

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2024

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on March 25, 2024. 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, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, and other staff. 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 by Chairman Heard, he asked the Commission to review the minutes of the March 4th Regular Meeting and March 11th Work Session.

The Chairman recognized Superior Court Judge Joseph W. Dent who introduced himself to the Board. Judge Dent gave an update on his first 64 days on the job and discussed his proposed process for the continuation of handling backlog for current and future cases. He asked the Board for continued support to the courts and the DA's Office, to identify and secure proper space for operations and help to recruit. After providing his goals, he addressed questions and comments of the Board.

The Chairman recognized Nathaniel Cooper, Center Director for Turner Job Corps (TJC), to discuss their Work Based Learning opportunity. He had Career Technical Training Manager Jason Nelms, Director of Finance and Administrator Demetrius Love and students present with him. Mr. Cooper requested a MOU with the Board for WBL. Students shared information about their respective areas, and it was noted that TJC had 15 industry training programs. In addition, students from the correctional officers, welding, heavy construction equipment operation and office administration fields were represented. With the rebranding of the center called Turner Job Corps 2.0 (TJC 2.0), the main focus is to create new community partnerships. It was shared that their site was the fourth largest in the nation. Mr. Cooper would provide the statistics and economic impact shared based on the request of Commissioner Gaines. After a lengthy discussion ensued, Mr. Cooper was asked to work directly with Mr. Brooks.

The Chairman called for discussion of the recommendation to accept the proposal for Disaster Debris Removal Services from the most responsive and responsible vendor meeting specifications, Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. (Sarasota, FL). Six proposals were received. The proposal is for a total, complete, turn-key disaster disposal relief service to be utilized on an as needed basis in the occurrence of a major storm event. This will be a one-year contract with four options to renew for additional one-year terms. The last contract for debris disposal services was approved in the February 4, 2019 Regular Meeting. If required, funding will be provided by the Special Services District Fund. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Project Manager

Jeremy Brown addressed. City of Albany Buyer Takeshia Martin was present. Mr. Brooks emphasized that this would allow the County to be prepared in the event of a disaster. There was no cost unless services were utilized. Mrs. Ware and Mr. Brown confirmed that this was a new contract and questions from the Board were answered. Mr. Brown also said that Tetra Tech was our monitoring company and could determine if there was an opportunity to remove debris/ trees from private property.

The Chairman called for discussion of the recommendation to accept the bid for Phase III Alley Improvements for Public Works from the most responsive and responsible bidder meeting specifications, Concrete Enterprises (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$1,496,873.04. The project will provide grading and paving of five alleys in the unincorporated areas of the County. Two vendors submitted bids. Funding is budgeted in T-SPLOST. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Project Manager Jeremy Brown addressed. City of Albany Buyer Ricky Gladney was present. It was noted that this was the last phase, and specific locations were provided. Commissioner Edwards asked Mr. Brown to contact the City of Albany regarding a possible partnership to pave a section of Poinciana Alley that falls within the city limits. Mr. Brooks shared that the COA and DOCO do work together.

The Chairman called for discussion of the recommendation to accept the agreement from Granicus (Denver, Colorado) in the amount of \$48,820. The recommendation includes the product, maintenance, and services for Government Experience Cloud (SERVE), Government Experience Cloud (SERVE) Set-up and Configuration, and Government Experience Cloud (SERVE) Training. Maintenance costs for year one are \$21,464.20 and year two \$22,966.69. Funding for the first year will be available in General Fund- Contingency. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, Public Information Officer Phyllis Banks, and Chief Information Officer John Dawson addressed. Granicus Representative Luke Mulvaney participated via telephone conference. The previous questions from the last presentation were answered.

The Chairman called for discussion of the recommendation to declare the listed vehicles and equipment as surplus and authorize the disposal of or sale of the same via an online auction. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and County Clerk Jawahn Ware addressed. Commissioner Edwards asked for the recent sales amount.

The Chairman called for discussion of the recommendation to approve the alcohol application from Jimmy Sylvester Investments LLC, Azim Abdul Sultan Shroff licensee, dba Kash Food Mart, at 3333 Sylvester Road for Package- Beer and Wine. The Albany-Dougherty Marshal's Office recommended approval. Deputy Marshal Marcus Mitchell, Code Enforcement Department, addressed.

The Chairman called for discussion of the recommendation to approve the alcohol application from SVR Brands, Inc., Prashant Patel licensee, dba Big E Country Store, at 2100 Cordele Road for Package- Beer and Wine. The Albany-Dougherty Marshal's Office recommended approval. Deputy Marshal Marcus Mitchell, Code Enforcement Department, addressed. It was clarified that both were transfers.

The Chairman called for discussion of the recommendation to accept the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with the State of Georgia. The contract allows Dougherty County to make agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies. The last renewal was approved by the Board in the October 19, 2020 Regular Meeting. EMA Director Chief Cedric Scott addressed. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks was present. It was noted that this is a 4-year agreement and questions from the Board were answered.

The Chairman called for discussion of the recommendation to declare two Stryker Pro-Cot Stretchers as surplus and authorize the transfer at no cost of the same to Albany Technical College. The equipment will be used by the college's Paramedicine Program to teach new EMT and Paramedic students the skills needed to become a licensed EMT or Paramedic in the State of Georgia. This request is made on behalf of ATC Paramedicine Program Chair, Tracie Naylor-Griffin. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. EMS Director Sam Allen was present. It was shared that the stretchers have reached their useful life and will be used for training.

The Chairman called for discussion of the recommendation from the Public Health Committee to accept the proposed Emergency Medical Service Standby Event & Service Priority policy. Committee Chairman Russell Gray addressed. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and EMS Director Sam Allen were present. Under discussion, there were several suggestions for clarity and inclusion. Mr. Allen clarified that EMS has always followed these processes, but this was now being written formally. Commissioner Gaines requested that more clarity be provided regarding entities being charged and to change where the fees were redirected. Attorney Shalishali will research the ability of staff to place a complaint against a citizen.

The Chairman called for discussion of the recommendation from the Recreation Committee to accept the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Albany and Dougherty County regarding the construction of a tennis center. Recreation Committee Chairman Victor Edwards addressed. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Alex Shalishali were present. Commissioner Edwards deferred to Mr. Brooks, and he provided an overview. He shared that the only item that needed consideration of the request by Commissioner Jones was to add a time certain for the City of Albany to accept. Commissioner Gray shared that the City of Albany's service needed to be listed and change the title to include the multi-use purpose. Commissioner Gaines requested that the recommendation be sent as a draft to the City of Albany.

Mr. Brooks provided an update on earmarked funds by Congressman Sanford Bishop for the DCP building. It was determined that appropriation for the building should not be made this year. However, it was deemed acceptable to make a request of \$1.5 million for the Festival Springs. There will be a Special Called Meeting of the Retirement Fund Committee to discuss the pension fund and consideration of the 401 (a) plan for specific managers.

Commissioner Johnson shared that Albany Dougherty County was recognized as one of the 2023 Top-Tier 3 Metropolitan Areas by Site Selection Magazine. There was an update provided on our community movement regarding the tax credit and tier. Mr. Brooks was asked to have the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) or Economic Development Commission (EDC) make a presentation and he would provide the specific funding percentage of the County. Commissioner

Gaines recognized the life of citizen Kenneth Florence and provided an update on the movement of the County's request for funding for the Westtown Library on the state level. She asked if a discussion for clarification from the Development Authority could be reviewed and placed on a Work Session regarding the 18 acres of County land. Commissioner Jones invited the Board to two events referencing the ribbon cutting of the store in District 6 and graduation of the Financial Literacy Program.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK