

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on May 17, 2021. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. 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 April 19th Regular Meeting and April 26th Special Called Meeting minutes.

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

The Chairman recognized Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Christopher Nunn to provide a DCA update as well as discuss the new Georgia Rental Assistance Program. Commissioner Nunn shared that the state has over \$550 million to distribute for landowners and tenants with the emergency rental assistance program. He stated that aggressive marketing will be done in our area because very few applications have been received. Interested individuals can obtain more information at www.garentalassistance.ga.gov. Commissioner Nunn also presented Chairman Cohilas a check for \$282,215 for the Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation Planning for the County to use for mapping the parcels for future infrastructure development. He answered the questions of Commissioner Johnson about broadband and being a broadband-ready community.

The Chairman recognized Public Works Director Larry Cook to accept the proclamation recognizing May 16-23, 2021 as National Public Works Week in Dougherty County. Laborer, Cindy Willis – Employee of the Year and Administrative Supervisor, Benita Dyes – Manager of the Year were present. Mr. Cook shared that Assistant Public Works Director Chuck Mathis is the District Director on the state board and other managers were introduced. The Commission was thanked for their support and was invited to the upcoming recognition event sponsored by some community advocates. The proclamation read as follows:

National Public Works Week Proclamation

May 16 – 23, 2021

“Stronger Together”

WHEREAS, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life and well-being of the people of Dougherty County, Albany, GA; and,

WHEREAS, these infrastructure, facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are engineers, managers, and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving, and protecting our nation’s transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders, and children in Dougherty County, Albany, GA to gain knowledge of and to maintain an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works and public works programs in their respective communities; and,

WHEREAS, the year 2021 marks the 61st annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association be it now,

RESOLVED, I, Christopher S. Cohilas, Commission Chair, do hereby designate the week May 16 – 23, 2021 as National Public Works Week; I urge all citizens to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and quality of life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State (to be affixed),

DONE at the Dougherty County, Albany, Georgia this 17th day of May 2021.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA**

BY: _____
Christopher S. Cohilas, Chairman

The Chairman recognized EMS Director Sam Allen to accept the proclamation recognizing May 16-23, 2021 as Emergency Medical Services Week in Dougherty County and to recognize the entire staff of Dougherty County EMS for an outstanding job done in providing the highest level of medical care during the COVID-19 pandemic. All EMS staff will be receiving special recognition from the department for the medical care given to the citizens that worked above and beyond during this time. He shared that the department never backed down to serve and transported over 900 COVID patients. Lastly, Mr. Allen wanted to thank the Commission for their support. The proclamation read as follows:

WHEREAS, emergency medical services are a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators, and others; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; now

THEREFORE, we, the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia in recognition of this event does hereby proclaim the week of May 17-23,2021 as

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the County of Dougherty on this 17th day of May in the year of our Lord two-thousand and twenty-one.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Christopher S. Cohilas, Chairman

The Chairman recognized William Wright, representative of AFRAM Tech, Inc. to discuss disaster-related services by a Louisiana firm. Mr. Wright provided information alleging that the County is violating the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He asked to delay the presentation because the person he was speaking on behalf of was not present.

The Chairman recognized citizen Art Brown who spoke to the Board upon the request of Commissioner Edwards. He presented concerns on behalf of the South Dougherty County League. His first concern was regarding speeding and asked that speed bumps and cameras be installed. Mr. McCoy shared that due to the type of road, Lily Pond does not meet the criteria for speed bumps. Mr. McCoy also shared that a presentation will be made to the Commissioners at the next Work Session requesting to purchase mobile speed detection trailers in school safety zones. His second concern was about truckers using their lots against code violations. The Chairman asked Mr. McCoy to advise Code Enforcement.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the contract to accept the bid from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder LRA Constructors, Inc. (Albany, Georgia) to rehab the Historic Spring Run Bridge in Radium Springs for a total expenditure of \$679,100. Funding will be provided by TSPLOST and reimbursed with a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State Grant.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-025 is entitled:

**A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION
OF A CONTRACT BETWEEN DOUGHERTY COUNTY AND LRA
CONSTRUCTORS, INC. TO REHABILITATE THE HISTORIC SPRING
RUN BRIDGE IN RADIUM SPRINGS FOR A TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF
\$679,100.00; 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 and execution of the contract to accept the proposal from Edge Aquatic Services (Soperton, GA) for the chemical treatment & management of hydrilla in Radium Springs for an annual price of \$12,800, with the

option to renew the services for consecutive one-year periods for two additional years. Funding is available in the General Fund.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-026 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF A PROPOSAL FROM EDGE AQUATIC SERVICES
PROVIDING FOR THE CHEMICAL TREATMENT AND
MANAGEMENT OF HYDRILLA IN RADIUM SPRINGS FOR AN
ANNUAL PRICE OF \$12,800.00 WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW
THE SERVICES FOR CONSECUTIVE ONE YEAR PERIODS FOR
TWO (2) ADDITIONAL YEARS; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR
PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of a six-inch compressor-assisted, trailer-mounted pump for Public Works from the Sourcewell Contract holder Thompson Pump (Port Orange, FL) in the amount of \$39,779. The equipment will be used during flooding events. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VI.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the Task Order for Solid Waste for the Site Acceptability Study and Report and D&O Plans for the expansion of the MSW and C&D landfills at the Fleming/Gaissert Road Landfill with the current vendor Atlantic Coast Consulting (Savannah, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$500,000. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Capital Outlay.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-027 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF A TASK ORDER FOR SOLID WASTE FOR THE SITE
ACCEPTABILITY STUDY AND REPORT AND D & O PLANS FOR THE
EXPANSION OF THE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AND C & D
LANDFILL AT THE FLEMING/GAISSERT ROAD LANDFILL WITH THE
CURRENT VENDOR ATLANTIC COAST CONSULTING IN AN

AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000.00; 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 and execution of the proposal in the amount of \$100,080 from Dewberry Engineers Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide professional engineering services. The services will assess the potential effectiveness of modifying the operations of the Flint River Hydro Project, Muckafoonee Dam, and Crisp Power Dam at Lake Blackshear on the Flint River to mitigate flooding on Lake Chehaw and Lake Worth. Funding is available in SPLOST VII. The Commission tabled the discussion on the topic in the February 8, 2021 Work Session. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook, Project Engineer Jeremy Brown and Associate Vice President Sam Fleming, P.E. were present. Citizen Billups “Bo” Johnson provided a presentation. Commissioner Gray confirmed upon the question of Commissioner Edwards that the cost for the study will be paid by Dougherty County. Commissioner Gray added that the other entities will not share in the cost. Mr. McCoy shared that SPLOST VII stormwater is the funding source and clarified questions from Commissioner Gaines. Commissioner Gaines asked Mr. Addison for a copy of the 100-year flood map. Mr. Bo Johnson shared pictures and maps to help the Commissioners understand the concern. He shared how the different power companies respond to water levels and how the creeks and other criteria impact the concern. He urged the Commission to accept the study by outlining questions/items that need to be addressed. The possible financial impact of properties coming off the digest was mentioned. Commissioner Gray shared that the data from the study can help provide information for a financial ask to other entities. Chairman Cohilas was concerned about the funding without a consensus of payment by other entities. Chairman Cohilas called for a motion to continue the discussion at the next work session so he can vet the topic with the engineers.

The motion to continue the discussion at the next work session was provided by Commissioner Jones. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. There were six ayes and one nay by Commissioner Edwards. Commissioner Gray asked that the Chairman provide his concern to Mr. McCoy so engineers could respond.

The Chairman called for consideration of the acceptance and execution of a resolution on behalf of the District Attorney's Office for the County to receive a supplement for State paid employees. A resolution is now required for the FY 2022 State Paid County Reimbursed (SPCR) Contract.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-028 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF A RESOLUTION ON BEHALF OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE FOR DOUGHERTY COUNTY

TO RECEIVE A SUPPLEMENT FOR STATE PAID EMPLOYEES
UNDER THE FY 2022 STATE PAID COUNTY REIMBURSED
(SPCR) CONTRACT; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS
OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Sheriff's Office for the County to jointly fund the 2021 Youth Summer Camp Program in the amount of \$10,000 from the DATE program. The City of Albany will be asked to match the request in the same amount.

Commissioner Jones 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 enforcement of Dougherty County Nuisance Abatement Resolution relative to one dilapidated structure located at 1000 Liberty Expressway. The Commission tabled discussion on the topic in the April 12, 2021 Work Session. County Attorney Spencer Lee and County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-029 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR INVESTIGATION AND/OR
INSPECTION BY THE PUBLIC OFFICER AS DESIGNATED UNDER
DOUGHERTY COUNTY NUISANCE ABATEMENT RESOLUTION
NUMBER 02-034 AND/OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE AND PROVIDING
FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE DOUGHERTY COUNTY
NUISANCE ABATEMENT RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO CERTAIN
REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

The gavel was turned over to Commissioner Edwards to chair the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Commissioner Gray and Commissioner Gaines asked that Mr. McCoy revisit the County policy as it pertains to the CDC guidelines and social distancing.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK