

## DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

### WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

November 30, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on November 30, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present [in the Chamber] were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Russell Gray, Lamar Hudgins and Clinton Johnson. Commissioners Gloria Gaines and Anthony Jones participated via the audio-conferencing feature. Also participating in the Chamber 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, via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting, November 9<sup>th</sup> Work Session and November 9<sup>th</sup> Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman recognized University of Georgia Small Business Development Center Area Director Rob Martin via teleconference feature to discuss the programs that are provided for the citizens and small businesses of Dougherty County. He mentioned that there are 19 office locations that serve every county in Georgia. In 2019, they assisted over four thousand clients by helping small businesses grow. In the past five years, 13,849 new jobs were created with 1,687 businesses starting. Mr. Martin shared that the Small Business Development Center does have a free online entrepreneurship program.

The Chairman recognized President, Afram-Tech, Inc. William Wright to discuss reinvesting in the community as it relates to minority businesses and the concern that these businesses were not included when receiving grants and loans. He announced plans to provide workshops for minority businesses and stated that there is a need for an entrepreneurial academy and discussed advantages for the County to participate. Information about the main street loan program was provided. He asked that the Board provide a meeting facility.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the quote to purchase one 2020 Peterbilt Dump Truck Chassis and Body for the Public Works Department from the Sourcewell contract vendor Performance Peterbilt (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$140,583. The purchase will "piggy-back" from the County's award in the February 17, 2020 Regular Meeting. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook and Buyer Tina Strassenberg were present. Mr. Addison stated that this was part of the regular scheduled replacements.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to approve a change order in the amount of \$94,994.80 to the 2019 Alley Improvements Contract with Jim Boyd Construction. This Change Order will be for the addition of McEwen Alley. Funding is available in TSPLOST. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Project Engineer Jeremy Brown was present. Mr. Addison stated that it was more efficient to add the ally in the reconstruction while

the vendor was in the area. Commissioner Edwards shared that the City of Albany had to repair sinkholes several times and had to address sewer concerns. This is the same alley that Commissioner Edwards voiced concerns about previously.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the presentation of FY21 Budget Update County. County Administrator McCoy, Finance Director Martha Hendley and Financial Consultant Ed Wall addressed. Mr. McCoy introduced the new Assistant Finance Director Wendy Vogel. Ed Wall reviewed the “report card” for the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund as of October 31, 2020. We collected 35% in tipping fees and brought in 30% of proposed revenues at \$1,832,904. We are 17% above budget for the proposed revenues. He reviewed the Special Services District and highlighted that we are 5% below budget for expenditures. He discussed the General Fund budget and noted that local option sales tax is 5% above the projection. Across the state, sales taxes are above budget due to online sales. He stressed that \$6,022,717 of the fund balance was budgeted to use to prevent the County from raising taxes. However, only the projected use will be half (\$3,208,635). If the collections continued, even less would be used. He mentioned that staff were doing a great job of “holding” expenditures. Additional funding for grants (CARES & Elections) were separately noted.

Mr. McCoy said that the County has performed well financially. He added that if this continues, a lump sum distribution could be provided to employees because the County would not have been able to perform well during this pandemic without them. Three options were presented: (a) \$600 for 650 employees cost with total distribution with taxes of \$419,835; (b) \$700 for cost of \$489,808 and (c) \$800 cost of \$559,780. It was recommended to use option c and noted that each fund can provide the distributions. Commissioner Johnson clarified that this distribution would be for all employees, full-time and part-time, and Commissioner Jones said that the County was debt free and wanted to emphasize that for all the citizens that were listening.

Upon Commissioner Gaines’ question, Mr. Wall addressed if the Special Services District repaid the transfers made from the Solid Waste Fund. He stated administratively Mrs. Hendley moved money back into the funds and it is not required for the Commission to provide formal approval; however, a specific amount will be provided to the Commission of what was repaid. He noted if the funds were not repaid in a certain period, the Commission would need to approve it as a write off. He emphasized that the County is not at that point at the current moment. Chairman Cohilas asked Mr. McCoy and Mrs. Hendley to make a presentation at the next work session on the total amount of loan funds advanced, total amount reimbursed and the administrative repayment with an assessment of the likelihood of recoupment of the remainder of the funds for accounting to determine gaps for a later decision to be made.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to approve the proposed Alcoholic Beverage License renewals for Calendar Year 2021. Chief Anthony Donaldson, Business and License Support Department was present. Chairman Cohilas shared that this was an annual administrative request.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the Georgia Department of Transportation speed ordinance, which increases the speed limit of the 1.18-mile road section of SR91 from Mile Post 15 (North of County Road 167) to the Lee County Line. Once inside Lee County, the current speed limit is now 55 mph. This would bring the speed ordinance into

compliance with current state regulations. Adoption of the ordinance will permit law enforcement to enforce the revised speed limit. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Chief Kenneth Johnson was also present. Mr. McCoy reminded the Board that this recommendation was based upon the request of Commissioner Gray and allowed the police to enforce DOT regulations. Commissioner Gray shared it stemmed from a constituent concern.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the board appointments. County Clerk Jawahn Ware addressed.

Joint Board of Adjustments & Appeals – There is one joint appointment with an unexpired three-year term ending October 1, 2022. There are no new applicants. All joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy.

Air Conditioning, Heating, & Ventilation Board – There are four appointments: one County, two joint and one rotational, all with a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Incumbents Thomas Driggers (joint), Clint Newsome (joint) and Clifford Tolbert (rotational) desire reappointment. There are no new applicants. All joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy.

Citizens Transportation Committee – There is one appointment with a three-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbent Glenn Tyler Harris desires reappointment. There are no new applicants.

Economic Development Commission – There is one appointment with a two-year term ending December 31, 2022. Incumbent Dr. Anthony Parker desires reappointment. There is one new applicant: Will Davis.

Electrical Board – There are five appointments: one County appointment for a Master Electrician, two joint appointments for an Electrical Supplier, one joint appointment for a Professional Engineer and one appointment for a joint citizen member, all with a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Incumbent Sanford Hillsman (joint citizen member) desires reappointment. There was no response from incumbent Edward West (joint Professional Engineer). There are three existing vacancies: one County appointment for a Master Electrician and two appointments for joint Electrical Suppliers. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for four vacancies and all joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany.

Flood Plain Management Review Board – There are two appointments with one joint appointment with an unexpired three-year term ending December 31, 2021 and one County appointment with a three-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbent Harry James desires reappointment. There is one vacancy. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy.

Gas Board – There are three appointments: One County, one joint and one rotational all with a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Incumbents Sanford Hillsman (county) and Rhett Parker (joint) desire reappointment. There was no response from incumbent William Walker

(rotational). There are no new applicants and all joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy.

Golden Triangle Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council – There are two appointments with a two-year term ending December 31, 2022. Incumbents Doug Wilson and J. Douglas Porter desire reappointment. There are no new applicants.

Historic Preservation Commission – There are four appointments with a two-year term ending December 31, 2022. Incumbents Anne Wilson and Lacy Lee do not desire reappointment. Incumbent John P. Ventulett Jr. resigned from the Commission. Incumbent Francis M. Wakeford, III desires reappointment. There are five new applicants: Angela Cain Gibson, Bryant Edward Harden, William Denson, Michael Harper and Hope Campbell.

Albany-Dougherty Hospital Authority – There are five appointments. One appointment with a two-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2022. Incumbent Dr. Michael Laslie resigned from the Commission. Four appointments with a five-year year term ending December 31, 2025, one must be a Commissioner. Incumbents Commissioner Clinton Johnson (Commission Appointment) and Glenn Singfield Sr. desire reappointment. Incumbent Fred Ghiglieri has served the limit of two full terms. Incumbent Dr. Tania Smith does not desire reappointment. There are five new applicants: Dr. Charles Ochie Sr., Dorothy Hubbard, James Hotz, Joel Wright and Will Davis.

Keep Albany Dougherty Beautiful – There are two appointments with a three-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbents Melissa Hodges and Bill Reilly desire reappointment. KADB recommends reappointment.

Library Board – There are four appointments with a three-year term ending December 31, 2023, one must be a Commissioner. Incumbents Commissioner Anthony Jones, Walter Kelley and John Kirbo desire reappointment. Incumbent Haryl Dabney resigned. There are two new applicants: Joshua Miller and Dr. Charles Ochie Sr.

Plumbing Board – There are three appointments with a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Two County appointments must be a Master Plumber and one appointment represents a citizen member. Incumbents Lee Eppley (Master Plumber), Rhett Parker (Master Plumber) and Glenn Harris (Citizen Member) desire reappointment. There are no new applicants.

Retirement Fund Committee – There are three appointments with one appointment with a unexpired four-year term ending December 31, 2021 and two appointments with a four-year term ending December 31, 2024, one must be an active employee. Incumbent Wes Sadler resigned. Incumbents Michael McCoy (active employee representative) and Charles Kelley reappointment. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy.

Southwest Georgia Community Action Council – There is one appointment with a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Incumbent Glenn Tyler Harris desires reappointment. There are two new applicants: Tiffany Burks and Sherrell Byrd.

Southwest Georgia Housing Task Force – There is one appointment with a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Incumbent Sonya Johnson desires reappointment. There are two new applicants: Sherrell Byrd and Will Davis.

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission – There are three appointments: one County, one joint and one Chairman designee (appointee must be a Commissioner) all with a one-year term ending December 31, 2021. Incumbents Raymond Breaux (County), Anthony Jones (Chairman designee) and Casawn Lhuillier-Yheyeis (joint) desire reappointment. There is one new applicant: Sherrell Byrd. All joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany. Chairman stated that he will reappoint Commissioner Jones.

Tax Assessors Board – There are two appointments with a three-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbents JeNita Lane and Larry Thomas desire reappointment. There are no new applicants.

Chairman Cohilas asked the Commission to give a moment of silence for the passing of Code Enforcement Robert Carter that served our area well.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:31a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK