

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on March 20, 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, Anthony Jones, Clinton Johnson and Ed Newsome. 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 February 20th Regular Meeting and February 27th Work Session.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Dougherty Judicial Circuit to allocate \$500,000 of the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding or General Fund funding for courthouse capital improvements. The capital improvements are to update the audio/visual equipment in three courtrooms and the jury assembly room. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Superior Court Judge Denise Marshall and Finance Director Martha Hendley were present. Mr. McCoy shared that there is no funding available and the staff recommended denial.

Commissioner Gray moved for denial. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion to deny passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Superior Court to apply for a Judicial Council of Georgia Ad Hoc Committee on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Grant in the amount of \$500,000. The funding will be used to update the audio/visual equipment in three courtrooms and the jury assembly room. This is a 100% refundable grant with no local match required. Superior Court Judge Denise Marshall and County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed.

Judge Marshall shared that this is a great opportunity under the ARPA funding to advance outdated technology. She added that new technology is a crucial necessity in the courts.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Under discussion, Judge Marshall clarified that this is for existing courtrooms. Upon a question by Commissioner Gaines, Mr. McCoy clarified that this is a refundable grant and funding will most likely be advanced from the fund balance. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman recognized The Commodore Conyers College and Career (4C) Academy CEO, Chris Hatcher, 4C Robotics Team (The Commodores), and Coach, Darren Hagler to be recognized for their recent accomplishments and accept the proclamation from the Board of Commissioners commemorating the award. The proclamation read as follows:

A

PROCLAMATION

**BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA
COMMEMORATING THE 4C ACADEMY ROBOTICS TEAM.**

WHEREAS, the 4C Academy Commodores Robotics Team completed a top-placed finish at the Georgia FIRST Robotics Peachtree District Qualifier in Albany, Georgia on March 3rd and 4th;

WHEREAS, the Commodores competed against 25 teams from all across the state and finished the Proctor & Gamble-sponsored competition undefeated;

WHEREAS, the Commodores finished first place, which allowed them to select two alliance partners, the Techno Titans of Northview High School and Albany's Westover Robotics Team;

WHEREAS, in addition to winning the event, the Commodores also won the Autonomous Award for excellence in Robotics programming,

WHEREAS, the Commodores will continue their remarkable title run at another statewide competition in Macon followed by the District Championships in North Atlanta in early April;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County acknowledges the 4C Academy Commodores Robotics team for its historic championship season. As a Board we wish to extend our warmest congratulations to 4C Academy and commend the Commodores for the pride they bring to Dougherty County.

This the 20th day of March, 2023.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

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

The Chairman recognized Deerfield-Windsor Head of School, Allen Lowe, Girls Varsity Basketball team, Boys Varsity Cross-Country Team, and Coaches to be recognized for their recent accomplishments and accept the proclamation from the Board of Commissioners commemorating the recent championships. The proclamation read as follows:

**A
PROCLAMATION
BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY,
GEORGIA
COMMEMORATING THE DEERFIELD-WINDSOR KNIGHTS GIRLS
VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM.**

WHEREAS, the Deerfield-Windsor Knights Varsity Girls Basketball Team, led by head coach, Gina Mitchell, completed a historic season finishing 27-1 and winning the 2023 State Championship;

WHEREAS, in route to their title run, the Lady Knights defeated Tift Area Academy in the state finals 61-34, defeated Lakeview Academy in the final four 67-59, and defeated Pinewood Christian Academy 49-19;

WHEREAS, the Lady Knights also won their third region championship in four years this season by defeating Tift Area Academy 50-37 in the region championship game and extending their record in the region to 38-0 over the past four years;

WHEREAS, the historically dominant season resulted in head coach Gina Mitchell being named 2023 Coach of the Year;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County acknowledges the Deerfield-Windsor Girls Varsity Basketball Team for

its championship season. As a Board we wish to extend our warmest congratulations to the Deerfield Windsor Lady Knights for their extraordinary efforts and extend our gratitude for the pride they bring to Dougherty County.

This the 20th day of March, 2023.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

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

**A PROCLAMATION
BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY,
GEORGIA
CONGRATULATING THE DEERFIELD-WINDSOR KNIGHTS VARSITY BOYS
CROSS COUNTRY TEAM.**

WHEREAS, the Deerfield-Windsor Knights Varsity Boys Cross Country Team, led by head coach, Jake Clawson, completed their extraordinary season by winning the 2022 State Championship;

WHEREAS, the Knights Boys Cross Country Team also won the 2022 Region Championship, finishing undefeated in the region for the eighth consecutive year;

WHEREAS, the Knights Boys Cross Country Team's dominance extends well beyond its region, having gone undefeated against South Georgia competition for the past three years;

WHEREAS, because of their remarkable title run, the Knights Boys Cross Country Team were invited to the USA Track and Field Meet of Champions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County acknowledges the Deerfield-Windsor Knights Varsity Boys Cross Country Team for its historic championship season. As a Board we wish to extend our

sincere congratulations to the Deerfield-Windsor Knights Varsity Boys Cross Country Team for continuing its tradition of excellence.

This the 20th day of March, 2023.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

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

The Chairman recognized Tommy Gregors, Executive Director, Artesian Alliance, to provide an annual update to the Board. Mr. Gregors shared that the alliance is comprised of Chehaw Park and Zoo, Flint Riverquarium and Thronateska. He mentioned the attendance, percentage of visitors, and public support. He noted that they provide a 345% return on investment for funding received. Highlighted aspects of the master plan were shared to ideally attract new visitors to our area as a tourist destination. He told the Board he appreciated them and asked for continued support with funding and to provide encouraging words [in the community]. Mr. Gregors answered questions about point-of-sale tracking, accreditation and other potential attractions. Funding for projects will spread out for 5-6 years and include support from the City and County SPLOST VIII and private dollars. Commissioner Johnson suggested grant opportunities to include partnerships with the Radium Springs project. Other relative questions were addressed. Mr. Gregors stressed the importance of all recreation areas and entities should collaborate and not compete [against each other]. Commissioner Johnson asked to evaluate how the Development Authority could assist. It was confirmed that there is a great relationship with the media and an opportunity for Dougherty County to advertise attractions. Commissioner Edwards asked that the Chairman direct the topic to the Recreation Committee to discuss partnering with the alliance. Mr. McCoy recommended the committee meet after the proposed plans for Radium Springs are provided by the architect.

The Chairman recognized Harriet Hollis, Program Manager, Disaster Recovery and Grants to provide an update on the Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. Ms. Hollis shared that the cap for expenses has been increased on a case-by-case basis due to inflation. Contractors were asked to consider local hiring and it was shared that several of the vendors are minorities. It was mentioned that 32 homes were approved out of 200. The main disqualification was that many did not fall under

the initial applicable zip codes and many did not provide the requested documentation. Mr. McCoy clarified that this presentation was for the 2017 storms and another presentation will provide an update on the 2018 storms which was contracted out to another administrator. However, Ms. Hollis and her team have assisted the other vendor to best aid clients and clarified that we are bound by DCA guidelines. We are currently ready to award six but many are still with the Historic Preservation in Atlanta waiting to be cleared. Mr. McCoy recommended that the Commission direct citizens to Ms. Hollis and her team because there is a lot of information and they are the subject matter experts. Commissioner Johnson asked that Mr. McCoy have information placed on the City of Albany's website.

The Chairman opened the public hearing for the petition for Speed Bump Installation for Pine Glen Drive (Pine Glen Subdivision). The estimated cost for six-speed bumps is \$33,016 and funding is available in TSPLOST. Public Works Engineering Manager Jeremey Brown was available to answer questions. There being no individuals present in support of or opposition to the proposed traffic calming devices, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman opened the public hearing for the petition for Speed Bump Installation for Shelton Drive and Shelton Court (Mitchell Acres Subdivision). The estimated cost for five-speed bumps is \$28,080 and funding is available in TSPLOST. Public Works Engineering Manager Jeremey Brown was available to answer questions. Commissioner Gray was opposed to the installations for both and suggested that smaller or less costly options (such as stop signs) be reviewed with the traffic engineering department to save the taxpayer's dollars. There being no individuals present in support of or opposition to the proposed traffic calming devices, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of documents by the County Administrator relative to contracting with CGI Digital (Rochester, NY) to create video promotions for the County. There is no cost to the County.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Edwards requested that the Board be included to help tell stories and not just one person. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-015 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION
OF AGREEMENT WITH CGI DIGITAL TO CREATE VIDEO
PROMOTIONS FOR DOUGHERTY COUNTY; REPEALING

RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT
HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase a six-inch water pump for Public Works from the Sourcewell Contract Vendor Thompson Pump & Manufacturing (Pooler, GA) in the amount of \$47,256. The pump will be used during storm & heavy rain events to remove/divert water to prevent flooding of roadways, holding ponds, drainage ditches, and property. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VI.

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

The Chairman called for consideration to amend the FY23 General Fund Budget for \$65,000 from the Fund Balance. The purpose of the amendment is to fund the County's mandated 15% cost share requirement for two Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Acquisition and Demolition properties.

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

The Chairman called for consideration to pay the County's \$65,000 cost share of 15% for the two HMGP properties for Acquisition and Demolition properties to vendors.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the documents relative to the Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, Walmart National Opioid Settlements.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Johnson asked about [any] funding being received. Mr. McCoy said that it is under \$150,000 and this information will be resent to the Board. Attorney Shalishali and Mr. McCoy both shared that the amount for this [current] action is to be determined and information will be provided. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-016 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL
TEVA, ALLERGAN, CVS, WALGREENS, AND WALMART
SETTLEMENTS AND AGREEING TO BE BOUND BY AN
ANTICIPATED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE STATE OF GEORGIA AND GEORGIA SUBDIVISIONS
REGARDING THE NATIONAL TEVA, ALLERGAN, CVS,
WALGREENS, AND WALMART SETTLEMENTS; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT
HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the required resolution authorizing Georgia Fund I to accept fund collection for SPLOST VIII.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-017 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GEORGIA FUND I TO ACCEPT
FUND COLLECTION FOR SPLOST VIII COLLECTIONS;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation to accept the proposed Dougherty County SPLOST VIII spending plan budget.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, Mr. McCoy confirmed with Commissioner Johnson that this is the proposed budget and it is fluid. He also clarified for Commissioner Gaines that the Board previously approved the projects and this is the plan associated with the projects to be approved. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation for speed bump installation for Pine Glen Drive (Pine Glen Subdivision). The estimated cost for six-speed bumps is \$33,016 and funding is available in TSPLOST.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Edwards asked again for a copy of the petition. Commissioner

Gaines said it would be good for staff to look at other options. Mr. McCoy shared that these are requests of the public and we evaluate them based on the policy. She said that our policy may be flawed and procedures be evaluated. Mr. Brown addressed the criteria of other policies and shared that they can be amended. Commissioner Gray made a motion to deny and allow staff to come back with a less costly option. The motion failed due to a lack of a second. Commissioner Edwards said moving forward he would like more flexibility and changes to the policy. The motion passed with six ayes and one nay by Commissioner Gray. Mr. McCoy confirmed that it is clear for staff to look at the policy and provide options.

The Chairman called for the consideration of the recommendation for speed bump installation for Shelton Drive and Shelton Court (Mitchell Acres Subdivision). The estimated cost for five-speed bumps is \$28,080 and funding is available in TSPLOST.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The motion for approval passed with six ayes and one nay by Commissioner Gray.

The Chairman called for the consideration of the resolution declaring the listed vehicles as surplus and authorizing the disposal of or sale of same via an online auction. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-018 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION DECLARING AS SURPLUS THE
ATTACHED LIST OF VEHICLES;
PROVIDING FOR DISPOSAL OF OR SALE OF SAME ON
AN ONLINE AUCTION; REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS
IN CONFLICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Newsome shared positive feedback from today's presentation regarding the youth. Mr. McCoy clarified the statements about the plans for the Radium Springs area for Commissioner Edwards. It may include a conceptual plan as well. Mr. McCoy also said that the issue pertaining to the dam had already been addressed. Commissioner Edwards asked about Juneteenth and Mr. McCoy shared that the County will participate and the City of Albany Recreation will take the lead. He added meetings and events are being held up to June and being managed at a staff level. Commissioner Edwards wanted to be included and asked the Commission to provide a recommendation to be forwarded. Attorney Shalishali reminded everyone that any involvement from the Board should be at the Board level and not at the staff

level. Commissioner Gaines asked for information on how offenders/ users of opioids will be handled. Mr. McCoy shared that he was asked to follow up with the District Attorney, who is the most appropriate person. Commissioner Gaines asked Mr.McCoy to continue the discussion on the Housing Plan and this is the best time to address it because we are going through it. Commissioner Jones reemphasized the need to work with Commissioner Johnson and the City of Albany to use TSPLOST for sidewalks especially on the east side to downtown. He added that public safety should be our main focus. The Chairman emphasized that the Commission be notified before Juneteenth events are finalized.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK