

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

May 8, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on May 8, 2023. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Clinton Johnson, and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, 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. Commissioners Russell Gray and Anthony Jones were absent.

After the roll call and the invocation, Chairman Heard asked the Commission to review the minutes of the April 17th Regular Meeting and April 24th Work Session.

The Chairman recognized Director Heidi Hailey to accept the proclamation recognizing May 8-14, 2023 as Facilities Management Week in Dougherty County. The Board shared accolades regarding the Facilities Management staff. It was mentioned that Bernard Gillison was the longest-serving employee in the department for 31 years. The proclamation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, facilities management is a profession dedicated to ensuring the functionality, comfort, safety, sustainability and efficiency of the buildings in which we conduct business and work;

WHEREAS, the members of the facilities management teams are ready to provide services to maintain county buildings and structures 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and

WHEREAS, the facilities management team is responsive, proactive, cost-efficient, working together with many county, city, and state departments to provide services; and

WHEREAS, the facilities management team functions in a service-oriented aspect, promoting civility, mentoring, innovation, excellence coupled with dedication and pride; and

WHEREAS, the facilities management team consists of a staff of custodians, building superintendents, and administrators, who continue to go above and beyond to impact the health, safety, productivity and well-being of the community who utilize the county infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the members of the facilities management teams, work together to ensure safety, striving for excellence in every task they perform daily; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the efforts of the Dougherty County Facilities Management division who continue working to ensure a safer built environment, happy and health occupants and a sustainable community by designating Facilities Management Week; now

THEREFORE, we, the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 8-14, 2023 as

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT APPRECIATION WEEK
“Celebrating Facilities Management”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the County of Dougherty on this May 8th in the year of our Lord two-thousand and twenty-three.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Lorenzo L. Heard, Chairman

The Chairman recognized Coroner Michael Fowler to provide an update on the Swim for Life Program and request funding for the 2023 year. Mr. Fowler provided a historical overview of the program. The ask from Dougherty County was \$10,000 to sponsor 500 children for 8 weeks and registration will start on June 3, 2023. Mr. McCoy recommended that the Board budget \$10,000 for registration of the children and shared that a budget adjustment can be presented to the Board. It was added that the County is also supporting by managing the program under our Risk Management Plan. The City has been providing in-kind donations and the Coroner will ask the City for a monetary donation. Commissioner Edwards shared that he is in support of the program but shared that it is only fair that 50% of the cost (~\$5,000) come from the City considering most of the children reside in the city limits. There was consensus from the Board for Mr. McCoy to handle the request up to \$10,000 administratively and for the Coroner to approach the City.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to establish a Jail Construction and Staffing Fund as allowed by O.C.G.A. 15-21-90 through 15-21-95. Chief Jailer John Ostrander addressed. Chief Ostrander requested that a resolution be passed to allow 10% of the original fine to be collected for construction, operations, and staffing. He shared that our current jail is 28 years old and the average expectancy is 25 years. The County does not have a capital improvement fund and SPLOST will not generate enough money for a replacement. This is an alternative solution that is not funded by taxpayers, but only by those that use the services. Revenue will also come from the municipal court because the City and

County have an intergovernmental agreement. The plan is to use the funds for capital improvements and not staffing. It was shared that many of the equipment are initial items and can no longer be repaired because parts are not available. It was also clarified that the request is not to replace the general fund, but allow the funds to grow without utilizing it for some time. It was noted that the account can be used to obtain bonds. He emphasized that a new facility and equipment will be required and this is a proactive approach to not be a burden for taxpayers. Chief Ostrander said that in his opinion, an additional 10% will not be a significant impact [on individuals] because concerted efforts are being made to assist those not paying bonds. He added that the jail population has decreased over the year and individuals have been released on their recognizance, etc. The Chairman suggested that the Board have a tour of the Jail to understand the projected capital cost improvement needs.

Mr. McCoy reminded the Board that there will be a Finance Committee meeting immediately after the Work Session in Room 120. He clarified that the previous topic will not be on the agenda until after the tour and information will be provided to the Board.

Commissioner Edwards asked that Public Works provided a monthly update to the Board. Mr. Mathis addressed the Board and stated that most updates are focused on maintenance. The Chairman said that it was noted and that an update will be provided but it may not be monthly. Several Commissioners provided kudos to the graduating seniors and said Happy Mother's Day. Commissioner Gaines asked for the status of the retreat goals cost and time frame.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK