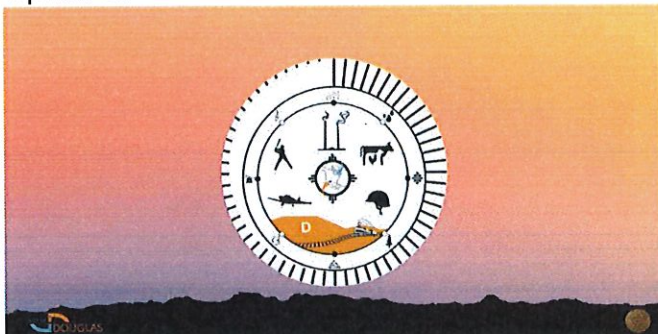


■ Heritage ■ Future ■ Businesses / Jobs ■ Other

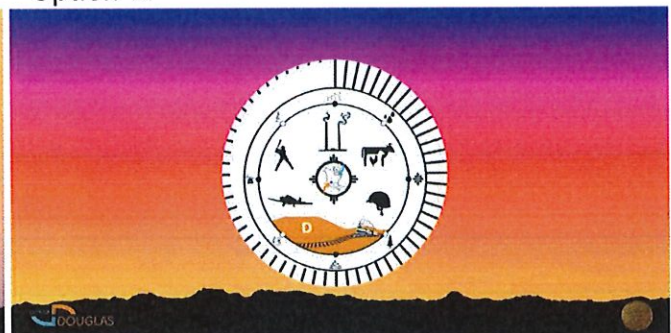
Concept for Inner circle (crest to be added)



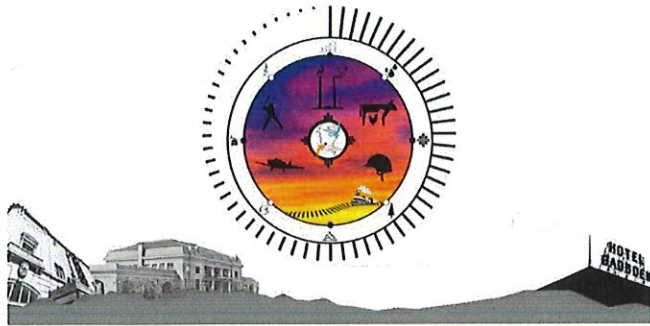
Option 1:



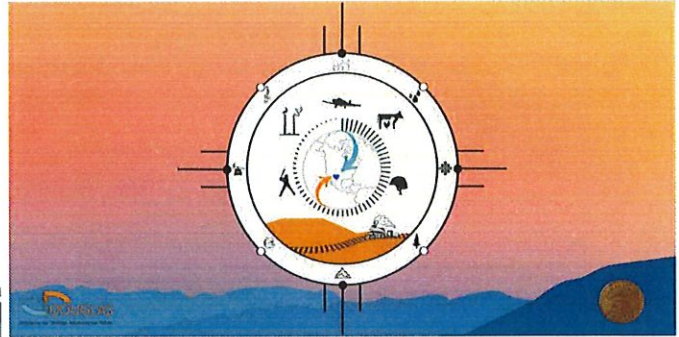
Option 2:



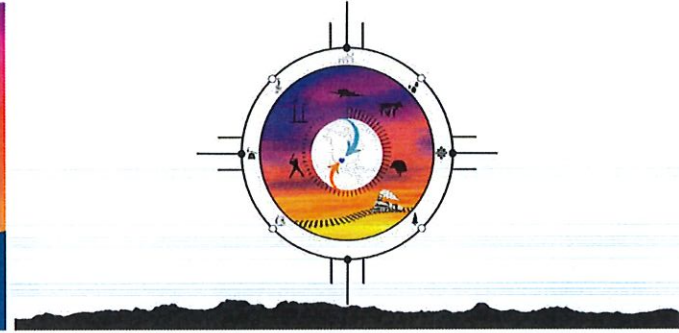
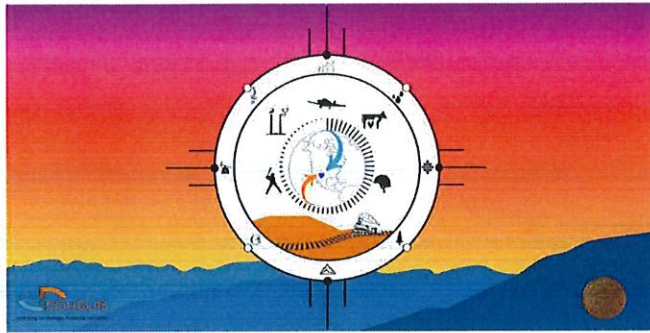
Option 3:



Option 4:



Option 7:



The presentation centered on refining the design of a crest to represent the community's heritage, values, and aesthetics. Ms. Urquijo emphasizes the integration of historic buildings such as the train depot, the Gadsden Hotel, and the Grand Theater, along with references to downtown and the business district, to ensure relevance to the area's identity. The designs evolve to incorporate sunset colors, mountain ranges, and elements of the local landscape, reflecting broader regional connections.

Ms. De La Torre elaborates on incorporating sunsets, downtown streetscapes, and meaningful symbols like alternating black-and-white dots to signify happiness, unity, and resilience, particularly drawing on Native American cultural significance.

Ms. Urquijo provides an extensive breakdown of symbolic elements in the crest, representing family, resilience, and local heritage. Specific features include water droplets symbolizing monsoon rains, creosote bushes reflecting local flora and nostalgia, and a Douglas fir symbolizing deep roots and growth. Other symbols represent regional pride, such as the mountains, the community's school traditions, ranching, music, aviation history, and even a legendary baseball achievement.

The designs aim to balance historical significance with aesthetic appeal, blending vibrant colors and meaningful imagery to resonate with community feedback while accommodating varied preferences. Ms. Urquijo underscores that "busyness" in the design reflects the richness and diversity of the community's story, which they believe should remain intact despite practical design considerations. The presentation concludes with openness to questions and feedback.

Council Member Baldenegro inquired if there had been any response to the options presented and asked if Ms. De La Torre liked the options.

Ms. De La Torre expressed admiration for the crest in option seven, explaining that it reflects their interpretation of Douglas. She emphasized that Douglas is more than just a border town, highlighting its rich history and accomplishments, which they feel are well-represented in the flag design.

Council Member Baldenegro <inaudible>

Council Member Shelton shared he liked the train, smelter, plane, cow and chicken, baseball and inquired what would be displayed on the back side of the flag.

Ms. De La Torre stated that the back of the design would either mirror the front or remain blank, allowing it to function like a banner.

Council Member Shelton stated Cochise head being displayed on the underpass. <inaudible>

Council Member Morales appreciates the sunset, highlighting its beautiful colors.

Mayor Huish inquired <inaudible>.

Ms. De La Torre stated placing the logo in the bottom left corner.

Council Member Shelton stated <inaudible>.

Council Member Acosta expressed appreciation for the designs, favoring option seven. They emphasize the importance of including the hill in the finalized design, noting its significance to the town and its visibility day and night, particularly after the committee lit the "D."

Mayor Huish stated <inaudible>.

Ms. De La Torre explained that the landscape at the bottom of the design is Saddle Gap Hill, created by tracing screenshots they took from Google Maps.

Ms. Urquijo supports option seven, the staff's recommendation, and suggests incorporating elements of the first design, such as the historic business district, into option seven along with D hill.

Discussion was held <inaudible>.

Motion by Council Member Shelton, second by Council Member Morales to select and approve option 7 as the design concept, incorporating the original design of option 1 and adding D hill for the official City of Douglas flag.

Motion PASSED by a vote of 5-0. Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Donald Huish, Council Members: Margaret Morales, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton and Michael Baldenegro. Voted Against: None.

E. VISION and ACCOMPLISHMENTS of the MAYOR and COUNCIL 2020-2024.

Ms. Urquijo introduced a presentation celebrating the vision and accomplishments of Mayor Huish and the city council over the past four years as Mayor Huish concludes his term. The presentation also acknowledges the contributions of Ward 1 Council Member and Mayor Pro Tempore Margaret Morales, whose term is ending, and recognizes the current and former council members who contributed to key initiatives, including former members Mitch Lindemann and Mayor-elect Jose Grijalva. The presentation includes a video and photo showcase highlighting achievements under Mayor Huish's leadership, such as policy advancements, organizational efficiencies, community programs, capital investments, and collaborative efforts with stakeholders. The montage reflects the council's impact and success as a governing body in advancing the community's priorities.

Video was presented.

Mayor Huish expressed the following: "<inaudible>. I appreciate it because it shows what we have been able to do. We had the challenges were impossible not to be able to do that. I promised myself I would not say much because I will get more emotional, but I have some of my family here today. My wife would say. How many times in hospital did I say just give me a letter of resignation. <inaudible> councilmembers. Staff that gave support.

<inaudible> We did more than I think. We have done a lot of accomplishments and things like that that you can physically see, but I think the main accomplishments that we set out to do is to ensure we did things the right way for the right reasons. And I think we have accomplished that. And that is one thing. I appreciate the Chief mentioning the legacy. Many times, people view legacies as far as monuments and stuff like that. My people have asked me many times. <inaudible> I have had many titles throughout my life, but my two favorite ones are Dad and Grandpa. Those are the ones that, I want to get back to now, and so I welcome that. I miss you all deeply in this historical community. That does not mean that <inaudible> I am feeling very well. But thank you as a community for prayers. You know, I am a firm believer in prayer and a big presence in my life, and I appreciate that. I have a few hurdles ahead of me. <inaudible> know who they are <inaudible> And also on each of the council members have been great, but I especially want to thank this lady next to me who did not know what she was getting into and asked her if she would serve as mayor pro tempore. And then I got ill, <inedible>. Again thank you for the great honor."

Council Member Morales expressed the following: "I first want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. And an honor and privilege to serve with you and friendship that you and I have been wonderful especially with Sheri. We accomplished a lot when it comes to what is accomplished and I know this city will continue, your legacy will continue to work with the City of Douglas, the city has so many talented and dedicated employees. I went through my time on the council. I started back in 2008. I was not sure what I was going to be doing. I had support, encouragement from the late Robert Fernandez. I really did not want to get into politics. He said, you can do it, you can do it. And I'm so glad I was able to serve on the council. Mayor Huish was a great mentor for me. I had a lot of leadership. I am very grateful. I am grateful to the staff. We have an amazing staff. For the constituents of my ward voted and elected me to serve as their representative for Ward one. Mr. Pedroza and Ms. Andrade who been always there for me when I had questions and concerns that I have had. Ms. Urquijo <inaudible> Your professionalism, your leadership. And I am so proud I got the opportunity to work with you all these years. <inaudible> I retired already two years ago. <inaudible>."

Council Member Shelton expressed the following: "I have been on the city council for 13 years, most of with Margaret. It is an honor to know Margaret. And you know, the person we can call in and say, <inaudible>, I appreciate Margaret and all her professionalism that she used and all of her discretion that she has used during the city council events. Good luck, I know you have a trip planned and enjoy all your grandkids and always, you know, remember these times that you sit down and do all these things. Now this December evening is sort of your farewell to this honorable position of mayor of Douglas. You are leaving with the reputation of being an exceptional leader and person. We realize that you trusted in God to keep you in good health, along with all your physical conditions. You made excellent decisions. Your educational background and a love of the outdoors has shone through. Now we look to the future and I know it will be great to enjoy your family. Your name will go down in the history of Douglas as being a very respected and loved individual. You have been very reliable. You have been very honest. You have even been easy going. All of these things in one person is a blessing. You have used good common sense and helping us make decisions now. This video talks about all your professionalism sitting down with many congressmen, not only here in Douglas, but it may be, especially in Washington D.C., to help us out. We have made great <inaudible> in looking at our airport and trying to sell part of it and do that, and also, paving the runways. We are looking at improving the golf course and the RV park and also clubhouse out there. We are going to be doing downtown revitalization. And of course, we need to think about the port of entry, which we have had an excellent meeting today. <inaudible> at the luncheon. The Huishes came to Douglas and <inaudible>. The Huish name is well, I would say growing up in Bisbee and the last name is very popular. Once again, I pay all my respects and all your encouraging to this young man to stay on board and help us do what we do. Good luck and God bless. And I want to still like and I know I have not done an article for the Huish family and then <inaudible> any one of these days I can sit down and start writing <inaudible>."

Council Member Acosta expressed the following: "I may not be your favorite, but I know we love each other and I just I really want to thank you. I shared the message with you last night. We met in 2020 during our campaigns and it feels like it was just yesterday, but you know that first year was so challenging. We came in the midst of covid and were not sure what was going to happen, how to handle the pandemic. But we made it through. I just want to thank you because I think that you have been an inspiration to all of us. Going through your illness and just showing that tenacity to just not give in, not give up and to be here and look at us now. Who would have thought. I mean you have come such a long way. Obviously, health wise and have moved our city forward and what we planned out our vision was back in 2020 or early 2021. I just want to thank you. I know that a lot of times it has been challenging between us because we have not always agreed on things, but I do want to thank you for

always being a gentleman about it. And I hope that we can be role models in that. And in that people can disagree, but we can still get along at the end of the day. We can still love each other as neighbors, as friends, as colleagues. And just because we disagreed does not mean that there is a war starting between us. Again, thank you so much. Your leadership, your patience. I know I am full of ideas and sometimes a little difficult, but you have always, like I said, been a gentleman. And I truly appreciate that. I wish you nothing but the best. And we're not, you know, we are kind of neighbors so we are not very far away. My door is open and my family would love to have your family stay in touch. Thank you so much for everything."

Council Member Baldenegro expressed the following: "<inaudible> I just want to say that you have been a beacon of the council to the City of Douglas. <inaudible> and continues to bless you and you will always be in my prayers. There is nothing more that I need to add to what Mr. Shelton mentioned. You have always been a friend of mine. <inaudible> I will miss you."

Mayor Huish expressed the mutual feeling and reminisced about his experiences playing basketball many years ago, particularly during middle school with Mr. Baldenegro. He described how they and their peers often competed fiercely, engaging in intense games of basketball and football within a very active middle school program. This program had its own league where rivalries were formed. Despite the competitiveness of those early years, Mayor Huish reflected on a valuable lesson they learned when transitioning to high school. Once on the same team, former competitors became allies, working together toward a shared goal. This lesson about unity and collaboration has stayed with them throughout their life.

Mr. Lindemann expressed the following: "Our history goes back quite a way and I appreciate that. I have always been working together and always felt we were a team. And when I got on the council we were still teams. We are still working for the good of the community. I remember when I was the band director at the high school and I came to you and I said we need band uniforms. We got them and they lasted for 20 years. <inaudible> We appreciate your friendship and always if there is anything that I can do, I'm here for everybody."

Ms. Urquijo concluded by stating they would provide a video, enhanced with photos from the day's event at the new commercial port of entry. The video will include moments where the speaker was recognized by the governor's office and later by congressional offices, making it a complete keepsake.

Mayor Huish admitted they struggle with goodbyes and chose instead to say, "We will see you later."

6. PRESENTATION of AWARDS.

A. WITH DEEP APPRECIATION to MAYOR PRO TEMPORE MARGARET MORALES for your TIRELESS DEDICATION and SERVICE to the residents of the Douglas community.

B. HONORING MAYOR HUISH LEADERSHIP - In APPRECIATION of your DEDICATED LEADERSHIP and COMMITMENT to the Douglas Community.

Ms. Urquijo expressed appreciation for Mayor Donald Huish's leadership and commitment to the community. She invited the Mayor Huish and Council Member Morales to join her to receive awards in their honor, emphasizing their gratitude for the opportunity to present them.

"With appreciation presented to Margaret Morales, Council Member, Ward one, June 11, 2008 to June 8, 2016. March 14, 2018 to June 10, 2020. Appointed Mayor Pro Tempore June 17, 2020 to December 11, 2024. For your tireless dedication and service to the residents of the Douglas community. December 2024."


"To honor your leadership presented to Donald C Huish, Mayor June 10, 2020 to December 11, 2024. In appreciation of your dedicated leadership and commitment to the Douglas community, your vision and service have made a lasting impact. Thank you for your tireless efforts and unwavering dedication. December 2024."

Mr. Fitzgibbons expressed the following: "I really appreciate the fact that how well you all get along. And I appreciate Councilwoman Acosta's comments where she talked about, you guys can disagree without being disagreeable. And I think that is very remarkable at this stage. I think we may all get so focused on the national scene and national politics to get all the hard work done and city governments <inaudible> and actually get work done, typically because the non-partisan and their citizens care for each other and care for their citizens. And I

think that is what you guys are so effective as a city council. That is lucky because there are cities have a lot of issues now. You are lucky you have been good, effective, and your work on the port of entry has just been unbelievable. <inaudible> you have an amazing staff <inaudible>."

7. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Council Member Morales, second by Council Member Shelton to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m.


Prepared by: Cynthia Acuña Robles, Deputy City Clerk