

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on November 1, 2021. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, and other staff. The public and representatives of the media 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, the Chairman called for approval of the October 4th Regular Meeting and October 11th Work Session Minutes.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Chairman recognized Judge Kenneth B. Hodges III, who introduced John Kirbo, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the SWGA Legal Self Help Center who addressed the Board to provide an update for the SWGA Legal Self Help Center located in Dougherty County. Mr. Kirbo said that the Center is limited with the assistance they provide; they do not represent citizens but they do assist with providing information through "legal navigators." To date, the Self-Help Center has reduced bench litigation by 66% and the daily assistance rate ranges from 15 to 100 people a day. He said that the Center has gone from a pilot project to a model project [in the State]. The Center is separate from the Law Library and is funded by grants. He asked the Dougherty County Commission to help support the request to the upcoming state legislation to assess a small filing fee in Magistrate Court and to help provide funding for the Center. The Chairman directed this discussion to a future work session to develop a consensus on how to move forward on the local legislation.

The Chairman recognized Code Enforcement Director Marshal Nathaniel Norman and Code Enforcement Officer Shabreka Ray to update the Commission on concerns in District 2. Marshal Norman said that the specific concern is the trash at the apartment complex on Holly Drive. The rental company and apartment complex have taken aggressive measures to increase dumpsters and trash pickup. Commissioner Jones asked the Code Enforcement staff to address blight properties in the community. Commissioner Edwards said that he is specifically asking that fees and/or fines be assessed by an ordinance for repeated offenders

for nuisance. Attorney Lee addressed that there is currently a process in place and individuals can go to court. Marshal Norman discussed due process requirements and Commissioner Edwards shared his concerns about the length of time that an individual would have to wait to go to court. Marshal Norman emphasized that there is a difference between a violation and a citation. Attorney Lee stressed that the purpose of Code Enforcement is to ensure compliance and said that the system works unless someone can show a particular breakdown in a related case. Marshal Norman agreed to research the ability to provide fees on violations and provide recommendations. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that a status update be provided in 90 days.

The Chairman called for consideration to approve an amendment of the initial incentive-based mass vaccination event budget from \$338,000 to \$400,000 from the American Rescue Plan to administer a third incentive based vaccination event on November 6, 2021. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Mr. McCoy shared that over 1,300 citizens were vaccinated in the prior two events and Commissioner Jones requested a third event. Commissioner Gaines asked that other brands be offered and it was noted that it will be considered.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion Commissioner Johnson made a substitute motion to table this event until the final numbers were received from the previous events. Commissioner Edwards seconded the substitute motion. In discussion, Mr. McCoy shared that we are currently under budget and we are asking for more funds because each event conducted has expanded services. The substitute vote failed with five nays by Commissioners Jones, Gaines, Gray, Newsome and Chairman Cohilas and two ayes by Commissioners Johnson and Edwards. The original motion to approve the third vaccination was passed with five ayes by Commissioners Jones, Gaines, Gray, Newsome and Chairman Cohilas and two nays by Commissioners Johnson and Edwards.

The Chairman called for consideration to approve the purchase of ten stainless steel toilet/sink combination units for the Jail from the sole source vendor, Engineering & Equipment Company (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$26,950. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII – Jail Equipment.

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 of the proposal for a comprehensive classification and compensation study for Dougherty County Human Resources from Management Advisory Group of Spartanburg, SC in the amount of \$39,700 subject to the execution of the contract by the County Administrator. The recommended vendor was selected as the lowest responsive and responsible proposer. Funding is budgeted in the General Fund.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Edwards asked when the responses should come back and Mr. McCoy said that responses should be back as soon as possible due to the deadline provided but ideally by the end of December 2021. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-059 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
EXECUTION OF A PROPOSAL FOR A COMPREHENSIVE
CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY FOR
DOUGHERTY COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES FROM
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP OF SPARTANBURG, SC IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$39,700.00; 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 of the proposal to provide Professional Services for an archeological study to construct a multi-use trail for Dougherty County from Southern Research, (Pine Mountain, GA) in the amount of \$28,284 subject to the execution of the contract by the County Administrator. The recommended vendor is selected as the lowest responsive and responsible proposer. Funding will be provided by the Special Services District with reimbursement provided by the EDA CARES Act for the development of trails at Radium Springs.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-060 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
EXECUTION OF A PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR AN ARCHEOLOGICAL
STUDY TO CONSTRUCT A MULTI-USE TRAIL FOR
DOUGHERTY COUNTY FROM SOUTHERN RESEARCH
(PINE MOUNTAIN, GA) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,284.00;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation to rescind the award made on April 5, 2021 to R&M Construction (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$32,500 to install an equipment shed at the Solid Waste Landfill. The vendor defaulted on the bid. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Solid Waste Director Campbell Smith was

present. Mr. Addison shared that this is a direct response to COVID where the cost of steel increased and there is a labor shortage which resulted in the vendor not being able to complete the project. He added that the request is to rescind the award and he would monitor the costs for reconsideration next year.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring the listed vehicles and equipment as surplus and authorizing the disposal of or sale of same via an online auction.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-061 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION DECLARING AS SURPLUS THE
ATTACHED LIST OF EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES;
PROVIDING FOR DISPOSAL OF OR SALE OF SAME VIA AN
ONLINE AUCTION; REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance of the Quit Claim Deed from the Albany Dougherty Land Bank to Dougherty County, GA to transfer property located in Radium Springs for the purpose of providing recreational opportunities.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-062 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
RECORDING OF A QUIT CLAIM DEED FROM THE
ALBANY DOUGHERTY LAND BANK TO DOUGHERTY
COUNTY, GEORGIA TRANSFERRING PROPERTY
LOCATED IN RADIUM SPRINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
PROVIDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mr. McCoy clarified that the result of the archeological study is scheduled for December 2021 and the comprehensive classification and compensation study is to be completed in March/April 2022.

Upon the question of Commissioner Johnson, Mr. McCoy answered concerns in reference to the broadband expansion in the unincorporated area and said that he will speak to the City of Albany on their expansion plans. Questions for consultant Ed Wall were noted and answered by Mr. McCoy. Some of the questions were specifically regarding Dougherty County's primary way to reduce the millage rate and increase the value of our digest by attracting more industries. Commissioner Jones requested that we do not wait until the retreat to discuss the item of millage rate. The Chairman requested another presentation by Mr. Wall. Commissioner Jones also wanted clarification on why Public Works was not recognized as first responders. He also thanked our media for coverage and nonbiased news. Commissioner Gaines thanked Chairman Cohilas for his hard work on the front line for COVID and she also shared that the office of Civil Rights Advocate C.B. King has been recognized as a historical site and will be restored. Commissioner Gray wanted to put citizens on notice that the Commission will be proactive about blighted areas and wanted the citizens to do their part as well. He also shared that this is his last support for an incentive based event for vaccines. Chairman Cohilas recapped comments and Commissioner Johnson thanked his colleagues for having a platform to discuss this information.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK