

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on February 20, 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, Anthony Jones, Clinton Johnson and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, 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 January 23rd Regular Meeting, January 27th Annual Retreat and January 30th Work Session.

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

The Chairman recognized Sheriff Kevin Sproul to update the Commission with their annual report for the Sheriff's Office and Jail. Jail Employee of the Year Charlotte Brown and Field Operations Employee of the Year Lt. Jason Carter were acknowledged. It was noted that the vacancies had decreased from 52 to 17. Deputy Michael Hefton and K-9 Maverick were introduced to the Board. Statistics were shared and the importance of the "no nonsense" approach to building security at the courthouse was expressed. He discussed the plan to address the mental health population. Suggestions from the Commission were received. The Sheriff said that he will provide an update if misdemeanor inmates will be able to assist Public Works again. Major Ken Faust addressed concerns regarding drones. The County Administrator was directed to speak to Judge Lockette regarding the juror's pay and possible criteria to increase the juror's participation.

The Chairman recognized Director Chuck Mathis to update the Commission with their annual report for the Public Works Department. Mr. Mathis provided a video presentation and shared that Russell Malone was the Public Works Employee of the Year and Benita Dyes was the Administrator of the Year. Mr. McCoy provided an update on the grant funding and clarified that money was allocated to improvements within Dougherty County and not for exclusive use

by the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Edwards requested that a kiosk be considered to track visitors [at the parks].

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance of the contract for the bid for Facilities Management to replace the flooring at the Dougherty County Police Department from Katz Flooring Covering (Leesburg, GA) in the amount of \$86,500 subject to execution by the County Administrator. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Johnson asked if the building is historic and Mr. McCoy said that there has been no official designation. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-007 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND  
EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT TO ACCEPT THE BID FOR  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT TO REPLACE FLOORING AT THE  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE  
LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE VENDOR MEETING  
SPECIFICATIONS, KATZ FLOORCOVERING; REPEALING  
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT  
HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase three pumper trucks for use by the Albany Fire Department from Ten8 Fire and Safety Equipment of Georgia, LLC (Forsyth, GA) in the amount of \$3,020,103. Ten8 Fire and Safety is the authorized distributor for the Sourcewell Contract vendor Pierce Manufacturing. The pumpers will be the 2026 model and approval is requested because delivery is anticipated approximately 36 months after the order is received. Funding will be budgeted in SPLOST VIII.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to approve the alcohol application from R and S 2023 LLC., Saif Ullah licensee, dba R and S Food Mart, at 700 Cordele Rd for Package- Beer. The Albany-Dougherty Marshal's Office recommended approval.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Edwards asked Deputy Chief Donaldson if there are follow-ups done [after approval] and Chief responded that there are annual reviews and any violations are noted. Chief Donaldson added that the Department of Agriculture and Fire Department are notified as well. If there is a complaint, visitation can be done sooner. It was shared that more visitations are typically done because of collaborations with other entities. Attorney Shalishali addressed the question from last week and said that there is no blanket requirement locally or on the state level requiring restrooms available for these businesses [for public use]. However, nothing prevents the County from adding a requirement. Mr. Shalishali also shared that some states have adopted restroom policies. Deputy Chief Donaldson clarified that his area is not responsible for restroom compliance but is handled by the Department of Agriculture. Chairman Heard directed staff to review. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

Commissioner Edwards referenced previous cases on an overgrown lot. Mr. McCoy addressed and suggested that this be brought back to the Board and then the discussion be held regarding if code modifications should be done. Commissioner Edwards also asked about code having more “teeth” [enforcement] for tractor trailers. Mr. McCoy said that it will be forwarded to Code Enforcement. Attorney Shalishali confirmed that it is his responsibility as the County Attorney to prosecute. Commissioner Johnson provided an update to the Board on a Governor’s initiative for “Back the Blue” which references a potential pay increase supplement for the Sheriff’s pay and other costs that may be coming. Commissioner Gray shared kudos on the participation for Albany Dougherty Day and Commissioner Jones asked that we keep former President Carter in our prayers.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK