

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

June 12, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on June 12, 2023. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. 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 via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel.

After the roll call and the invocation, Chairman Heard asked the Commission to review the minutes of the May 15th Regular Meeting, May 22nd Work Session and May 25th Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman opened the public hearing for the proposed FY 2023-24 budgets. No one was present to speak for or against the proposed budgets. Mrs. Hendley reminded the Board that the only change consisted of increasing one of the Jail's contracts and she said that all changes will be presented at the end of the month. She also addressed questions from Commissioner Gaines pertaining to the funding of interest bearing accounts. There being no further discussion, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman recognized James Morgan, County Extension Coordinator, to update the Commission with the quarterly report. Mr. Morgan shared that this is his final report to the Board [he will be moving] and his last day is June 28th. He thanked the Commission for the support and tokens of appreciation were presented. He shared the plan of action provided by his supervisor to replace his position. The Commission provided well wishes to Mr. Morgan on his new journey.

The Chairman called for a zoning discussion for Deborah Johnson, owner and Johnathan Johnson, applicant (23-030) request for special approval to convert an in-home daycare serving up to six clients to a daycare learning center to allow an increase of up to 18 daycare clients on a 1-acre parcel zoned R-2 (Single-Family Residential). The Planning Commission recommended approval. Angel Gray, Deputy Planning Director addressed. The Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for June 26, 2023. It was noted that there will be a conditional approval presented during the public hearing. Ms. Gray shared that all signage must comply with the Dougherty County ordinance. She requested that Commissioner Edwards defer his other questions to the public hearing.

The Chairman called for a discussion to accept the bid for six 2023 Police Pursuit Utility AWD vehicles from the lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder, Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) in the amount of \$261,960. Two bids were received with the highest being \$271,200. Funding is

budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and City of Albany Buyer Corey Gamble addressed. Captain Jason Hager was present.

The Chairman called for a recommendation from the Library to apply for the Georgia Public Library Service Grant in the amount of \$600,000 to renovate the Westtown Branch. This grant requires a 50% match. Funding for the local match in the amount of \$300,000 will come from SPLOST VI and VII. Library Director Gail Evans addressed. Finance Director Martha Hendley was present. Ms. Evans said that the time limit on the MMR funding received had expired. They are now applying for another MMR grant and a capital outlay grant. She shared that an application does not mean that we will receive it. It is projected that one grant will be received; however, there will be a funding shortfall for the renovation unless the scope is changed.

The Chairman called for a recommendation from the Library to apply for the Georgia Public Library Service Capital Outlay Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 for capital improvements at the Westtown Branch. This grant requires a 10% match. Funding for the local match in the amount of \$100,000 will come from SPLOST VII. Library Director Gail Evans addressed. Finance Director Martha Hendley was present. Ms. Evans shared the particulars of this request in addition to the one previously discussed and added a high-level review of the planned renovations.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to retroactively apply and accept the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Council of Accountability Courts Judges 2024 Accountability Court Operating Grant for FY 2024 (J24-8-064) in the amount of \$124,182 with a 12% match. The match is traditionally met through the use of DATE (Drug Abuse Treatment Education) funds. The grant is a reimbursement grant provided by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The grant must be applied for and accepted by the Commission each year. Grant Administrator Patricia Griffin addressed. Finance Director Martha Hendley was present. Ms. Griffin asked for approval of this recovery grant and shared that the other items listed on the agenda fund their programs.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to accept the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Council of Accountability Courts Judges 2024 Accountability Court Operating Grant for FY 2024 (K52-8-004) in the amount of \$199,988. The grant is a reimbursement grant provided by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and no match is required. The grant must be accepted by the Commission each year. Finance Director Martha Hendley and Grant Administrator Patricia Griffin were present to address.

The Chairman called a recommendation to accept the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Council of Accountability Courts Judges 2024 Accountability Court Operating Grant for FY 2024 (K52-8-005) in the amount of \$177,776. The grant is a reimbursement grant provided by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and no match is required. The grant must be accepted by the Commission each year. Grant Administrator Patricia Griffin addressed. Finance Director Martha Hendley was present. Ms. Griffin addressed the question from Commissioner Edwards regarding the use of DATE funds. Upon the request of Commissioner Edwards and the consent of the Chairman, Ms. Griffin will meet with Chief

Ostrander regarding enrolling inmates to receive services, especially pertaining to substance abuse. She also shared some of the actions that they take now at the Jail.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the board appointments. County Clerk Jawahn Ware addressed.

ASPIRE Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Services Board –

There are three appointments with a three-year term ending June 30, 2026. Incumbents Coroner Michael Fowler (Elected official appointment) and Richard Ware desire reappointment. Incumbent Leonard Minter is deceased. There are two new applicants: Becky Farkas and Jeanette Henderson.

Chehaw Park Authority – There is one appointment with a three-year term ending July 1, 2026. Incumbent Scott Steiner desires reappointment. There are no new applicants.

The Chairman called for the continued presentation and review of the proposed FY 2024 Budgets as recommended by the Finance Committee. Finance Director Martha Hendley shared that there were no additional changes because she addressed all during the public hearing.

Commissioner Edwards asked about scheduling a ribbon cutting for the Rescue Mission. Mr. Brooks said that he will provide an update. Commissioner Gray shared that Commissioner Newsome was selected as the Albany Herald’s Readers’ Choice favorite County Commissioner. Commissioner Gaines asked about the Juneteenth event and Public Information Officer Wendy Howell provided an update. Commissioner Jones asked Ms. Howell to send an itinerary.

The Chairman called for the recommendation from the County Attorney to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues and then to adjourn.

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

There being no further discussion, the Board entered into Executive Session at 11:00 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK