

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on June 6, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, 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. County Attorney Spencer Lee was absent.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the minutes for the May 2nd Regular Meeting and May 9th Work Session.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Chairman recognized William Wright, the representative for AFRAM Tech, Inc. to continue his update to the Commission. He questioned the contribution to the European organizations versus the African American organizations and the alleged violation of the Civil Rights Act based on discrimination. He also discussed the upcoming workshops his organization will host to help small businesses obtain ARPA funds.

The Chairman called for consideration to use \$30,000 from contingency to provide funding for the County's Juneteenth Celebration scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2022. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Prior to calling for a vote, Mr. McCoy answered questions from the Board. He also shared that this is the first time the County hosted the event and at the time the budget is not known, but it is not anticipated to spend the amount of \$30,000. Commissioner Edwards asked that funding for community outreach events be established so when requests come forward, monies will be available. Commissioner Gaines made a substitute motion to forego a celebratory theme to be more solemn and commemorative in the amount of \$10,000. The substitute motion was seconded by Commissioner Gray. The Chairman started a roll call. Prior to the vote being finalized, Mr. McCoy shared that contracts had already been signed. The attorney was not present to address how to proceed.

Commissioner Gray made a motion to withdraw the substitute motion which was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was unanimous. Commissioner Edwards motioned and Commissioner Johnson seconded the original motion to use contingency for \$30,000. There being no further discussion, the original motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for a discussion of SPLOST VIII referendum process and proposed SPLOST VIII projects. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Mr. McCoy said that based on the 64/36 City and County split, the City wants a 70/30 split. Questions were answered for the Board pertaining to projects. Mr. McCoy will provide an update based on the request of Commissioner Gaines on the firetrucks and tankers previously approved by the Board. Chairman Cohilas provided additional insight on the reason why projects are listed with more generalization. Mr. McCoy will also provide additional details to the Board based on Commissioner Gaines' question.

The Chairman called for the presentation and review of the proposed FY 2023 Budgets as recommended by the Finance Committee. Finance Committee Chairman Ed Newsome, County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison and Finance Director Martha Hendley addressed. Commissioner Newsome thanked the subcommittee, staff and department heads for their efforts. Mr. McCoy shared that this was a team effort and Mr. Addison presented the budget and discussed that the budget was amended for FY 2021/2022 due to the monetary increase for public safety. He also shared that the ARPA funds helped to save the County money. The amended budget for FY 2021/2022 was \$86,241,325 and the proposed budget for FY 2022/2023 is \$89,106,268 which is a 3.3% change. It was noted that there is a decrease in the General Fund M & O budget of 0.6% and a decrease in CIP of 25.8%. Mr. McCoy shared that this is the first time we have to prioritize mowing and added that there are only two Public Works operators. There was a discussion pertaining to Commissioner Edward's request to provide community funding and there was dissension pertaining to the opinion of the County Attorney. A review of the General Fund and the tranches for the America Rescue Plan were discussed. Allowable expenses for Putney Park, technology, the Dougherty County Board of Health, Aspire Behavioral Health, ways to save the County money in the General Fund, plans for recruitment, retention pay, and implementation of pay study were discussed. Mr. Addison shared that there has been a delay and results from the study are expected on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McCoy shared that depending on the receipt of the tranche, the desired date for implementation will be July 2022.

Commissioner Edwards asked about the status of the grants administrator and Mr. Addison shared that the tentative onboarding meeting is June 14<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Edwards asked that an email be sent to the Albany Rescue Mission. Commissioner Gaines asked again for clarification from Chief Scott on the second truck. Commissioner Gray thanked those for serving and recognized Dday (Normandy Landings) and provided an update on the recent fishing rodeo. Commissioner Jones recognized Madame Clerk for her recent Certified Public Manager certification.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK