

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

July 12, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on July 12, 2021. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, and other staff. 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 June 21st Regular Meeting and June 28th Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman recognized Mrs. Cherrine James to receive a plaque that memorialized the life of community advocate Joe James. Commissioner Edwards and Commissioner Jones assisted Chairman Cohilas with the presentation.

The Chairman recognized Paul Forgey, Director of Planning and Development Services, to update the Commission on citizen concerns regarding businesses located on Poinciana Ave. Mr. Forgey shared that personal care homes are allowed by right in the county and local and state licenses are required. He added that the business has been in operation before the County's ordinance change. Mr. Forgey is working with the business to be compliance with the new business license requirements. Some of the requirements involve obtaining a fire inspection, submitting and adhering to the parking plans that are given. Marshall Norman is also reviewing the concern. The Board voiced concerns regarding the oversight and noncompliance of this particular business's existence. Commissioner Edwards would like a parking plan revised to have all staff park in the back. Upon the request of Commissioner Gaines, Chairman Cohilas asked that the review of this ordinance be placed on the next work session. Commissioner Edwards also asked that the Dougherty County Police department be involved in the conversation and Attorney Lee said that he will work with Mr. Forgey. Citizen Paul Murray spoke and provided his insight about the city and county's zoning ordinance. Mr. Forgey shared that a portion of the ordinance does not apply to the business operation in question. Mr. Murray spoke about other businesses that may not be operating in compliance.

The Chairman recognized William Wright, representative of AFRAM Tech, Inc to discuss his concern about the county's proposed budget amendment. He stated that there was no public participation or vetting.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the quote to install Playground Equipment at Radium Overlook Park for the Public Works Department from the lowest quoted vendor, GameTime (Longwood, FL) in the amount of \$26,960.04. Three vendors provided quotes with the highest being \$40,233.34. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII – County Parks Improvement/Equipment. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook was present. Mr. Addison stated that there is numerous amount of traffic in the parks and believed that this purchase will be important. Chairman Cohilas encouraged individuals to go and visit the sites.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the board appointments. County Clerk Jawahn Ware addressed.

Albany/ Dougherty Land Bank – There are two appointments with a two-year term ending July 31, 2023. Incumbents Thelma Adams-Johnson and Larry Thomas desire reappointment. There are two new applicants: Darlene Price and Will Reese. [The minutes reflect the correction of the candidates with reappointments].

ASPIRE Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Services Board – There is one appointment with a three-year term ending June 30, 2024. Incumbent Dr. Eugene Sherman desires reappointment. There are two new applicants: Joe Austin and Amber Marshall. The Chairman asked if there was a pending board appointment and the County Clerk stated that she will verify the information.

Department of Family & Children Services – There is one appointment with a five-year term ending June 30, 2026. Incumbent Dr. Carolyn Hand desires reappointment. There is one new applicant: Rosalynn Fowler Fliggins.

Economic Development Commission – There are two appointments with a two-year term ending July 31, 2023. Incumbents Chris Hatcher and Commissioner Clinton Johnson desire reappointment (The position held by a Commissioner is appointed by the Chairman). There are two new applicants: Fred Ghiglieri and Cedric Jackson.

Tax Assessors Board – There is one appointment with an unexpired three-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbent Warren Grant relocated outside of Dougherty County. There are two new applicants: George Anderson and Darlene Price.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to declare the listed vehicles and equipment as surplus and authorizing the disposal of or sale of same via an online auction. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Mr. Addison stated that this was a standard surplus request.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to declare the listed equipment as surplus and authorize the disposal of same. This is a listing of equipment damaged by water in the Judicial Building for the Sheriff's Office. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Assistant Chief Pamela Johnson was present. Mr. Addison said that we are tracking the surplus separately for the water damage that occurred.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the annual Cooperative Agreement with Turner Job Corps Center and Dougherty County outlining the assistance of the Dougherty County Police Department in performing law enforcement duties. Chief Kenneth Johnson addressed. Chief Johnson said that this annual MOU will be provided for the Dougherty County Police Department to assist Turner Job Corps on an as-needed basis.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation from the Finance Committee to amend the FY 2022 Budget for the General Fund in the amount of \$59,216,979 and the Special Services District Budget amendment in the amount of \$8,603,444. Finance Committee Chairman Ed Newsome and County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Finance Director Martha Hendley, Sheriff Kevin Sproul, HR Director Dominique Hall, DCP Chief Kenneth Johnson, and EMS Director Sam Allen were present. Commissioner Johnson asked that the wording of the agenda be revised for clarity. Mr. McCoy shared that a portion of the funding can be provided by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) fund as an eligible expense. However, he advised that in the future, a millage increase will be required to sustain the increase. Commissioner Edwards shared the excitement about the long-awaited increase for staff and looking at a pay study to bring the county in line with other surrounding counties. Commissioner Johnson asked the Sheriff to address shortages at the jail. Sheriff Sproul explained how the jail population is currently being shifted and possibly being relocated to other facilities. He added that five of 15 pods have been closed due to the shortages.

Mr. McCoy reminded the Board of the ribbon-cutting scheduled at Robert Cross Park on Thursday. Commissioner Edwards asked that the proclamation template be updated with the added name of the requesting Commissioner. The Chairman shared that he will consult with the Attorney but this should be an easy fix. Commissioner Johnson gave kudos to a Dougherty County Police Officer for going over and beyond to protect the citizens by removing limbs from Gillionville Road.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK