

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION  
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

March 13, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on March 13, 2023. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, 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. Commissioner Russell Gray was absent.

After the roll call, Chairman Heard asked the Commission to review the minutes of the February 20th Regular Meeting and February 27th Work Session.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to contract with CGI Digital (Rochester, NY) to create video promotions for the County. There is no cost to the County. Public Information Officer Wendy Howell and Executive of Government Relations & Strategic Partnerships, Andrea Tempio addressed. Ms. Howell mentioned that NACo chose Dougherty County to participate in the community showcase video program. Ms. Tempio shared their partnerships with various organizations and provided a presentation. It was stated that this is very advantageous for areas that do not have large production companies. The County will have control and the ability to approve content before being published. Funding is provided by public-private partnerships. The goal is to promote local businesses, nonprofits, and charities; and to showcase the community and provide highlights on economic viability. Ms. Howell shared that the City of Albany had this program with Albany Technical College years ago. It was recommended that the content be refreshed every 3 years and noted that it is shared ownership. Partnership entities can use this content on their websites without an additional cost. Questions of the Board were addressed.

The Chairman called for a discussion to purchase a six-inch water pump for Public Works from the Sourcewell Contract Vendor Thompson Pump & Manufacturing (Pooler, GA) in the amount of \$47,256. The pump will be used during storm & heavy rain events to remove/divert water to prevent flooding of roadways, holding ponds, drainage ditches, and property. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VI. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Public Works Director Chuck Mathis addressed. Mr. Mathis addressed how the County is using force main systems in conjunction with the pumps to address flooding issues.

The Chairman called for a discussion to allocate \$65,000, which is the county's mandated 15% cost share requirement for two HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) Acquisition and Demolition properties. A general budget amendment will be required. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Grant Consultant, Georgia Bolling-Collier addressed. Mr. McCoy explained the purpose of the program and how the County received funding. It was

recommended that we move forward with the two of the 29+ applicants expressing interest. The homes will be purchased by the federal government, but the County will maintain the property. It was shared that this is different from the elevation portion of the program. Mr. McCoy clarified that congressional funding is not being sought because it is nonpolitical, so Cornerstone is not being utilized. Other options for purchasing were explored by the Commissioners. Mr. McCoy stated that the federal government's purpose of the program is to mitigate future risks and additional information will be provided to the Board.

The Chairman called for a discussion to execute the documents relative to the Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart National Opioid Settlements. County Attorney Alex Shalishali addressed.

The Chairman called for a discussion to accept the required resolutions authorizing Georgia Fund I to accept fund collection for SPLOST VIII. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Finance Director Martha Hendley addressed.

The Chairman called for a discussion to accept the Dougherty County SPLOST VIII Spending Plan Budget. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Finance Director Martha Hendley addressed. Based on the 64/36 split between the City and County, \$39.5 million is anticipated to be received over the next six years. Mr. McCoy shared how accounts were adjusted to fund the City of Albany's sewer request. Attorney Shalishali will confirm the question regarding adjusting payments to the City of Albany. Mr. McCoy reminded everyone that this is a spending plan and it can be amended.

The Chairman called for the presentation of the successful petition for six-speed bump installations for Pine Glen Drive (Pine Glen Subdivision). The estimated cost is \$33,016 and funding is available in TSPLOST. Public Works Engineering Manager Jeremy Brown addressed. The Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for March 20, 2023. Mr. Brown shared that the recommendation for speed bumps was made so resurfacing can be done easier.

The Chairman called for the presentation of the successful petition for five-speed bump installations for Shelton Drive and Shelton Court (Mitchell Acres Subdivision). The estimated cost is \$28,080 and funding is available in TSPLOST. Public Works Engineering Manager Jeremy Brown addressed. The Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for March 20, 2023.

The Chairman called for a discussion to accept the conceptual construction cost estimate and project cost estimate in the amount of \$1,300,720 for the Stand-Alone Coroner's Office/Facility (Concept G). County Administrator Michael McCoy and Architect David Maschke addressed. Coroner Michael Fowler was present. Mr. McCoy thanked the Board for their patience relative to this request. Mr. Maschke reviewed features that highlighted efficiency and attractiveness for the project. The proposal is to utilize SPLOST funds to make up the shortfall of over \$1 million. Commissioners Jones and Newsome shared information about the project. Commissioner Newsome said that more money will need to be allocated and \$1.6 million should be considered. He suggested tabling this request because of the upcoming [State] mandates and shared that the County should consider other options due

to the amount of money being considered. Mr. McCoy will distribute the proposed funding options to the Board prior to action being taken.

Commissioner Johnson provided updates from the legislative breakfast for our Board to consider. He mentioned an issue titled "Raise the Age" ( House Bill 486) and asked the Board to look into it because it has relative costs associated to the jail system. Commissioner Gaines would like for the Board to look at funding opportunities and other actions for opioid overdose users. EMS Director Sam Allen addressed. Her specific concern was relative to the arrest and prosecution of all drug users. The District Attorney's Office will be asked to provide an update.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK