

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

August 30, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met for a Special Called Meeting in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 30, 2021. Chairman Christopher Cohilas and Commissioner Gloria Gaines presided via the audio-conferencing feature. Present [in the Chamber] were Commissioner Victor Edwards, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also participating in the Chamber were County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, 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.

The Chairman called for the review of the minutes of the August 2nd Regular Meeting and August 9th Work Session and requested that the delegation presentations be limited to seven minutes.

The Chairman recognized citizen Ned Newcomb to follow up on the discussion of the flooding concerns in Dougherty County. Mr. Newcomb requested the following:

- (1) Asked the County to contact FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) to allow Georgia Power to release up to three feet of water in advance in the case of a high-water event.
- (2) Have Dougherty County Emergency Management coordinate with Georgia Power and Crisp County Power Commission to release water more effectively from their dams to prevent the chances of homes from being flooded in Dougherty County.
- (3) Find funding to install a flood gauge on Lake Chehaw and to add data points so that residents can be better informed of a potential flood.

Mr. Newcomb stated that he never requested a \$100,000 study and he added that out of his request, the flood gauge was the only one that required cost which ranged from \$25,000-\$27,000. He provided updates on actions taken by other counties on this situation. Chairman Cohilas asked Mr. McCoy to forward this proposal to Chief Scott for possible inclusion in the EMA plan. Commissioner Jones stressed that a plan needed to be developed for the entire county and not just a section.

The Chairman recognized Tag Supervisor Udashia Jones to update the Commission on the tag renewal self-service kiosk in Dougherty County. Ms. Jones shared that the self-service kiosk will be at no cost for the county and citizens can renew their tags in three steps. The vendor shared that the current agreements are with Kroger and Publix and that they are seeking a partnership with Walmart and other companies.

The Chairman recognized William Wright, dba Afram-Tech, Inc. to continue the discussion of building capacity, programs for small businesses, and other concerns.

The Chairman called for consideration of the zoning application for Travis Andrew Hellemn owner and the applicant request to rezone 10 acres of a 53.95-acre tract from AG (Agricultural District) to R-E (Estate District). The property is located at 3916 Gravel Hill Rd. Angel Gray, Planning Manager, addressed. The Planning Commission will take action on September 2, 2021. The Public Hearing and Action by the County Commission are scheduled for September 13, 2021. The information was received for information purposes only because of the Labor Day Holiday.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation to accept the change order in the amount of \$32,234.55 to the 2021 DOCO Rock Alley Improvements Contract with HTS Construction. This Change Order will be for the addition of a section of Pick Ave. Funding is available in TSPLOST. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Engineering Manager Jeremy Brown also answered questions of Commissioner Jones and discussed plans for Phase III.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance of the bid for the Dougherty County Health Department Paint Project from the sole, lowest responsive and responsible bidder meeting requirements of the bid, Empire Painting (Sylvester, GA) in the amount of \$165,300 subject to the execution of the contract by the County Administrator. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Facilities Management Director Heidi Minnick and City of Albany Buyer Kimberly Allen were present. Mr. Addison said that this project was placed out to bid based upon the Commission's request to include a mandatory pre-bid and only one response was received from the two vendors [attending the prebid].

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 21-048 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
EXECUTION OF A PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATION
WITH EMPIRE PAINTING OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA FOR
THE PURPOSE OF PAINTING THE INTERIOR OF THE ENTIRE
DOUGHERTY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT LOCATED
AT 1710 SOUTH SLAPPEY BOULEVARD FOR A TOTAL
EXPENDITURE OF \$165,300.00; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS
OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring a 2013 Dodge Charger (from the Sheriff's Office) as surplus and authorize the sale through Underwriters Safety & Claims. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 21-049 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS A SALVAGED 2013 DODGE
CHARGER
(VIN NO. 2C3CDXAT7DH722008) AND HAVE SAID SURPLUSED
SALVAGED VEHICLE DISPOSED OF THROUGH UNDERWRITERS
SAFETY AND CLAIMS, DOUGHERTY COUNTY'S THIRD PARTY
ADMINISTRATOR; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing authorization for the five-year update to the 2026 Albany-Dougherty Comprehensive Plan to be transmitted to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and Department of Community Affairs for review.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 21-050 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION APPROVING TRANSMITTAL OF AN UPDATED FIVE-
YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM
FOR REVIEW TO THE SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL
COMMISSION AND THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
AFFAIRS PRIOR TO ADOPTION; REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of a License Agreement between Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital and Dougherty County, Georgia relative to leasing additional space for the Coroner's use. The additional space is needed due to the current COVID-19 surge at the hospital's North Campus location. The lease will expire on December 31, 2021. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Coroner Michael Fowler addressed.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, Mr. McCoy answered Commissioner Gaines' question and said that this may be an eligible [reimbursable] expense. He added that this aligned with the coroner's request for a mobile morgue. The coroner confirmed that there will be two mobile morgues and GEMA will pay for the ones for Dougherty County. The motion passed unanimously. Resolution 21-051 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF
A LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PHOEBE PUTNEY MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL, INC. AND DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA RELATIVE TO
THE LEASING OF ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR THE CORONER'S USE
DURING THE CURRENT COVID-19 SURGE AT THE HOSPITALS NORTH
CAMPUS LOCATION; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of an agreement between the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Dougherty County, Georgia relative to the roundabout lighting assistance for SR 133 at CR 234/Lovers Lane Road. The County will be responsible for providing the Energy, Operation and Maintenance for the system. GDOT will be responsible for the design and installation, including all costs of materials for the system. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Chuck Mathis and Project Manager Jeremy Brown were present. Mr. Addison said that this bid is scheduled to go out to bid in 2023.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon a question from Commissioner Johnson, Mr. Addison and Mr. Brown said that GDOT is responsible for the design and not aware of the inclusion of a solar system. The motion passed unanimously. Resolution 21-052 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND PROVIDING FOR THE EXECUTION OF
AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION ("GDOT") AND DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA
WHEREIN DOUGHERTY COUNTY AGREES TO ASSUME FULL
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF
THE ENTIRE LIGHTING SYSTEM RELATIVE TO GDOT'S ROUNDABOUT
LIGHTING PROJECT SR 133 @ CR234/LOVERS LANE ROAD; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration to accept the Insurance Review Committee's recommended Health Benefits Plan Renewal for the 2022 Plan Year. County Administrator Michael McCoy and NFP Vice President Tammi Starkey addressed. The Insurance Review Committee Members (Scott Addison, Dominique Hall, Martha Hendley, Kenneth Johnson, Chuck Mathis and John Ostrander) was present. Action on this item is scheduled for September 13, 2021. Mr. McCoy mentioned that it is almost open enrollment time and an update on the health plan experience was provided. The highlighted recommendation included:

1. Removal of higher copays for specialty office visits without referrals.
2. No changes to employee contributions.
3. Wellness surcharges will be effective as of January 1, 2022.

Additional recommendations and offerings were provided.

Mr. McCoy announced that there will be no meeting on Monday, September 6, 2021 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

Commissioner Edwards asked for an update on the screening machine in the Judicial Building and the requested to move and make the signs larger for citizens to see. Chief Haynes addressed the concerns. Commissioner Gray encouraged individuals to look at the presentation made of the cost relative to COVID expenses and how it impacts employers and employees.

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

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK