

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on October 16, 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 Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, 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 September 18th Regular Meeting and September 25th Work Session.

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

The Chairman recognized citizen Willie Jones to accept the proclamation recognizing his recent 100th Birthday. Bethel AME Pastor, other members, family and friends were also present to share in the recognition of the centenarian. The proclamation read as follows:

**Proclamation to Honor Willie Lee Jones in Commemoration of His  
One Hundredth Birthday**

**Whereas**, Mr. Willie Lee Jones was born on September 23, 1923 in Terrell County, Georgia and is the sole child of Mr. Eddie Lee and Mrs. Wille Bell Jones, and

**Whereas**, Mr. Willie Lee Jones relocated to Albany, Georgia after marrying Elease Evelyn Cooper 67 years ago and they were blessed with three daughters, Tynese Jones, Dedra Evans (Jones) and Donna Hall (Jones). He is also the proud father of four daughters from a previous marriage, Alice Hendricks, Willa Merrit, Annie Lee Jones and Sandra Pascal. He has 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Whereas**, after working for more than 40 years at Nilo Plantation in Albany, Georgia, Mr. Jones retired and is a Stewart (Emeritus) and active member of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Albany where he is currently recognized as the oldest member and stays busy enjoying his family and friends, fishing and gardening.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia and it is hereby proclaimed by the Authority of same that the life of Mr. Willie Lee Jones is commemorated on September 23, 2023 his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

This is the 16<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER 2023.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
LORENZO L. HEARD, Chairman  
Dougherty County Commission

The Chairman opened the public hearing for King Randall, owner and applicant, (23-053) request to rezone a 24.74-acre vacant parcel from R-2 (Single-Family Residential District) to C-8 (Commercial Recreational District). The rezoning would allow for the construction of a multipurpose facility. The property is at 2901 Barnaby Drive. The Planning Commission recommended denial. Paul Forgey, Planning Director addressed. If the County Commission considered approval for rezoning, staff recommended that the request be conditioned to only allow for the proposed site layout [plan] and that parking be reduced considerably. King Randall and citizens Jacara Fuller and Sharri Anderson spoke in favor of the request. Citizens Willie Dawson, Barbara Dawson, Emma Robinson, Robert Lewis, Frank Williamson, and Alvin Hightower spoke in opposition of the request. All the individuals who were opposed shared that the program by King Randall was beneficial but was not recommended for the residential neighborhood. It was clarified for Commissioner Johnson that only 2901 Barnaby Drive would be changed to C-8, not the surrounding parcels. The differences between special approvals, variances, and zoning use changes were noted. Mr. Forgey provided options for the Board to consider. There being no additional comments regarding the proposed matter, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman opened the public hearing for Orchard Machinery Corporation, applicant and JTMF LLC, owner, (23-064) request to rezone 2-acres from C-1 (Neighborhood Mixed-Use Business District) to C-3 (Commercial District). The rezoning would allow for the operation of a commercial parts and service business for orchard machinery. The property is at 2824 Gillionville Road. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Paul Forgey, Planning Director addressed. The owner's representative BJ Vanhousen clarified questions of the Board. There being no additional comments regarding the proposed matter, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman called for consideration to approve the alcohol application from MJT Management Group, Travis W. Williams licensee, at 1304 Williamsburg Road for Consumption- Liquor, Beer, and Wine. The Albany-Dougherty Marshal's Office recommended approval.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Gray had a question regarding the business name and it was confirmed by Deputy Marshal Mitchell. 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 rental agreement renewal between the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners and the State Properties Commission on behalf of the Department of Driver Services located at 2062 Newton Road, Albany, GA 31701 by the Assistant County Administrator.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-050 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION FOR ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION OF  
THE RENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOUGHERTY  
COUNTY, GEORGIA AND THE STATE PROPERTIES  
COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DRIVER SERVICES; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS  
OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Emergency Medical Services Department to apply for the FY 2024 EMS Trauma Related Equipment Reimbursement Grant through the Georgia Trauma Commission in the amount of \$10,434. This is a 100% grant with no local match.

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

The Chairman called for a consideration of the resolution providing for the approval of a stipend for the Assistant County Administrator pending his duties as acting County Administrator. County Attorney Alex Shalishali addressed by recommending approval.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23- 051 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL OF A  
STIPEND FOR THE ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
PENDING HIS DUTIES AS ACTING COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS  
OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for the zoning consideration of King Randall, owner and applicant, (23-053) request to rezone a 24.74-acre vacant parcel from R-2 (Single-Family Residential District) to C-8 (Commercial Recreational District). The rezoning would allow for the construction of a multipurpose facility. The property is at 2901 Barnaby Drive. The Planning Commission recommended denial.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Commissioner Edwards made a substitute motion to deny the zoning consideration. Commissioner Gaines seconded the substitute motion. The motion to deny passed with four ayes by Commissioners Edwards, Gaines, Jones and Chairman Heard and three nays by Commissioners Newsome, Gray and Johnson.

The Chairman called for the zoning consideration of Orchard Machinery Corporation, applicant and JTMF LLC, owner, (23-064) request to rezone 2-acres from C-1 (Neighborhood Mixed-Use Business District) to C-3 (Commercial District). The rezoning would allow for the operation of a commercial parts and service business for orchard machinery. The property is at 2824 Gillionville Road. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. The zoning proclamation reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ZONING REGULATIONS  
AND MAP OF THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA (RESOLUTION NO. 212,  
AS AMENDED) SO AS TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF THE  
PROPERTY HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia, and IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by authority of same:

SECTION I: That from and after the passage of this Resolution, the official Zoning Regulations and Map of the unincorporated area of Dougherty County, adopted December 1, 1969, as amended, be, and the same are hereinafter described as follows:

CHANGE FROM:	C-1 (Neighborhood Mixed Use Business District)
TO:	C-3 (Commercial District)
OWNER/APPLICANT:	JTMF, LLC (Owner) Orchard Machinery Cooperation (Applicant)

LOCATION:

2824 Gillionville Road

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 82 IN THE SECOND LAND DISTRICT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF WESTOVER ROAD, EXTENDED NORTHERLY, WITH THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF GILLIONVILLE ROAD, EXTENDED EASTERLY, WHICH POINT IS 100 FEET EAST OF THE MOST WESTERLY END OF THE MITER OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF SAID ROADS, AND RUN THENCE SOUTH 87 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY OF SAID GILLIONVILLE ROAD A DISTANCE OF 1,258.03 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; RUN THENCE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 20 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 432.44 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTHEAST RIGHT OF WAY OF A DOUGHERTY COUNTY DRAINAGE CANAL (80 FOOT RIGHT OF WAY); RUN THENCE NORTH 56 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTHEAST RIGHT OF WAY OF SAID DRAINAGE CANAL A DISTANCE OF 317.53 FEET TO A POINT; RUN THENCE NORTH 02 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 35 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 246.92 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH RIGHT OT WAY OF SAID GILLIONVILLE ROAD; RUN THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY OF SAID GILLIONVILLE ROAD A.DISTANCE OF 257.88 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAID PROPERTY BEING DESIGNATED TRACT 4-A OF THE SUBDIVISION OF ESTATE FARMS PARTNERSHIP, SECTION ONE, ACCORDING TO A MAP OR PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION AS -SAME IS RECORDED IN PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE C-28, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA.

SECTION II: That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same hereby are repealed.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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CLERK

APPROVED: October 16, 2023

Mr. Brooks distributed TSPLOST brochures and provided an update on the plan for the Flint River Trails. He shared that the approved animal truck will be obtained this week. The UTV approved for EMS had been received and would be upfitted but was operational. The Central Library was temporarily closed pending a maintenance issue. Mr. Brooks added that

he was working to find a building for the Public Works crew quarters. The current building was closed for mold issues and he was working with the City of Albany to possibly use a building. An update on the Jefferson Street closure was provided and he shared the County's concerns dated to August regarding safety and access. He also noted that we were not involved with the closure but had been taking proactive measures regarding EMS involvement. Mr. Brooks mentioned that the City was the last "voice" and the County could offer recommendations. Commissioner Gray had suggestions and EMS Director Sam Allen addressed. Commissioner Gaines wanted to ensure that Phoebe and Mr. Steiner understood and clarified that the County has no responsibility for the road closure and signage, but were trying to be good citizens. Mr. Brooks said that the City of Albany was requesting assistance from GDOT and stressed that the County was trying to work with Phoebe and the City of Albany weekly. It was mentioned that even though we were not legally responsible, we were working to serve the community.

Commissioner Edwards asked Mr. Brooks to come up with a solution to provide clearance of trees in Southgate. Mr. Brooks shared that he would provide an update. He also informed the Commission of an issue regarding theft at one of the maintenance sheds. Chairman Heard recognized Commissioners Jones and Newsome for their specialty certificates. Commissioner Johnson provided an update from the recent ACCG conference and NAMI Walk. Commissioner Gaines provided an update on the ASU homecoming. She also reminded individuals in the unincorporated areas of Dougherty County to please still vote because of the TSPLOST issue and encouraged use of early voting as an option. Commissioner Jones commended Clerk Ware for assisting him in enrolling in his classes. Chairman Heard thanked the individuals for their investment in the community for the ASU homecoming.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK