

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on February 14, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present [in the Chamber] were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. Also participating in the Chamber were Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, and other staff. County Administrator Michael McCoy participated via the audio-conferencing feature. 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.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the January 24th Regular Meeting, January 25th Special Called Meeting, January 31st Work Session and January 31st Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman recognized Scott Steiner, President & CEO, Phoebe Putney Health System, to provide a community report. Mr. Steiner shared that his entity was tax-exempt; but stated that if Phoebe owned a property that does not have a current healthcare function, they still opted to pay taxes. In 2020, \$980,244 were paid in taxes. The mobile health unit, recent investments and new concepts were shared. Since the pandemic, 1/5 of health care workers have left the field. Out of 800 nurses, Phoebe has 300 vacancies which speaks to the national crisis. Positive comments and accolades were provided by the Board.

The Chairman recognized Public Works Director Chuck Mathis to update the Commission on the proposal for the Clark Avenue and Maple Street retention pond clean-up. The recommendation from staff is to utilize the lowest bidder. The plan is to clean the trash but leave the cattails and other aquatic vegetation in the pond.

The Chairman recognized Engineering Manager Jeremy Brown to update the Commission on the engineering proposal for the structural inspection of the Radium Springs Water Tower. Mr. Brown noted that further recommendations could be provided after the study is completed, if desired by the Commission. Attorney Lee provided information about the process to obtain the property.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the zoning consideration for Freedom Church of Albany, Inc. (22-001), (Christopher G. Pollock) applicant; Brenton Rigsby & Jennifer A. Phelps owners, request of special approval to allow the special use of a Church (Religious Institution) in a C-R (Community Residential Multiple-Dwelling District). The property is located at 429 Dunbar Lane (00137/00001/02D). The Planning Commission recommended approval. The public hearing and action are scheduled for February 21, 2022. Angel Gray, Planning Manager, addressed.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a resolution providing for a request to the Georgia General Assembly to enact Local Legislation authorizing Dougherty County to adopt a Hotel/Motel Excise Tax in the amount of eight percent (8%) in the unincorporated section of Dougherty County, Georgia. County Administrator Michael McCoy, Albany Convention & Visitors Bureau Executive Director Rashelle Minix and County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Attorney addressed. This item is scheduled for action in the following Special Called Meeting. The Chairman shared that the Board provided consensus to proceed and Attorney Lee provided additional information referencing advertising and the process.

Commissioner Gaines shared that per Senator Sims, our redistricting plan had been accepted. There was a motion by Commissioner Johnson to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. It was clarified by the attorney that the executive session needed to be on the agenda and Chairman Cohilas clarified that there can be an executive session on personnel listed on the next agenda. Chairman Cohilas added that he will distribute information to the Commission via email on some insight following some research he did on an agenda item.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK