

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 19, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on July 19, 2021. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were 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 Spencer Lee, Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Hope, 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, the Chairman called for approval of the June 21st Regular Meeting and June 28th Special Called Meeting minutes.

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

The Chairman recognized Tax Director Shonna Josey and Chief Appraiser Joseph McPherson to discuss the Certified 2021 Tax Digest for the Countywide M&O and Special Services District. Mrs. Josey shared that the Countywide M&O is based on the 2020 millage rate of 15.569. The net M&O digest assessed value is \$2,011,965,474 with the total taxes levied plus PILOT at \$33,619,058. The total amount for the Forest Land Protection (FLPA) and PILOT are \$2,294,769. The 2021 total gross digest are \$2,242,068,315 with a 1.33% change. The total net M&O had a total change of 0.34%. The parcel count is 37,820. The timeline for the process and advertising was shared.

Mrs. Josey discussed the Special Services District Tax Digest summary and stated that it is based on the 2020 millage rate of 9.173. The net digest assessed value is \$562,208,730 with the total taxes levied plus PILOT at \$5,894,773. The total amount for the FLPA & PILOT is \$570,806. The 2021 total gross digest is \$662,153,910 with a 3.97% change. The total net M&O had a total change of 2.67%. The parcel count is 9,322. The Chairman gathered consensus that from the Commission to maintain the millage rate at the 15.569 rates for the Countywide M&O and 9.173 for the Special Service District. Commissioner Gaines asked Mrs. Josey to send her the presentation so that she could clarify that there would be a greater impact on the Special Services District.

The Chairman recognized William Wright, representative of AFRAM Tech, Inc. who spoke on behalf of his concern with line item 9d on the agenda referencing the amendment of the budget.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the execution and acceptance of the contract to install Playground Equipment at Radium Overlook Park for the Public Works Department from the lowest quoted vendor, GameTime (Longwood, FL) in the amount of \$26,960.04 subject to execution by the County Administrator. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII – County Parks Improvement/Equipment.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-038 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND  
EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT BETWEEN DOUGHERTY  
COUNTY, GEORGIA AND GAMETIME IN THE AMOUNT OF  
\$26,960.04 FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING PLAYGROUND  
EQUIPMENT AT RADIUM OVERLOOK PARK; REPEALING  
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT  
HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the board appointments.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, incumbents Thelma Adams-Johnson and Larry Thomas were unanimously reappointed to the Albany/ Dougherty Land Bank for a two-year term ending July 31, 2023.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Gaines, incumbent Dr. Eugene Sherman was unanimously reappointed to the ASPIRE Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Services Board for a three-year term ending June 30, 2024.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Jones, incumbent Dr. Carolyn Hand was unanimously reappointed to the Department of Family & Children Services for a five-year term ending June 30, 2026.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, incumbents Commissioner Clinton Johnson and Chris Hatcher were unanimously reappointed to the Economic Development Commission for a two-year term ending June 30, 2023. [Commissioner Johnson will serve as the appointee of the Chairman].

Upon nomination by Commissioner Gray, applicant George Anderson was unanimously appointed to the Tax Assessors for an unexpired three-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Attorney Lee addressed and said that there is a resolution attached to the Tax Assessors appointment. Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-039 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE  
APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY BOARD OF TAX  
ASSESSORS TO POST 5 FOR AN UNEXPIRED  
TERM BEGINNING JULY 19, 2021 AND ENDING  
DECEMBER 31, 2023; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS  
OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT  
HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring the listed vehicles and equipment as surplus and authorizing the sale of same via an online auction.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-040 is entitled:

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

The Chairman called for consideration to approve the resolution declaring the listed equipment as surplus and authorize the disposal of same. This is a listing of equipment damaged by water in the Judicial Building for the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-041 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION DECLARING AS SURPLUS THE  
ATTACHED LIST OF EQUIPMENT  
PROVIDING FOR DISPOSAL OF SAME  
REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS  
IN CONFLICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for acceptance of the annual Cooperative Agreement with Turner Job Corps Center and Dougherty County outlining the assistance of the Dougherty County Police Department in performing law enforcement duties.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-042 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND  
EXECUTION OF AN ANNUAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND TURNER JOB  
CORPS CENTER OUTLINING THE ASSISTANCE OF THE  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT IN PERFORMING  
LAW ENFORCEMENT DUTIES AT THE TURNER JOB CORPS CENTER  
LOCATION; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF  
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Finance Committee to amend the FY 2022 Budget for the General Fund from \$56,087,366 to \$58,971,080 and to amend the FY 2022 Budget for the Special Services District from \$8,192,540 to \$8,598,902. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Mr. McCoy said that this was a good decision to address on behalf of the “hard-to-fill” positions that deal with life, safety and critical roles within Dougherty County. He added that premium pay and the pay class study will be forthcoming and stressed that the initial increase is only for public safety. Mr. McCoy said that the modified timeframe of the lump-sum distribution will be done in August 2021. Chairman Cohilas corrected information from an earlier discussion of the tax digest and said that Commissioner Gaines was correct in referring to a greater impact in the Special Services District.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Jones said that he was excited about implementing the increase for the employees and hope to continue to provide increases. He suggested that he would like to see a plan formulated to assist employees in receiving regular increases. The motion for approval passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gaines asked Mr. McCoy to provide a full briefing of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to the Commission. Mr. McCoy said that ACCG will be providing training and extended the offer to the Commission to participate. The Chairman asked Mr. McCoy to forward that information to the Commission. Mr. McCoy reiterated that he will come with a proposed spending project plan and utilization at end of the first quarter of the fiscal year, near the end of September. Commissioner Gaines also mentioned that the COVID rates are decreasing and vaccinations are steadily increasing based on the percentages she analyzed.

Commissioner Newsome provided his appreciation to the Commissioners for helping him during his first budget cycle and looks forward to progressing more.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK