

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2024 DRAFT

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 26, 2024. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, and other staff. The public and media participated in person and via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel. Commissioners Gloria Gaines and Russell Gray were absent.

After the invocation by Chairman Heard, he asked the Commission to review the minutes of the August 5th Regular Meeting and August 12th Work Session.

The Chairman opened the public hearing for the proposed tax increase of .15% for the County-Wide Digest and the proposed tax increase of .15% for the Special Services Digest. The millage rates remain the same as last year. The County-Wide millage rate is 19.069 and the Special Services millage rate is 9.173. There being no individuals present in support of or opposition to the proposed tax public hearing, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman recognized Bianca Hamilton, co-Executive Director of Sowega Birthworkers Collective, to provide information and receive the proclamations for National Breastfeeding Month and National Black Breastfeeding Week. Co-Director Victoria Snowden was not present. Doulas were present and recognized and Ms. Hamilton answered questions from the Board highlighting the SOWEGA Birthworkers Collective events being held during the week.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to purchase five new 2024 Ford Interceptors from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) in the amount of \$237,500 for the Sheriff's Office. The vehicles are available for immediate delivery. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VIII. Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks and Sheriff's Office Major Ken Faust addressed. Major Faust addressed the questions of Commissioner Johnson.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to utilize single source provider, Dana Safety Supply, Inc. (Weston GA) to outfit five new 2024 Ford Interceptors in the amount of \$41,080.55. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VIII. Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Sheriff's Office Major Ken Faust was present. Mr. Brooks shared that this was related to the previously discussed item.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to purchase five new 2024 Ford Explorer Pursuit Vehicles for \$47,387 each and one new 2023 Ford Explorer Admin Vehicle for \$40,945 from State Contract Vendor Wade Ford, (Smyrna, GA) for a total expenditure of \$277,880 for the Dougherty County Police Department. The vehicles are available for immediate delivery.

Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VIII. Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Captain Jason Hagar was present. Mr. Brooks answered questions from Commissioners Johnson and Jones regarding supply chain management, replacements, and pricing.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to purchase three new 2023 Ford F-150 Regular Cab trucks for \$41,125 each and one new 2023 Ford F-150 Super crew truck for \$47,645 from State Contract Vendor Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA), for a total expenditure of \$171,020 for Solid Waste. The vehicles are available for immediate delivery. Funding is budgeted in Solid Waste - Capital Outlay. Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Solid Waste Interim Director Melvin Williams was present.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to purchase a Boom Mower with attachments from Sourcewell Contract Vendor National Equipment Dealers, LLC (Lexington, NC) in the amount of \$205,546.75 for Solid Waste. There is a four-month delivery time frame. Funding is budgeted in Solid Waste - Capital Outlay. Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Solid Waste Interim Director Melvin Williams was present.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the proposed resolution providing for the approval of a stipend for the Coroner to supplement his annual salary. County Attorney Alex Shalishali addressed. Due to the Coroner's role as a public official and his salary being created by the General Assembly, it was confirmed that the County could provide a supplement without going back to the delegation. The adjustment of the gross amount of \$833 per month will be effective with the next pay period. It was noted that the amount will be continued during Mr. Fowler's tenure as Coroner.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the proposed resolution establishing a Judicial Building Master Planning Task Force, providing for the purpose, of establishing membership, organization, support, goals, and funding. Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. The resolution was requested to be approved, which allowed the tenants to have a voice. Chair of the Public Works Subcommittee Commissioner Newsome will chair the Task Force and funding for renovations will be brought back for approval. Commissioner Newsome confirmed that the plan would take about 14 months to complete and the blueprints have been created. Mr. Brooks addressed the question from Commissioner Edwards about using a resolution by providing a response that a resolution would be used to confirm the constitution of the Task Force. It was shared that it was not being placed in law by an ordinance. Mr. Brooks and Commissioner Newsome addressed questions of Commissioner Jones regarding the displacement of the individuals by sharing that the construction would be preplanned and staged.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the cost estimate to pave the Poinciana Street (north) alley. Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks and Public Works Director Chuck Mathis addressed. Mr. Brooks shared that this request was presented by Commissioner Edwards. The current alley has a "crush and run," which would not last as long as a paved alley. Mr. Mathis said that permission would be required by the railroad for the portion of the project on their property and the cost estimate for all sections would be over \$800,000. Upon the question of Commissioner Newsome, Mr. Brooks mentioned that TSPLOST has allocations for alley paving but the cost estimate was not listed in the initial funding consideration. Commissioner Edwards clarified what the original request was and what was done historically regarding paving and how

paving Red Bud went against prior practices. Mr. Mathis shared that the Board approved the paving of Red Bud and would have the ability to do the same with this request. He added that he would work with Commissioner Edwards to obtain clarification on the specific portions to be paved and would provide a new cost estimate. Commissioner Edwards recognized the citizens in the area who were present in the meeting.

Mr. Brooks reminded the Board of the Special Called Meeting following the Work Session. It was noted that the Finance Committee will meet immediately following the Executive Session in Room 120. In observance of Labor Day, there will be no County Commission meeting on Monday, September 2nd. The next meeting will be a Regular Meeting on September 9th. The Dougherty County Commission Retreat will be held September 17 to 19, 2024 at the Macon Convention Center. Human Resources needs action prior to the September 9th meeting for our benefits and we may have to have a Special Called Meeting if NFP does not provide latitude on their deadline. Commissioner Johnson shared that he was absent last week because he was at an ACCG meeting to discuss how to revamp the lifelong learning program. He gave updates on the Southern Policy Committee Meeting and shared the presentation provided by Commissioner Gray. He asked to work on the DNR request. The Chairman reminded everyone that Commissioner Gaines was still out due to traveling and provided kudos to Commissioner Johnson for working with ACCG.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK