

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2024

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on January 29, 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 January 8th Regular Meeting.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to purchase six mobile radios for EMS from single source vendor Motorola Solutions (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$25,811 for the new ambulances recently approved for purchase. Funding is available in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and EMS Director Sam Allen addressed.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to purchase three 2024 Type 1 Ford 350 Ambulance Chassis models from Wade Ford (Smyrna, Ga) for the EMS Department in the amount of \$243,603 each for a total expenditure of \$730,809. The models are available on-site. Funding is available in SPLOST VII and SPLOST VIII. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and EMS Director Sam Allen addressed. Mr. Allen shared the historical purchases and if approved, this purchase will update the fleet. Questions regarding use were answered. Chairman Heard suggested that an older ambulance be used by Albany Technical College and Mr. Allen shared that a conversation with the school can be held.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to accept the quote from Sunbelt Traffic (Doraville, GA) in the amount of \$24,413 to repair the traffic signal at the intersection of S. Mock Rd and Fleming Rd. The City of Albany's Traffic Engineering Division recommends that the repairs be completed to maintain optimal traffic signal functionality for the safety of both pedestrians and motorists. The recommended vendor has performed services for the city. Funding is available in TSPLOST. Assistant County Administrator, City of Albany Traffic Engineering Manager Ken Breedlove and Public Works Director Chuck Mathis addressed. Mr. Breedlove shared that this was a mandatory repair and Mr. Brooks said that this was brought to the Board because it was above his approval threshold. Mr. Mathis clarified Commissioner Gray's questions regarding funding.

The Chairman called for a recommendation from the Superior Court to apply for a grant from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Council of Accountability Court Judges Operating Grant for FY 2025 in the amount of \$495,000 with a 15% match. The grant will provide services

for part-time employees and other program-related expenses. There is a local match of approximately \$74,250 and funding will be provided from the DATE fund. The reimbursement grant is provided by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Substance Abuse Coordinator Patricia Griffin addressed. Ms. Griffin said that this was an annual grant that the County managed on behalf of the courts.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to declare two 2000 Chevrolet 1500 Pickup Trucks, one 2002 Chevrolet 1500 Pickup Truck, and one 2006 GMC Sierra Pickup Truck as surplus and authorize the transfer at no cost of the same to the Chehaw Park Authority. This request is made on behalf of Executive Director Tommy Gregors. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. It was mentioned that we had surplused to Chehaw Park in the past. Mrs. Ware shared that the approximate in-kind value was \$10,000 and Commissioner Gaines questioned the relationship between Dougherty County and the Authority. Mr. Brooks provided an overview and will have the Executive Director Tommy Gregors provide an update to the Board.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Albany Technical College on behalf of the Dougherty County Police Department authorizing assistance to each other during a local emergency. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, Chief Kenneth Johnson and County Clerk Jawahn Ware addressed. Mrs. Ware shared that the last update to the MOA was in 2018 and Chief Johnson shared information.

The Chairman called for a recommendation of the proposed board appointment.

Retirement Fund Committee – There is one appointment with a four-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2024, and this appointee must be an active employee representative. There are three new applicants: Pam Coley, Sam Green, and Heidi Hailey. The Commission Chairman will make the appointment.

Mr. Brooks reminded the Board of the upcoming travel plans and subcommittee meetings. He also mentioned that he will start the quarterly meetings with the City Manager.

Commissioner Edwards wanted to know the status of the two projects Mr. David Maschke was working on. Mr. Brooks said that a meeting was held with the contractor last week and Mr. Maschke will be providing a schedule this week. Upon the question by Commissioner Edwards, the Sheriff will reevaluate with Chief Ostrander to see if any inmates were available to assist with the litter cleanup. Commissioner Johnson asked that a Finance Committee Meeting be scheduled. Commissioner Gray highlighted the most recent Quail Hunt event and gave kudos to those involved. Commissioner Gaines would like an update on TSPLOST expenditures and available funding. Mr. Brooks shared that he planned to present that update at the Finance Committee Meeting and desired to return to quarterly updates and have department managers make presentations. Commissioner Edwards provided an update regarding our governance structure and shared that the Commission should go to the Administrator for staff input and encourage requests to be placed in writing. Commissioner Jones gave an update on his financial literacy program and the initiatives from the Southwest Regional Georgia Commission.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 10: 41 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK