

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on January 10, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present [in the Chamber] were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. 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 called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the Judicial Council of Georgia American Rescue Plan Act Funding Award in the amount of \$2,000,000. The grant is provided by the Judicial Council of Georgia. In the November 29, 2021 Special Called Meeting, the Commission approved Superior Court to submit the application. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Mr. McCoy shared that Judge Lockette had accepted the grant under his authority and that the request was going through Dougherty County's process for acceptance. Commissioner Johnson asked how the funds would be used and Judge Lockette shared that it would be used to reduce the backlog of serious violent offenses. He added that the maximum of \$2 million was received and the vast majority will be allocated for personnel to properly address cases. He shared that based on our numbers, it will take a few years to get back on track prior to covid and a request may be made for a fourth Judge. Mr. McCoy shared that the grant is reimbursable and part of the process allows for a grant administrator. This is highly suggested to ensure that the County gets fully reimbursed. Clarity was provided for Commissioner Jones stating that the positions are designed for one year and not long-term employment. It was added that requests can be made for additional years but the personnel cost will not be absorbed by the County. Additional questions pertaining to case numbers and the bidding process were addressed by both gentlemen.

The Chairman recognized Code Enforcement Director Marshal Nathaniel Norman to update the Commission on the assessment of the Code Enforcement process. Marshal Norman provided an update based on the request of the Commission pertaining to repeat offenders and citations. He shared that he spoke with Judge Baxton Howell and Judge Victoria Johnson in reference to the concerns. He added that he used officers to also create a proactive approach in the County (despite that the County has established a complaint-driven process). He addressed the concerns of Commissioner Jones pertaining to the abundance of cars at homes and stated that he will contact Planning and Development to determine if there is an ordinance to use for compliance. A lengthy question and answer period ensued.

The Chairman recognized GBI Special Agent In Charge Eric Schwalls to provide the annual report for 2021. The Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Office (SWRDEO) made 190 cases in the calendar year of 2021 with 81 being made in Dougherty County. There were 123

arrests and \$12,579,573.50 in illicit drugs were seized in addition to 26 firearms. Mr. Schwalls will provide additional information upon the request of Chairman Cohilas. Other questions and concerns were addressed as well.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to approve the purchase of a computer software program in the amount of \$27,995. This software is an investigative tool used for the extraction of electronic data and will be used to assist in the mission of the Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Office (SWRDEO). Funding will be provided by the GBI SWRDEO Grant Fund. County Administrator Michael McCoy and GBI Special Agent In Charge Eric Schwalls addressed and Mr. McCoy recommended approval.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for the 2022 calendar year in the amount of \$248,000. The grant is provided by the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the operation of the Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Office. County Administrator Michael McCoy and GBI Special Agent In Charge Eric Schwalls addressed and Mr. McCoy recommended approval.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the zoning consideration of Claude Wilson Geer, III (21-076), owner and applicant, request to rezone 12.2 acres of a 20.57 acre tract from C-3c (Commercial District) to M-2 (Heavy Industrial District). The property is located at the southeast corner of Moultrie Road and Holly Drive. The Planning Commission recommended approval with the following conditions: (1) to be used as a borrow pit only, (2) hours of operation to be Monday thru Saturday within daylight hours only, (3) a 5' to 6' permanent berm be constructed around the pit, (4) ingress and egress by way of Moultrie Road only and (5) 6' fencing. Angel Gray, Planning Manager, addressed. Commissioner Jones shared that he has received several calls regarding this zoning request. Ms. Gray clarified that this is the notification meeting for the Commissioners and added that the public hearing and action are scheduled for January 24, 2022. She added that the applicants and citizens are invited to participate in the public hearing.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase fifty portable radios for DCP from single source vendor Motorola Solutions (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$226,568.50. Parts are no longer available to repair aged inventory. Funding is available in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. DCP Chief Kenneth Johnson was present. Mr. McCoy shared that this item was added to the spending plan. Commissioner Johnson asked if there could be a discount provided for a large number of purchases.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase sixty-one portable radios and twenty mobile radios for the Sheriff's Office from single source vendor Motorola Solutions (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$430,884.75. Parts are no longer available to repair aged inventory. Funding is available in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Deputy Chief Pamela Johnson was present. Mr. Addison shared that this was included in the spending plan.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the contract for the collection of delinquent property taxes for Dougherty County from Government Tax Solutions (GTS) (Carrollton, GA). The agreement will allow the vendor to assist the Tax Department with the County's delinquent tax levy and tax sale processes. GTS will be replacing the services of Attorney Spencer Lee as he transitions into retirement. This will be at no cost to the County. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Tax Director, Shonna Josey addressed. GTS Representatives CEO, Pierce (PT) Waldrep and Senior Account Representative Wendell Bullard were present. It was noted that GTS was the lowest bidder. Upon clarification of Commissioner Johnson's question, there is no cost for the County because all of the fees are collected via the levy process. The process will involve staff but will reduce labor because most of the process will be outsourced.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the proposal to replace the Generator for Newton Rd Fire Station from A West Enterprise (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$78,160. The cost reflects GSA pricing for labor and equipment. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII – County Fire Station Improvements/Equipment. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Facilities Management Director Heidi Minnick was present. Mr. Addison said that we are currently a monthly [generator] rental.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to declare a 2019 Ford Taurus (from DCP) as surplus and authorize the sale through Underwriters Safety & Claims. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Mr. Addison stated that this is a standard procedure for a totaled vehicle.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation from Public Works to apply for the 2022 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) from the Georgia Department of Transportation in the amount of \$412,773 for road resurfacing. There is a local match required of 30%. The match will be provided by TSPLOST and SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, Public Works Director Chuck Mathis and Engineering Manager Jeremy Brown addressed. It was noted that this was a standard procedure and recommended moving forward.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to approve the list of roads to be resurfaced with the FY 2022 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) funds (\$412,773), SPLOST VII- 2022 Resurfacing funds (\$428,000), SPLOST VII- 2018 Resurfacing remaining funds (\$42,849.61), T-SPLOST - Resurfacing (\$2,000,000) and TSPLOST Road Striping (\$186,000). Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, Public Works Director Chuck Mathis addressed. Engineering Manager Jeremy Brown was present. This establishes the list of roads that were in the application packet.

Commissioner Edwards shared that the speed bumps were installed on Astoria Drive last week and requested that the evaluation packet for the County Administrator be provided as a hard copy and not emailed to him. Commissioner Johnson shared that he had a positive experience with the kiosk in Publix for the tag renewal and would like for another one to be placed in the community, even if it is placed in our building, if possible. Mrs. Josey shared that they are working with vendors and he asked Mr. McCoy to look at other services.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK