

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on October 3, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 Attorney Alex Shalishali, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, and other staff. The public participated in person and via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel. There was no media present at the meeting.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the minutes of the August 29th Special Called Meeting and September 12th Regular Meeting.

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

The Chairman opened the public hearing for the proposed Dougherty County Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) Ordinance. The Albany-Dougherty Planning Commission recommended approval. Planning and Development Services Director Paul Forgey addressed and did a presentation on the systems and wind energy facilities. The ordinance is being considered as a proactive approach because there has been some interest in having a wind energy conversion system in Dougherty County. A lengthy discussion ensued with a question and answer period. There being no one present to speak in favor or against the proposed matter, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman called for consideration to accept the bid for Preventive Filter Maintenance for Facilities Management from the sole bidder meeting specifications, RHC Heating and Cooling (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$85,324.05. Funding is available in the General Fund.

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

The Chairman called for a consideration of the proposed board appointments. Appointments are made by nominations.

Air Conditioning, Heating & Ventilation Board- Upon a nomination by Commissioner Johnson, Quianna Lavant was unanimously appointed to the Air Conditioning, Heating & Ventilation Board to fill a one-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2022. Commissioner Johnson asked if certification was required for this board [vacancy] and County Clerk Jawahn Ware responded no.

Economic Development Commission - Commissioner Edwards nominated Lawrence Knighton. Chairman Cohilas nominated Will Davis and the nominee received one vote by Chairman Cohilas. There was no roll call for the appointment of Lawrence Knighton and the voice ballot appeared to be unanimous with no vote by Chairman Cohilas. Lawrence Knighton will fill a two-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2022, for the Economic Development Commission.

Historic Preservation Commission - Upon a nomination of the slate by Commissioner Johnson, Quianna Lavant and Kenny Loudenbarger were appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission to fill a two-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2022. Chairman Cohilas clarified that there is one vacancy left and we will readvertise for it.

Library Board - Upon a nomination by Commissioner Johnson, Will Davis was unanimously appointed to the Library Board to fill a three-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2022. Upon a nomination by Commissioner Gray, Charlotte Ledford was unanimously appointed to the Library Board to fill a three-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2023.

The Chairman called for a consideration of the resolution providing for the authorization to execute the Agreement Governing Expenditures for State and Local Government Costs with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Action is required to receive reimbursement funds from the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund in the amount of \$111,280.91. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Solid Waste Director Campbell Smith was present.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Under discussion, Mr. Addison clarified for Commissioner Johnson that applications are submitted periodically and reimbursed to the Enterprise Fund. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 22- 044 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT
GOVERNING EXPENDITURES FOR STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COSTS.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance of the proposed Dougherty County Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) Ordinance. The Albany-Dougherty Planning Commission recommended approval.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 22-045 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT TO THE CODE OF
ORDINANCES OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA TO ADD AN
ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH REGULATIONS FOR APPROVAL, SITING,
DESIGN, INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF WIND ENERGY
CONVERSION SYSTEMS AND TESTING FACILITIES AS LAND USE IN
DOUGHERTY COUNTY AND TO PROTECT THE GENERAL PUBLIC
HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE IN THE DEVELOPMENT,
IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF LAND USE IN THE
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Jones announced that this is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Commissioner Edwards asked Mr. McCoy about the overtime procedure in the Public Works department. Mr. McCoy shared that he will follow up but mentioned that the County uses the Fair Labor Standards Act. He also asked that if there is a specific case to please share it so that additional information can be provided. There was a response provided pertaining to exempt and non-exempt employees. After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Cohilas asked that Mr. McCoy provide a written response to all. Commissioner Edwards shared that there is no specific case and employees are not comfortable going to supervisors, human resources, or the Commission. Chairman Cohilas was concerned and shared information about the county's policies and procedures, especially the anti-retaliation policy.

Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. McCoy to report about the most recent Recreation Meeting. Mr. McCoy shared that most items will be on the October 10th Work Session. The letter from the Mayor will be sent in advance to the Board. Commissioner Johnson shared that there will be a policy revision to be considered by the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK