

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

May 23, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on May 23, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. Commissioner Gloria Gaines participated via the audio-conferencing feature. County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Clerk Jawahn Ware and other staff were also present. 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. County Attorney Spencer Lee was absent.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the May 2nd Regular Meeting and May 9th Work Session.

The Chairman recognized Coroner Michael Fowler who asked for financial support for his annual Swim for Life Program. This is the first time the Board has been asked for support financially. Upon question by Commissioner Edwards, Mr. Fowler shared that the City is sponsoring bounce houses at the registration event. The Chairman plans to privately support but asked the Coroner to meet with County Administrator McCoy to determine how the Board can assist. Commissioner Jones shared that he will sponsor two students.

The Chairman recognized citizen Harry Thomas to update the Commission on upcoming events. He stated that he has met with Commissioner Gaines but is still awaiting the Board's response to the presentation he made in 2019.

The Chairman recognized Public Works Director Chuck Mathis to provide an update on Putney Park. Mr. Mathis shared that most of the improvements have been completed. Upon question by the Chairman, Jerney Brown updated the Board on the denial of grants, noting additional information will be obtained by Planning and Development who submitted the packet on the County's behalf. The Chairman requested that the conceptual drawings be submitted to our government liaison's Cornerstone to determine what additional grants and opportunities are available. Commissioner Johnson would like to provide the information to Mr. Addison that he and Commissioner Edwards received from a recent recreation class. Commissioner Jones asked that funding be added in SPLOST VIII to allow Putney Park to mirror Radium Springs Park to include a safe room, meeting space, and asphalt walkways. Recreation Subcommittee Chairman Clinton Johnson shared that Putney Park is a priority of the subcommittee and funding has been requested in SPLOST VIII.

The Chairman recognized Sheriff's Office Captain Ted Thomas to request funding for the Albany Dougherty Youth Unit Summer Program. It was shared that the program will be five weeks and it will be educationally based to bridge the gap between the community, students

and law enforcement. The dates will be May 31-July 15 at Merry Acres Middle School. Meals and snacks will be provided and field trips are planned. The operational expense is \$11,115. Mr. McCoy shared that staff has proposed funding the program as they did last year and it will be presented during a presentation on June 6th. Other Sheriff's Office representatives that will be supporting the program were introduced.

Mr. McCoy changed participation to the audio feature at 10:30 a.m.

The Chairman recognized William Wright, representative for AFRAM Tech, Inc. present to continue his update to the Commission. Mr. Wright would like to provide workshops in June and will give additional information at the June 6th meeting.

The Chairman called for a discussion to purchase two chillers for the Dougherty Mental Health Facility in the amount of \$310,366 from SafeAire Heating & Cooling (Albany, Ga). The two 120-ton chillers are replacements and funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Facilities Management Director Heidi Minnick was present. Action on this item is scheduled in the following Special Called Meeting. Mr. Addison said that this was time-sensitive and one manufacturer increased the quote by 18% during the time the quote was received to the time it was presented to the Board. He recommended approval before another increase occurs.

The Chairman called for a discussion to purchase one 2022 Ford Escape for the Sheriff's Office from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) in the amount of \$28,163.34. Four vendors submitted bids with the highest being \$49,043. Two bids would require order submission prior to board approval. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. City of Albany Interim Procurement Manager Joshua Williams, Buyer Corey Gamble and Deputy Chief Terron Hayes were present. Action on this item is scheduled in the following Special Called Meeting. Mr. Addison said that two vendors required commitment prior to the presentation to the Board.

The Chairman called for a discussion to declare the listed vehicles as surplus and authorizing the disposal of or sale of same via an online auction. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Action on this item is scheduled in the following Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman called for a discussion to accept the resolution declaring a 2017 Nissan Pathfinder (from the Solid Waste Department) as surplus and authorize the sale through Underwriters Safety & Claims. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Action on this item is scheduled in the following Special Called Meeting. Mr. Addison shared that the vehicle was involved in a fire and was totaled.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the request from Lanier Engineering, Inc., consultant for JFT Public Properties (Developer), for Dougherty County to ask the City of Albany to authorize the developer, at his expense, to extend City sanitary sewer into the unincorporated area of Dougherty County. The project site is located at 2005 Beattie Road. Jeremy Brown, Engineering Manager addressed. Representatives from Lanier Engineering were present.

Action on this item is scheduled in the following Special Called Meeting. Mr. Brown shared that the request was for the city sewer services to be in the subdivision. The process is for the County to request that the City follows their code to complete the request.

Commissioner Edwards asked about minority participation in bids and awards and questioned if a subcommittee could meet with Mr. Wright. Commissioner Gray and Chairman Cohilas addressed. Chairman Cohilas also expressed his opinion by stating that his desire is for economic development opportunities to be provided to all in our community despite the color of their skin. However, he is willing to continue the discussion. Commissioner Edwards supported the Chairman's comments and stated that it is about employment overall. Commissioner Jones questioned what more could procurement do because recruiting efforts have been provided to all including minorities. Commissioner Gray shared that there is not a problem with businesses in our community. He added that many small businesses are busy and stressed that it is a lot of red tape dealing with the government and many individuals do not want to go through the process. If we continue to focus on local businesses, we are supporting our [local] job base.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission entered into a Special Called Meeting at 11:06 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK