

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on October 19, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards and Lamar Hudgins. Commissioners Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson and Anthony Jones participated via the audio-conferencing feature. 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 September 21st Regular Meeting and September 28th Special Called Meeting minutes.

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

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was paused to clarify that the vote of the minutes were done by all, the same motion was passed.

The Chairman recognized Scott Steiner, President & CEO, Phoebe Putney Health System, to provide a Community Report. Mr. Steiner's presentation included COVID actions and areas served. He shared that 2 mobile Health Units will be displayed in Southwest Georgia and announced that Phoebe East will undergo renovation to be a community wellness center. The Light House, a place that allows cancer patients to obtain rest off from Phoebe's campus will ideally reopen December 2020. Additional updates initially provided last year on the Phoebe Focus were provided.

The Chairman recognized citizen Henry Mathis who presented a public safety request for 82 East Oglethorpe and US19 Bypass. He mentioned that the road is very dark and there had been fatalities. There was a request from the County to work with Georgia DOT for lighting. He will work with the City of Albany on the same request. Chairman Cohilas directed Mr. McCoy to obtain an update from Mr. Mason with DOT and prepare a letter if appropriate.

The Chairman recognized representative of Black Voters Matter James Pratt who addressed voting disfranchisement and voter suppression and asked for action from the Commission.

The Chairman recognized citizen representative of Black Voters Matter Nyota Tucker who spoke about the legal ramifications of preventing volunteers their rights and aiding voters in the campaign free zone. She made a verbal official complaint based on the threatened actions taken against the organization and asked that the individuals are notified about their actions. Also, she asked that

elected officials be informed of the rights of nonpartisan advocacy group and understand that they do not engage in supporting candidate and asked that it be respected and treated in that manner. The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of one 2021 Kia Sedona LX in the amount of \$29,815.70 and one 2020 Kia Sorento EX in the amount of \$31,900 for the GBI Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Office from Hutchinson Kia (Albany, GA) for a total expenditure of \$61,715.70. Funding will be provided by the GBI SWRDEO Grant Fund.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of two 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles (each in the amount of \$39,422.21), two 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Administrative Vehicles (each in the amount of \$39,284.21) and one (1) 2021 Ford F150-XLT (in the amount of \$32,120.92) for the Sheriff's Office from Sunbelt Ford (Albany, GA) for a total expenditure of \$189,533.76. Funding will be provided by SPLOST VII and the General Fund (Risk Management).

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the replacement of the LED lights at River Front Park for Facilities Management from the lowest quoted vendor RHC (Albany, GA) for a total expenditure of \$33,596. Funding will be provided by SPLOST VII.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution to accept the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with the State of Georgia. The contract allows Dougherty County to make agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-062 is entitled:

**A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED**

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF A
STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND THE GEORGIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY AGENCY ALONG WITH THE
APPROVAL OF AN APPOINTMENT OF BOTH THE CHAIRMAN AND
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY AS DOUGHERTY COUNTY'S AUTHORIZED
REPRESENTATIVES ALONG WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DOUGHERTY
COUNTY FINANCE DIRECTOR AS DOUGHERTY COUNTY'S FISCAL**

OFFICER; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution for Public Works to apply for a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant in the amount of \$462,000 for Putney Park recreational improvements. The grant provided through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources requires a 50% local match. The county's portion of \$231,000 will be provided by TSPLOST.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-063 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF PRE-
APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE LAND AND WATER
CONSERVATION FUND; REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring the listed equipment as surplus and authorize the sale of same via an online auction or disposal by appropriate means.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-064 is entitled:

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

Commissioner Johnson shared that there will be an announcement soon of the new EDC Director and stressed the urge that is needed to address crime in the community. Commissioner Gray shared that the Governor's health care initiative. Commissioner Edwards requested that Mr. McCoy find out the number of participants this year that are using Crime Stoppers. Also, he shared that he supports County staff especially based on their professionalism that has been set forth. Chairman Cohilas stated that we have a balance policy with humanitarian efforts. Chairman Cohilas provided a recap from the other comments made and shared that he will receive the complaints pertaining to the County's business. Other complaints received pertaining the appropriate board should be displayed to that board. In this case, certain manners such as elections and voting should be directed to the Elections Board. (This is what I perceived upon listening to the recording. I didn't mess with the margin because I wasn't sure if you would keep the highlighted material or not.)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK