

## DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

### WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

September 30, 2024 DRAFT

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on September 30, 2024. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Clark and other staff. The public and media participated in person and via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel. County Clerk Jawahn Ware participated via Facebook.

Chairman Heard introduced and provided an overview of the new County Administrator Deron King.

After the invocation by Chairman Heard, he asked the Commission to review the minutes of the September 9th Regular Meeting, September 16th Work Session, September 16th Special Called Meeting, and September 2024 Mid-year Commission Retreat.

The Chairman recognized Fredando "Farmer Fredo" Jackson to update the Commission on the Flint River Fresh project. Mr. Jackson provided an overview and shared that the focus was on economic fresh food. He noted that approximately 20,000 pounds of fresh fruit was distributed and a program named "Fresh RX" where 15-20 people were chosen every six months to learn effective nutrition ways was created. Information about the screening and fresh produce provided at the health fair events was shared. Commissioner Jones provided kudos to Farmer Fredo on his work with agriculture and other Commissioners shared similar sentiments.

The Chairman recognized President and CEO of the Economic Development Commission Jana Dyke who asked if she could use the Candy Room as a storage place for items to help individuals who had been impacted by Hurricane Helene. She added that the items collected will be distributed to the Ashburn and Fitzgerald communities. The Board provided consent.

The Chairman recognized citizens Agnes Barthel and Victor Meadows to share their concerns about the perception of votes not being counted. Ms. Barthel said that she spoke with Voter Registration and Elections Supervisor Ginger Nickerson who informed her of a systematic glitch on the vendor's end and her concern was to ensure that other citizen's votes counted as well. Chairman Heard asked that Mrs. Nickerson be present for a follow-up discussion at the next Work Session. Commissioner Johnson asked Chairman Heard to request that a Voter Registration Board representative also be present next week.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to purchase an industrial washer and dryer from Sourcewell Contract vendor Stafford Smith, Inc. in the amount of \$34,464.18 for the Jail. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VI. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed.

Chief Jailer John Ostrander was present. Chief Ostrander shared that one of the items was not repairable.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to accept the quotes to replace Air Handler #1A and #1B (AHU) and upgrade the controls in the Albany/Dougherty County Government Center. Service Pros (Leesburg, GA) quoted \$87,972.80 for the AHU replacements and sole source vendor, ESS (Albany, GA) quoted \$127,140 for the control upgrade for a total expenditure of \$215,112.80. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VI and VII. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Facilities Management Director Heidi Hailey was present. Ms. Hailey shared that there were two air handler areas in the Government Building and since COVID, this equipment has to now be built.

Attorney Shalishali welcomed the new County Administrator. Commissioners Newsome, Edwards, Gaines, and Jones shared the same sentiments. Commissioner Edwards wanted to know what was available in the different SPLOST accounts. Commissioner Johnson asked for prayers for the individuals who suffered loss from Hurricane Helene. Commissioner Gaines asked the County Attorney for an update on completing the review of the ordinance. Attorney Shalishali shared that the Board could provide a priority list as to what code they would like to set first. Chairman Heard asked for a moment of silence for the lives that were lost during the storm and for  
Captain Ted Thomas who passed last night from the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Gaines recognized Former Willie Mayor Adams who was present in the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK