

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 17, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on July 17, 2023. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Ed Newsome and Anthony Jones. Also present were Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, and other staff. County Attorney Alex Shalishali participated via teleconference. 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.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by the Chairman, he called for approval of the minutes for the June 5th Regular Meeting, June 12th Work Session, June 26th Regular Meeting and June 26th Special Called Meeting.

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

The Chairman recognized Scott Steiner, President & CEO, Phoebe Putney Health System, to provide an update to the Board. Mr. Steiner provided an update on their economic impact, community investment, renovations and plans for expanded services. It was noted that the impact economically is 1.8 billion dollars. Over 56 million dollars had been provided to charity care. Phoebe, though a nonprofit, participates in the V-PILOT program and is the 3rd largest County taxpayer. He added that Phoebe has contributed \$9,303,570 between 2013-2022. Almost three million dollars had been invested into cultivating healthcare careers. Updates were provided regarding the desire to obtain a Level II Trauma designation and a lengthy discussion ensued.

The Chairman recognized citizen Bruce Capps who spoke regarding his concerns about the public not being included in the TSPLOST input. He mentioned that it is important for the public to be involved. Commissioner Gaines asked for clarification regarding enabling legislation pertaining to TSPLOST and SPLOST [for public input]. Attorney Shalishali will provide an update to the Commission. Commissioner Edwards asked Mr. Capps to please forward his concerns and suggestions regarding poverty to the County Clerk.

The Chairman recognized citizen Henry Thomas who shared that he had a conversation with the Chairman and Commissioner Gaines and he planned to update the Commission later on more concerns.

Attorney Shalishali left the call at 11:40 a.m.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for acceptance of the Contract for Services between Dougherty County and GMASS (Georgia Mass Appraisal Solutions and Services, Inc.) in the amount of \$1,482,000 to provide a countywide revaluation. The payment will be made in installments for three years. Funding is budgeted in the General Fund in the amount of \$1,700,000.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-030 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT FOR SERVICES BETWEEN
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND GEORGIA MASS
APPRAISAL SOLUTIONS AND SERVICES, INC., TO PROVIDE
COUNTYWIDE REVALUATION; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR
PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance of the proposed project category list for T-SPLOST II.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-031 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE DOUGHERTY COUNTY'S LIST
OF PROJECT
CATEGORIES FOR A 2023 TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL
PURPOSE LOCAL
OPTION SALES TAX REFERENDUM; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from Disaster Recovery and Grants to accept the funding and retroactive application for three Community Violence Prevention Grants for Dougherty County Police in the total amount of \$832,322.70. All are 100% funded grants with no local match.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Gaines asked that a public notice be done regarding the grants and Mr. Brooks consented. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring the listed vehicles as surplus and authorizing the disposal of or sale of same via an online auction.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-032 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION DECLARING AS SURPLUS THE
ATTACHED LIST OF VEHICLES;
PROVIDING FOR DISPOSAL OF OR SALE OF SAME ON
AN ONLINE AUCTION; REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS
IN CONFLICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the proposed Board appointment.

Under nomination by Commissioner Johnson, the incumbents Thelma Adams-Johnson and Larry Thomas were unanimously reappointed to the Albany-Dougherty County Land Bank to serve a two-year term ending June 31, 2025.

Mr. Brooks reminded the Board that there will be no Commission meeting on Monday, July 24, 2023. The next meeting will be a Work Session on Monday, July 31, 2023 in Room 100. Commissioner Johnson thanked the Board for their vision and asked about the overgrowth on the fairway due to the rain. He wanted to talk to Planning Director Paul Forgey regarding the zoning regulations for housing opportunities. Mr. Forgey agreed that updates are needed and shared that the process has started to update the City and County ordinances. Commissioner Gaines commended Dougherty County Public Works and the Dougherty County Police Department for the prompt response in removing the tree on

Highway 91. Commissioner Jones asked to be involved in future discussions regarding Putney Park.

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

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously via roll call.

There being no further discussion, the Board entered into Executive Session at 11:49 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK