

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 02, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on October 02, 2023. 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, Ed Newsome, and Anthony Jones. Also present were Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, 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.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by the Chairman, he called for approval of the minutes for the September 11th Regular Meeting and September 11th Work Session.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Chairman recognized citizen William Wright to accept the proclamation recognizing his efforts in the community. Mr. Wright requested that this recognition be noted for all who work in public service. He shared that he has served for 30 years. Other key individuals were recognized and some addressed the Board. Sentiments and comments were made by the Board. The proclamation read as follows:

William Wright Dougherty County 2023 Community Advocate

Whereas, the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners recognizes the years William Wright served as a community advocate for the citizens of Dougherty County.

Whereas, William Wright was born and raised in Albany, Georgia, attended Dougherty County Public School, and graduated from Monroe Comprehensive High School. After graduation, he was employed at Firestone Tire Company in Albany, Georgia. During his years of employment, William Wright became the union leader at the plant.

Whereas, after the closing of Firestone Tire Company in 1972, Wright enrolled at Albany State College, receiving a Master's Degree in Business. He became more involved in politics and became the president of the Albany Chapter of the NAACP, where he served for 20 years as president. As president, he made many changes for people of color in voting, economics, discrimination, criminal law, and legal cases. Many of these cases came out in his favor.

Whereas, William Wright would later become a business owner where he prepared taxes for over 30 years. William Wright was also an educator. He taught at Albany State University and in Atlanta, Georgia, for several years.

Whereas, these are only a small portion of William Wright's work and achievements. Out of all his accomplishments, he is most proud of being a family man and a member of Bethel AME Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday school for over 30 years.

Whereas, he is a proud husband of Mary P. Wright and father of two, Lydia Wright and Les Wright. William Wright's entire family honors all of his achievements.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia, to recognize William Wright as the recipient of the 2023 Community Advocate Appreciation Award.

This the 2nd day of October 2023

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: _____
LORENZO L. HEARD, Chairman
Dougherty County Commission

The Chairman called for consideration to accept the quote from the lowest vendor meeting specifications, Service Pros (Leesburg, GA), to replace the cooling tower fill at the Dougherty County Health Department and the Albany Dougherty Government Center in the amount of \$82,252.01. Funding is available in SPLOST VII.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase four 2023 Ford Maverick Pickup Trucks for Public Works from state contract vendor Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) for \$26,650 each for a total expenditure of \$106,600 by piggybacking from the Gwinnett County Contract #BL-0088-19. Funding is available in SPLOST VII.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase one 2023 Ford F-150 Pickup Truck for Facilities Management from Sunbelt Ford (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$45,418. Funding

is available in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Facilities Management Director Heidi Hailey was present. Mr. Brooks shared that the supply of vehicles was extremely short. The vehicles were previously bid with no responses received; one vehicle was found for acceptable use.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Johnson shared that this aligned with his request to review Fleet Management. Commissioner Gaines asked for the needs of the purchase and Ms. Hailey said that this would replace a 23-year-old truck. Ms. Hailey added that there was a shortage in her department and Attorney Shalishali confirmed that he would have to review the law to provide clarification on the question from Commissioner Gaines. Mr. Brooks and Mrs. Ware shared previous options utilized for purchase and said that the new procurement policy would be clearer on how to proceed under these circumstances. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase two 2023 Police Model Dodge Chargers for the Sheriff's Office from Woody Folsom CDJR of Douglas GA for \$37,250 each for a total purchase price of \$74,500. The Sheriff's Office is also requesting approval to upfit the vehicles from Dana Safety Supply, Inc. (Greensboro, NC) for \$11,969.75 each for a total upfitting cost of \$23,939.50. The total funding request for the two vehicles is \$98,439.50. Funding is available in SPLOST VIII. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Sheriff's Office Major Ken Faust was present. Mr. Brooks shared that the policy does not speak to this special request and this purchase, similar to agenda item C, is consistent with our purchasing practice.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to accept the resolution from ACCG urging the Governor and General Assembly of Georgia to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-048 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA TO CONTINUE
EFFORTS TO REFORM AND IMPROVE MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE CITIZENS OF GEORGIA.

The Chairman called for consideration to accept the resolution declaring 400 Highland Ave, Albany, GA 31701, identified by the Tax Assessor as Parcel Number 0000E/000004/012, as surplus property and suitable for sale and disposal within all lawful means.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Attorney Shalishali reclarified that the surplus does not prevent the property from being developed. He also said that he would confirm the legality of deeding the property to the Land Bank and spoke to other available options (i.e. sealed bid, etc). The Chairman shared that he would like a comprehensive look at all our properties. Mr. Brooks confirmed that staff will provide a recommendation [for Highland] and is working on creating a list of our properties. Commissioner Gray shared the advantages of declaring Highland as surplus. Commissioner Edwards mentioned that the site was visited previously and said that others who were initially interested in the property declined because of the building's need for repair. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-049 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION DECLARING COUNTY-OWNED REAL
PROPERTY AT 400 HIGHLAND AVENUE SURPLUS
RELATIVE TO THE NEEDS OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS
IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the board appointments. County Clerk Jawahn Ware was present to address.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, new applicant Perry Ford Jr. was unanimously accepted to the Citizens Transportation Committee to fill a three-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2025.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, new applicant Perry Ford Jr. was unanimously accepted to the Flood Plain Management Review Board to fill a three-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2024.

Mr. Brooks said that the Finance Committee will meet in Room 120 immediately following the Executive Session. He shared that the Fleet Management agenda item will be removed and discussed under the Public Works Subcommittee first. Commissioner Edwards asked that a discussion on vegetation control be placed on a Work Session agenda. Commissioner Johnson asked Attorney Shalishali to find out if the land purchase via the Land Bank process has changed and asked Mr. Brooks to provide a copy of the Harlem Redistricting Plan when released. Commissioner Johnson also recognized this month as Breast Cancer Awareness. Commissioners Gaines and Edwards spoke about the recent article in the Herald accusing some Commissioners regarding a perceived action. Many Commissioners voiced their concerns and the Chairman provided clarity. Commissioner Jones shared his recent partnership with Albany Technical College and Ameris Bank to create a financial literacy initiative called "Dollars Make Sense".

The Chairman called for the consideration of the recommendation from the County Attorney to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and then to adjourn.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously via roll call.

There being no further discussion, the Board entered into Executive Session at 11:16 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK