

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2024

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on May 6, 2024. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Anthony Jones, Clinton Johnson, and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Attorney Alex Shalishali, Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Clerk Jawahn Ware and other staff. The public participated in person and via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by the Chairman, he called for approval of the minutes of the April 1st Regular Meeting, April 8th Work Session, and April 8th Special Called Meeting.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the minutes were approved via six votes.

Commissioner Russell Gray entered the Commission meeting at 10:11 a.m.

The Chairman recognized Margaret Holbrook, Interim County Extension Coordinator to update the Commission with the quarterly report. Vanessa Washington, the new EFNED (Extended Food and Nutrition Education Program) Assistant was introduced. There will be a new 4-H Agent Program starting on June 3rd and the person is a former 4H member. The name could not be disclosed at the time of the meeting. Westover High student and 4-H'er, Autumn Holsey, was introduced to share her portfolio and project. It was announced that Anna Grace Pebbles resigned and is now on the collegiate side of UGA. Questions of the Board were addressed, and Ms. Holbrook shared that at the next update a survey will be provided to the Board. It was requested that the Commissioners participate completed because their input on programming and other aspects was desired. Relative to the updates on goods produced in the state, Commissioner Johnson shared his recent meeting with potential investors who may have an interest in SWGA.

The Chairman opened the public hearing for Tommy Crosby, applicant and owner (24-021) request to rezone a 3.69-acre parcel from AG (Agricultural District) and C-2 (General Mixed-Use Business District) to C-3 (Commercial District). The rezoning would allow for the operation of a manufactured home sales and repair business. The property address is 1932 Liberty Expressway. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Angel Gray, Deputy Planning Director addressed. The work on this consideration was challenging because when Liberty Expressway was built, many of the parcels were split to allow for the

construction. The zoning team was commended for the work done. The owner and applicant Tommy Crosby was present to address any questions of the Board. Many questions were answered by Mrs. Gray and those that were not will be contingent on DOT [response]. Ms. Tony Mitchum, the new Planner II, was introduced. There being no additional individuals present to speak in favor or opposition, the public hearing was closed.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office to purchase one 2024 Ford F150 Police Responder 4X4 in the amount of \$55,095 from State Contract vendor, Wade Ford (Smyrna, Ga). Funding is available in SPLOST VIII.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from Facilities Management to purchase one 2023 Ford F350 Super Duty Service Truck in the amount of \$75,414 from State Contract vendor, Wade Ford (Smyrna, Ga). Funding is available in SPLOST VIII.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from Facilities Management to accept the quotes to replace the Air Handling Unit (AHU) #9 and controls at the Dougherty County Health Department for a total expenditure of \$130,917.20. Service Pro's (Leesburg, Ga) is the lowest quoted vendor to replace the AHU in the amount of \$62,317.20. Sole source vendor, ESS (Albany, Ga) will replace the controls in the amount of \$68,600. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Under discussion, Mr. Brooks addressed Commissioner Johnson's question by sharing that our lobbyist would be contacted on how to use federal funding to make our buildings more energy efficient. Mr. Brooks said he would update Commissioner Gaines on her questions regarding how to fund the projects. He added that the project levels could be provided in the quarterly Finance Committee updates. Due to inflation, most of the projects had to be supplemented by interest, which was a valid use. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for the consideration of the recommendation from Facilities Management to accept the quote to paint the hallways on the first floor of the Central Square Building from the lowest quoted vendor MSK, LLC (Leesburg, Ga) in the amount of \$27,950. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the Work Based Learning Program Agreement between Dougherty County and Turner Job Corps (TJC) Center.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 24-018 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF THE
WORK BASED LEARNING PROGRAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN
DOUGHERTY COUNTY AND TURNER JOB CORPS CENTER;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of Amendment Number Two to the Dougherty County Defined Benefit Retirement Plan and Trust as recommended by the Retirement Fund Committee.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Edwards asked Mr. Brooks to ask the City of Albany's (COA) staff how the COA Commissioners participated in the retirement plan. Mr. Brooks also said that our HR Director is currently researching [the topic] with the COA and ACCG. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 24-019 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TWO TO
THE DOUGHERTY COUNTY RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the change of Dougherty County's current Retirement Life Insurance (Death Benefit) from Lincoln Financial to Securian as recommended by the Retirement Fund Committee.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 24-020 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION

ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE CHANGE OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY'S RETIREMENT LIFE
INSURANCE (DEATH BENEFIT) FROM LINCOLN
FINANCIAL TO SECURIAN; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the ratification of the application to the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grant Program and accepted the award in the amount of \$40,485. There is a local fund share amount of \$2,429.10 required. The grant will be used to update the Dougherty County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to meet the federal requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The local funding requirements will be offset by volunteer time.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the approval to transfer approximately 0.85 acres of unutilized land located at 2419 Sylvester Highway to the Albany Dougherty Land Bank.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 24-021 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL TO TRANSFER
APPROXIMATELY 0.85± ACRES LOCATED AT
2419 SYLVESTER HWY TO THE ALBANY-DOUGHERTY
COUNTY LAND BANK; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS
OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the request to allow Dougherty County Facilities Management to work with the Artesian Alliance to demo the current Festival Springs Fountain for the drafting and construction of plans for Phase 1 that will replace the current splash pad.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Mr. Gregors clarified Phase 1 and answered other questions from Commissioner Edwards regarding the project plan. He discussed the time frame and funding

sources based on the questions of Commissioner Johnson. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the approval and execution of two permanent sewer easements to the City of Albany for the purpose of allowing the City to erect, construct, install, operate, inspect, and repair sewer infrastructure on County-owned property across from the National Guard Armory between N. Jefferson and Monroe Street. County Attorney Alex Shalishali and Jeff Hughes, City of Albany Sewer Projects Engineer addressed. Both answered questions pertaining to the proposed documents.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 24-022 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF TWO PERMANENT SEWER EASEMENTS TO
THE CITY OF ALBANY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING THE
CITY TO ERECT, CONSTRUCT, INSTALL OPERATE, INSPECT
AND REPAIR SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE THEREIN;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for the zoning consideration of Tommy Crosby, applicant and owner (24-021) request to rezone a 3.69-acre parcel from AG (Agricultural District) and C-2 (General Mixed-Use Business District) to C-3 (Commercial District). The rezoning would allow for the operation of a manufactured home sales and repair business. The property address is 1932 Liberty Expressway. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the proposed board appointments. Appointments were made by nominations.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, the recommendation from Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks to reappoint Jim McBride was unanimously accepted for a two-year term ending July 31, 2026.

The Chairman called for a nomination for the ASPIRE Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services Board for an appointment with a three-year term ending June 30, 2027. Commissioner Gaines nominated incumbent Dr. Eugene Sherman to be reappointed.

Commissioner Edwards nominated new applicant Commissioner Clinton Johnson. Clerk Ware answered questions pertaining to the bylaws and the partnership between Dougherty County and the Boards. She mentioned that the respective partners manage member attendance. The Board was reminded that several years ago Commissioner Gaines requested that staff attempts to receive letters of good standing for members and the information received was in their packets. The nomination by Commissioner Edwards for Commissioner Johnson failed with three ayes by Chairman Heard, Commissioners Edwards and Gaines; two nays by Commissioners Jones and Newsome, and two abstains by Commissioners Johnson and Gray. The nomination by Commissioner Gaines for Dr. Eugene Sherman failed with four nays by Chairman Heard, Commissioners Edwards, Gaines, and Gray; one aye by Commissioner Newsome and one abstain by Commissioner Johnson.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, incumbents Henry Mathis, Jr. and Barbara Johnson Clark were unanimously reappointed to the Department of Family & Children Services for a three-year unexpired term ending June 30, 2029.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Edwards, new applicant Demetrius Love was appointed to the Planning Commission for a three-year term ending December 31, 2025, with four ayes by Commissioners Johnson, Edwards, Gaines and Chairman Heard and three nays by Commissioners Newsome, Gray and Jones. The nomination for Casey Beane made by Commissioner Gray failed by receiving only three votes by Commissioners Newsome, Gray, and Jones.

Mr. Brooks reminded the Board that the Government Affairs Committee will meet immediately following the Regular Meeting in Room 120. Attorney Shalishali provided an update on two people who passed in the state: Stacey Jackson and Jerry "Pops" Barnes. Commissioner Newsome gave kudos to the employee recognition event and was proud to participate. Commissioner Edwards gave kudos to the staff for keeping records on appointments and recognized the great employee event. Commissioner Johnson shared his appreciation to the Economic Development Commission for the 101 class that assisted him at the recent meeting with potential industries interested in our area. Commissioner Gray provided the same sentiments relative to the HR event. Commissioners Gaines and Jones saluted the graduates and Commissioner Johnson said that the Chairman's daughter was graduating as well. Chairman Heard said that ASU graduated 800 students and thanked Dr. Frederick for her last commencement and wished her well. He also congratulated Commissioner Johnson's daughter for graduating.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK