

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on May 15, 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 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 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 April 17th Regular Meeting and April 24th Work Session.

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

The Chairman recognized Dr. Emmett Griswold, new President of Albany Technical College, to introduce himself and provide an update to the Board. Dr. Griswold shared the 2023-2024 workforce development initiatives that include offering weekend courses, partnerships with Phoebe, and dual achievement programs which allows individuals ages 16-21 who officially withdrew from high school to obtain their diploma. During dialogue with the Commission, additional initiatives were shared, and kudos were received.

The Chairman recognized William Ashberry, Chairman of the Board of Tax Assessors, to update the Commission regarding the search and appointment of the Chief Appraiser role. Mr. Ashberry shared plans to promote internally and the need for auditors. An update on the cell tower audit and reevaluation was provided. The continued service and appreciation of Larry Thomas and Shonna Josey were shared. Mr. Thomas provided information regarding the internal ratios and said that the last full reevaluation was done in 2007. The new one will take about two years.

The Chairman recognized Public Works Director Chuck Mathis to provide an update on Putney Park. The update included plans to get DNR assistance to reneest buzzards in the area. Ms. Linda Jiddy spoke against using taxpayer money to move creatures that serve as valuable resources to the community. The Board was not aware of the concern and Mr. McCoy addressed sharing that the partnership with DNR is not to exterminate the animals but to relocate them in a humane manner. It was noted that the decision is at an operational level, but the social media posts and newspaper turned this into a "lightning rod issue." Community Neighborhood Watch President Mr. Willie Williams shared his concerns that the buzzards are a nuisance at the park and church. Commissioner Gray shared that the issue should be

mitigated by DNR. One citizen mentioned medical concerns about having buzzards in the area. He stressed that the concern arose after the cell tower was no longer available for the birds to roost. Mr. John Burns was concerned about the lack of things that are available in the Putney community for the children to do because the fields were removed. He encouraged the Board to reconsider adding at least two softball fields and added that the focus on the buzzards was good, but we need to focus on teens. Mr. Mathis shared that the plan to relocate the buzzards has been handled by the County in the past.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase four 2023 Pickup Trucks for Public Works from the lowest quoted vendor, Prince Automotive Group (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$152,566. The purchase will include two 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Pickup Trucks (\$37,354 each) and two 2023 GMC Sierra 1500 Pickup Trucks (\$38,214 & \$39,644). The truck replacements are in stock and are available for immediate delivery. The purchase will fulfill the award that vendors have not been able to honor due to the pandemic. Funding is available in SPLOST V and SPLOST VII. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Public Works Director Chuck Mathis was present. Mr. McCoy shared that this is out of our normal process, but the much-needed trucks are available and shared that we are having supply chain issues.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Mrs. Ware shared that it was an additional cost of \$19,000. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to rescind the purchase of two 2021 Dodge Ram 1500 Pickup Trucks for the Public Works Department from Albany Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram (Albany, Ga) in the amount of \$52,880. The initial award was approved in the April 5, 2021 Regular Meeting and the vendor was not able to provide vehicles that meet specifications.

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

The Chairman called for consideration the recommendation to rescind the purchase of one 2022 F-150 Truck for Public Works from the State Contract Vendor Wade Ford (Smyrna,GA) for the total expenditure of \$30,467. The initial award was approved in the July 18, 2022 Regular Meeting and the vendor was able to provide one of the town vehicles awarded.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from Commissioner Clinton Johnson to fund the 2023 Albany Dougherty Youth Unit (ADYU) Summer Program in the amount of \$15,000. The recommendation was provided in the May 1, 2023, Regular Meeting. Funding will be provided in the DATE fund. Commissioner Johnson addressed and said that we try to support our youth and modified the request to fund up to \$15,000.

Commissioner Edwards moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Gaines asked why the request was changed to \$15,000 and the reason for the funding request. Captain Thomas shared that a request is being made to the City of Albany. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the Intergovernmental Support Agreement with the Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) to provide mosquito spraying. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Public Works Director Chuck Mathis was present. Mr. McCoy said that this request is on an as-needed basis and the 5-year agreement needed to be renewed.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-025 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION
OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE AND DOUGHERTY COUNTY TO
PROVIDE MOSQUITO SPRAYING SERVICES; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT
HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Edwards asked Assistant Chief Irving to address the cameras on Lily Pond and the speed limit. She said that there must be a law enforcement need for changes and she discussed parameters for ticket citations. During the discussion, Assistant Chief Irving shared that she will have a traffic study done for 30 days, and this will identify the number of vehicles and average speed. Commissioner Johnson asked that the Urban Land Institute be contacted to identify the best way to develop a plan for our area to best use our land. Commissioner Gaines asked that the Board express well wishes to Mr. William Wright as his health improves. Commissioner Jones suggested housing development be done at the National Guard property. The Chairman shared that the Board would develop a vision [for the property]. Mr. McCoy shared that a MOU has been sent to the City of Albany for the development of the National Guard property which is tied to the development of the tennis center. The Board cannot proceed unless they want to terminate the partnership with the City of Albany.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK

Attestation for May 15, 2023 Minutes