

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2024

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on March 11, 2024. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. 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, Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Clark and other staff. The public participated in person via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel.

After the roll call and the invocation, Chairman Heard asked the Commission to review the minutes of the February 19th Regular Meeting and February 26th Work Session.

The Chairman recognized Sheriff Kevin Sproul to update the Commission with their annual report for the Sheriff's Office and Jail. Sheriff Sproul introduced Officer Hefton and mentioned the services he provided with his K9 Maverick. Corporal Vivian Hunt was recognized as the Employee of the Year. The Sheriff discussed field operations and the significant increase in calls of service to 34,369. He shared that there were 202 new cases, 139 cleared cases, and 131 pounds of prescription drugs collected. Sheriff Sproul reminded the Board that this would be his last annual update because he will be retiring at the end of this year. All of the Board members shared similar sentiments and accolades to the Sheriff for his hard work and thanked him for his years of service. Commissioner Edwards asked for an update on the workforce use of inmates and Sheriff Sproul mentioned he had a follow-up conversation with the Public Works Department. Commissioner Jones said that he would like for the County to partner with Albany Technical College for a CDL training opportunity.

The Chairman recognized Director Chuck Mathis to update the Commission with their annual report for the Public Works Department. Mr. Mathis shared his annual report and highlighted the completion of the ASU to Downtown Multipurpose Trail. Commissioners Jones and Gaines provided kudos to Mr. Mathis for his hard work and Commissioner Gaines asked him about completing some work on Shady Glen Lane. Mr. Mathis shared that he will recognize his staff during the America Public Works Association (APWA) Week. Commissioner Edwards wanted to find out who provided the fuel for Dougherty County and Mr. Mathis said that Brad Lanier Oil Company is our provider.

The Chairman recognized Public Information Officer Phyllis Banks and Chief Information Officer John Dawson to provide a brief overview of the proposed transition from our County's current web platform to Granicus. Representatives of Granicus, Luke Mulvaney and Matthew Jacques, participated via telephone conference. Ms. Banks shared that this change would enhance the overall digital presence for the public and she informed the Board that support and training will be provided with our new platform. Mr. Mulvaney and Mr. Jacques

said that the implementation is expected to take about 9-12 months depending on the availability of Dougherty County. The cost for Year 1 will be \$48,820 which includes a one-time fee and recurring fee. In addition, Year 2 will be \$21,464.20 and Year 3 will be \$22,966.69. Commissioner Gaines asked if there were some offsets to the cost. Mr. Dawson shared that this cost will solely be the responsibility of Dougherty County because the City of Albany pays for the web services solely. Mr. Brooks said that he would bring information to the Board for any future items especially if it involved potentially increasing the budget. He also shared that he would like to see some performance indicators for effectiveness. Attorney Shalishali said that he would research the service delivery agreement between the City of Albany and Dougherty County regarding information technology. Commissioner Edwards said that he would like to see a surveying option where citizens could provide feedback on the different departments. Commissioner Newsome wanted to see the resume of Granicus and Commissioner Jones said that he would like to see the comparison of a 3-year contract versus a 5-year contract with the company.

The Chairman recognized Albany Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Rashelle Minx to provide an update to the Board on the recent Combos Marathon. Mrs. Minx thanked Dougherty County for the continuous support throughout the years. This year, there were 21 sponsors and over the past 17 years, the CVB has donated \$330,000 to Willson Hospice House. She added that 25% of the runners qualified for the Boston Marathon. Commissioners Jones and Newsome thanked Mrs. Minx for her hard work and support with the marathon.

The Chairman recognized Director of Recreation and Parks Steven Belk present to provide an update to the Board on the recent basketball tournament. Mr. Belk shared that this event supported the City of Albany and Dougherty County through hotel stays, restaurant usage, etc. It was shared by others that the event “looked and felt” safe.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the zoning application for Andrew Dismuke, applicant and Moree Motors #2, LLC, owner, (24-006) request to rezone 6.76 acres from C-R (Community Residential Multiple-Dwelling District) to R-MHP (Mobile Home Park District). The rezoning would allow the current expired manufactured home park to be rehabilitated/reconstructed to meet the regulations per Dougherty County Ordinance. The property is located at 3325 Sylvester Hwy. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Angel Gray, Deputy Planning Director addressed. The Public Hearing and Action on this item are scheduled for the March 18, 2024 Regular Meeting.

The Chairman called for a recommendation from the Dougherty County Jail to accept the quote to upgrade the video surveillance system from Invision Technologies (Albany, Ga) in the amount of \$34,659. Funding is available in SPLOST VI. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Chief Jailer John Ostrander was present. [After the meeting, staff was notified that the company’s name is Synology, the Jail’s current vendor].

The Chairman called for a recommendation to accept the agreement from Granicus (Denver, Colorado) with the starting fee of \$48,820. The recommendation will include product, maintenance and services for Government Experience Cloud (SERVE), Government

Experience Cloud (SERVE) Set-up and Configuration, and Government Experience Cloud (SERVE) Training. Funding will be available in Contingency. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Public Information Officer Phyllis Banks and Chief Information Officer John Dawson were present. Commissioner Gray asked that this item be placed on the next Work Session and then take action at the next Regular Meeting.

The Chairman called for a recommendation from the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office to purchase one 2023 Ford F150 XLT 4X4 in the amount of \$52,060 and one 2023 Ford F150 Responder in the amount of \$50,365 from Wade Ford (Smyrna, Ga) for a total amount of \$102,425. State contract pricing has been provided and the vehicles are currently on-site. Funding is available in SPLOST VIII. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Major Ken Faust was present.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to accept the MOU between the Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) and the Dougherty County Police (DCP) Animal Control Unit to secure the benefits of animal control support aboard MCLB for the surrender and disposition of stray dogs to the Albany Humane Society. Chief Kenneth Johnson addressed. Chief Johnson said that this MOU was requested by MCLB and would allow the dogs [on the base] to be transported. Commissioner Gaines wanted an update on whether all MOUs with MCLB could be consolidated. Mr. Brooks said that it was researched and due to the variety of items and agencies, it would be challenging to consolidate them into one. Commissioner Jones suggested that Mr. Brooks identify a MOU for fire services for the MCLB fire station.

Mr. Brooks said the Flint River was in the flood stage and the bodies of the two individuals that the First Responders had been looking for were found. He mentioned that he attended a Department of Community Affairs (DCA) meeting and learned a lot of beneficial information and said that the area between Jefferson and 7th Avenue will be closed on March 17th. Attorney Shalishali followed up with Jarrad and Davis LLP and said that they want to meet with the Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting to share future plans. Commissioner Gray gave kudos to EDC Director Jana Dyke and Director of Business Relations Jessica Zurheide for hosting a successful EDC 101 session and tour. Commissioner Gaines welcomed Pastor Antwion Yowe of Oakridge Baptist Church and asked all board members to share any concerns that they wanted to discuss during the next Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting. Commissioner Jones thanked Congressman Bishop for securing \$685,000 for Putney Park renovation and congratulated Commissioner Johnson on securing another four years as Commissioner of District 3. Chairman Heard shared the same sentiments as Commissioner Jones and thanked Districts 1, 3, and 5 Commissioners for their services.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK