

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on November 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, Clinton Johnson and Anthony Jones. Also present were Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Clark, 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. Commissioner Ed Newsome was absent.

After the invocation by the Chairman and Pledge of Allegiance by the Chairman, he called for approval of the minutes of the October 16th Regular Meeting and October 30th Work Session.

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

The Chairman recognized citizen Kevon Douglas to discuss noise concerns. Mr. Douglas expressed his concerns about the noise in the neighborhood on Lily Pond Road. He emphasized that the noise continued all day and night. Commissioner Edwards shared that the gun range was "grandfathered into the area" meaning neighbors were aware of the noise. He said that he would ask the County police to monitor the closing time at the shooting range. Commissioner Gaines wanted to make sure that the County could regulate the hours. Attorney Shalishali said that he would look at the law and the ability to regulate locally.

The Chairman shared that the item pertaining to the update by Disaster Recovery & Grant Programs Consultant Georgia Collier-Bolling on the status of the County's participation in the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) 4297 Acquisition & Demolition and other FEMA-related grant engagements would be skipped. Commissioner Gaines said that this information was important to know and would like an update. Mr. Brooks said that Ms. Collier-Bolling would be providing a summary report on the status of the programs for FEMA and GEMA and he would submit it to the Board as soon as it was received.

The Chairman opened the public hearing for Kevon Douglas, owner and applicant, (23-074) request to rezone approximately 2.16 acres from R-2 (Single-Family Residential) to C-3 (Commercial District). The rezoning would allow for the parking of a semi-truck. The property is at 1306 Lily Pond Road. The Planning Commission recommended denial.

Angel Gray, Deputy Planning Director addressed. Ms. Gray said the Planning Commission had concerns about multiple uses on this site. Commissioner Edwards asked if directions were provided to applicants during the application process. Ms. Gray shared that they can provide recommendations and consultations even before citizens apply. Mr. Douglas spoke in favor of the rezoning and said that some neighbors in his community have commercial vehicles. Citizens Willie Dawson and Robert Lewis spoke in opposition. Citizen Nathaniel Dickerson spoke in opposition and shared that “no big trucks” signs were present on Lily Pond Road. There being no additional comments regarding the proposed matter, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman called for consideration to accept a US Department of Transportation Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration Grant (#20.939) in the amount of \$263,000. The joint city and county application requires a 20% local match of \$52,600, with Dougherty County being responsible for \$26,300. The federal portion of the grant is \$210,400. Funding will be provided from TSPLOST II. The Commission approved the grant application in the June 5, 2023 Regular Meeting.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the Mutual Aid Agreement renewal with the Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) on behalf of the Dougherty County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department providing reciprocal support in the event of any natural and/or man-made crisis.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-056 is entitled:

**A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE AND  
EXECUTION OF THE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT  
RENEWAL WITH THE MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE  
ON BEHALF OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT PROVIDING  
RECIPROCAL SUPPORT IN THE EVENT OF ANY NATURAL  
OR MAN-MADE CRISIS; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR  
PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the Easement Agreement between Dougherty County, Georgia, the City of Albany, Georgia and the United States of America, acting by and through the Administrator of the General Services Administration, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining

certain security fencing for the C.B. King United States Courthouse States Courthouse. County Attorney Alex Shalishali addressed.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Gaines shared that she does not support a fence being put up downtown. Chairman Heard said that the Board may not be privy to the security threat across the nation which may have led for the need of the request. Attorney Shalishali clarified that the fence will not be public-facing and only cover a certain portion. There being no additional discussion, the motion for approval passed with five ayes and one nay by Commissioner Gaines. Resolution 23-057 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION  
OF AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOUGHERTY  
COUNTY, GEORGIA, THE CITY OF ALBANY AND THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION; REPEALING  
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT  
HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for the zoning consideration of Kevon Douglas, owner and applicant, (23-074) request to rezone approximately 2.16 acres from R-2 (Single-Family Residential) to C-3 (Commercial District). The rezoning would allow for the parking of a semi-truck. The property is at 1306 Lily Pond Road. The Planning Commission recommended denial.

Commissioner Edwards moved for approval to deny. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Gaines said that 1800-wheelers were not allowed on Lily Pond Road. Commissioner Edwards wanted to ensure that all of the signs were enlarged and visible. Commissioner Gaines also emphasized that all signage should be marked on County roads. There being no further discussion, the motion for denial passed unanimously.

Mr. Brooks shared that the Emergency Management Director issued a notice of a thunderstorm and asked the Commission to fill out the National Gas Safety Pipeline survey that was given to them by Clerk Ware. Attorney Shalishali provided clarification on a previous question by Commissioner Gaines regarding consolidating the mutual aid agreements for MCLB. He said that it would be difficult to combine due to the involvement of various scopes of work.

Commissioner Edwards asked if flock cameras could be placed on Lily Pond Road and the Chairman said yes. Commissioner Gray wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Commissioner Gaines and Commissioner Jones shared the same sentiments.

Chairman Heard wanted to send prayers to former President Carter due to the loss of his wife First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

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

---

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

---

COUNTY CLERK