

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 3, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on January 3, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, and other staff. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison participated via the audio-conferencing feature. 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.

The Chairman recognized Commissioner Clinton Johnson as the Vice Chairman for Calendar Year 2022 per Resolution No. 91-011.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the December 6th Regular Meeting, December 13th Special Called Meeting and December 14th State Delegation Meeting Minutes.

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

The County Commission recognized the following board members for their service:

- > **Dougherty County Developmental Authority** - Winfred Benson (21 years), J.C. Odom, Jr. (21 years) and Frank Williamson (2 years)
- > **Dougherty County Health Board** - Wilbert Moore (18 years)
- > **Flood Plain Management Review Board** – Marvelyn Boyette (34 years)
- > **Keep Albany Dougherty Beautiful Board** - Virginia Johnson (34 years)

Mr. Benson, Mr. Moore, Ms. Boyette and Ms. Johnson were all present to accept their plaques. Mr. Odom and Mr. Williamson were not present and will receive their plaques by mail.

The Chairman recognized Dougherty County Assistant Police Chief Tateshea Irving to discuss policing of ATVs in the unincorporated area of the County. Assistant Police Chief Irving shared that the county police had purchased vehicles to assist with policing and discussed recent complaints, incidents and resolutions provided. Upon questions by the

Commission, Assistant Police Chief Irving confirmed that the use of drones is being considered and addressed additional concerns. Mr. McCoy discussed the use of motorized vehicles in the park and Commissioner Edwards suggested that a policy be considered to not infringe on the rights of citizens that are not predatory in the community. Commissioner Edwards added that many individuals moved to the County to be able to use their vehicles and need a place to ride. A lengthy discussion ensued and the Chairman suggested that additional discussion be held offline to move the agenda along.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase twenty-five portable radios for ADDU from single source vendor Motorola Solutions (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$127,239.14. Parts are no longer available to repair aged inventory. Funding is available in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. ADDU Major Ryan Ward was present. Mr. Addison said that one of the items was included in year one of the ARPA plan and recommended approval.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Under discussion, Mr. McCoy clarified the ARPA budget for Commissioner Edwards. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase 10,000 home Covid tests from Matrix Management in the amount of \$135,000 (\$13.50/unit - 2 tests per unit). Funding is available from ARPA. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Mr. McCoy said that these tests would be for use in the organization and available for the public. He added that the health department only offered PCR tests and these tests are not readily available in the pharmacies. A distribution plan is being created and he would like to make this investment to mitigate the risk in the community. Once the plan is confirmed, it will be distributed. Suggestions of deployment were discussed and if approved, ideally kits could be distributed as early as Friday.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. After approval, EMS Director Sam Allen was asked to provide an update on the new variant and community numbers. Mr. Allen mentioned that the goal is to reduce the number of individuals going to the hospital and to avoid overloading the facilities. It was confirmed that the tests are rapid and Commissioner Gray suggested that the County administer these tests to prevent misuse and fraud. Mr. McCoy shared that the purpose was for at-home use and Mr. Allen provided additional discussion on testing time, usage and training materials. The Commission was in favor that only Dougherty County residents will receive the tests. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for a recess at 10:57 a.m. and reconvened at 11:02 a.m.

The Chairman called for consideration of the proposed board appointment. County Clerk Jawahn Ware was present to address. There was a new applicant named Will Davis who desired to fill an unexpired three-year term ending December 31, 2024 for the Payroll Development Authority.

The Chairman motioned that the application is tabled and reconsidered in 60 days to obtain more applicants. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion and Chairman Cohilas said that Mr. Davis does not have to reapply to this board vacancy. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to review the approval of the resolution providing for the execution of an Intergovernmental License Agreement between the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County for the purpose of providing access to the University System Property on the Albany State University Campus relative to the ASU to Downtown Albany Section of the Flint River Trails Master Plan. Dougherty County Attorney Spencer Lee and County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Johnson asked for an update on pending easements and Attorney Lee stated that he will address it after the next item on the agenda. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 22-001 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL LICENSE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
OF GEORGIA AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGHERTY
COUNTY, GEORGIA RELATIVE TO THE ASU TO DOWNTOWN
CONNECTOR SEGMENT OF THE FLINT RIVER TRAILS MASTER PLAN;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HERewith; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration to review the approval of an easement agreement between Beauchamp Properties & Renovations, LLC and Dougherty County for the purpose of providing access to the Beauchamp Property relative to the ASU to Downtown Albany Section of the Flint River Trails Master Plan. Dougherty County Attorney Spencer Lee and County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Attorney Lee stated that there are three easements and two of them will need to be executed by ADICA and the City of Albany. He added that the documents have been provided to the City Attorney for the licensing agreement.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-002 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND EXECUTION
OF AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN BEAUCHAMP
PROPERTIES & RENOVATIONS, LLC AND DOUGHERTY COUNTY,
GEORGIA RELATIVE TO THE ASU TO DOWNTOWN CONNECTOR
SEGMENT OF THE FLINT RIVER TRAILS MASTER PLAN;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mr. McCoy announced that the Joint Redistricting Committee will meet at 11 a.m. in Room 100.

Chairman Cohilas announced the 2022 Commission Subcommittee appointments and stated that they will remain the same as 2021. He also offered his sincere thanks for the work done by the Board especially during the trying times.

Commissioner Edwards asked that the Board of Commissioners be included in the pay study. Attorney Lee said that the Board could (1) pass a resolution asking that local legislation be enabled or (2) use home rule where the Commission can do it themselves. The process was outlined and stressed that if the latter was chosen, then it must be done before qualifications. Commissioner Edwards shared that he understands the process but he would like a professional to look at the comparatives since we are having a current study done. Chairman Cohilas was clear that he was not advocating for an increase for the Commission and that this is an inquiry based on Commissioner Edwards' request. Mr. McCoy was directed to obtain a comparative analysis and was asked for it to be done internally. Commissioner Edwards stressed that he only asked for the information to know where the Commission [pay] stood. He also asked for an update on the Radium Springs project with the consultant and Mr. McCoy said that he can provide an update to the entire board. Lastly, Commissioner Edwards said that he would like to meet with Mr. McCoy regarding the overall vision for his district and the County. Chairman Cohilas said this is best done at our retreat and it will be in February in Savannah, Georgia. Commissioner Jones shared that his constituents were looking for an update on their parks and Commissioner Gray gave an update on the coordination with EMA and Georgia Power to ensure that the flood gates are open to mitigate flooding.

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

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK