

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

July 10, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on July 10, 2023. 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 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.

After the roll call and the invocation, Chairman Heard asked the Commission to review the minutes of the June 5th Regular Meeting, June 12th Work Session, June 26th Regular Meeting and June 26th Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman recognized Montravis Luke to discuss gang intervention and violence reduction concerns. Mr. Luke shared his background with the Board and expressed his desire to educate the youth in the community on gang prevention. Commissioner Johnson's question regarding the funding availability in the violence prevention grants was addressed in more depth later in the meeting. Commissioner Jones thanked Mr. Luke for his diligence in reaching out to the youth. Chairman Heard shared that he would like to set up a forum with other leaders and the Commission to potentially partner to assist.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to accept the Contract for Services between Dougherty County and GMASS (Georgia Mass Appraisal Solutions and Services, Inc.) to provide a countywide revaluation in the amount of \$1,700,000. The payment will be made in three installments over three years. Funding is budgeted in the General Fund. William Ashberry, Chairman of the Board of Tax Assessors and Larry Thomas, Interim Chief Appraiser addressed. Tax Director Shonna Josey was present. Mr. Ashberry shared that the revaluation should be completed in 2026 and the last one was done in 2007. He added that some updates were made to the rural and urban land in 2014. There is no specific amount to be determined right now due to not knowing what the future holds. Mr. Thomas said that the company was the best and they meet all the criteria of the Department of Revenue. It was added that all parcels will be included in the revaluation. Commissioner Gaines asked that clarification be made to the agenda item to reflect the exact amount of \$1,482,000 and the budgeted amount of \$1,700,000.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to accept the proposed project list for T-SPLOST II. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Public Works Director Chuck Mathis addressed. Project Manager Jeremy Brown and Finance Director Martha Hendley were present. Mr. Mathis shared the list of categories for TSPLOST II and provided an overview of the projected list. Mr. Brooks said that he wanted to take a look at grant opportunities.

The Chairman called for a review of the T-SPLOST II timeline. County Attorney Alex Shalishali addressed. Attorney Shalishali said that the County is required to provide a 10-day notice to the Mayor and to call a joint meeting with the City of Albany. The deadline will be July 28, 2023 and we are required to have the joint meeting no later than August 7, 2023. He recommended that our Board meet and finalize the selected projects on July 24, 2023, or have a Special Called Meeting. It was noted that the City and County are required to adopt an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for TSPLOST II. If an IGA is adopted, this allows the County to collect 1% for TSPLOST II but without an IGA adoption, the most the County could collect is 0.75%. In the resolution, the County has to call for the referendum which must be done 90 days before the election date which is November 7, 2023. If the referendum passes, the collection will begin in April 2024. The current split between the City and County is 67/33 and no indication of change was shared. Attorney Shalishli recommended the approval of the category list before meeting with the City of Albany.

The Chairman called for a recommendation from Disaster Recovery and Grants to accept the funding and retroactive application for a Community Violence Prevention Grant for Dougherty County Police in the amount of \$832,322.70. This is a 100% grant with no local match. Program Manager Harriet Hollis addressed. Assistant Chief of Police Tateshea Irving and Finance Director Martha Hendley were present. Ms. Hollis stated that there were three separate grants: an Equipment Grant, a Crime Suppression Unit Grant and a Community Organizer Grant. Her department will assist with monitoring and reporting and DCP will assist with instituting the various grants. Assistant Chief Irving mentioned that DCP plans to purchase flock cameras and surveillance cameras to help reduce crime. It was added that educating the youth and adults on crime suppression will be enforced. Commissioner Gaines asked that a description of the activities be provided.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to declare the listed vehicles as surplus and authorize the disposal of or sale of same via an online auction. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the board appointments. Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Clark Hope was present.

Albany-Dougherty County Land Bank - Two appointments for a two-year term ending July 31, 2025. Incumbents Thelma Adams-Johnson and Larry Thomas desire reappointment. There are two new applicants: Sam Farkas and Julian Marcus. The Assistant County Administrator recommended the reappointment of the incumbents.

Commissioner Edwards shared his concerns about language in the agenda item referencing “the recommendation from the staff” and added that the Board makes the decision. Even though the governing documents of the Land Bank calls for a recommendation, Commissioner Gray provided an alternative language option.

The Chairman called for a 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. Action on this item was scheduled in the following Special Called Meeting.

Chief Johnson shared that the agreement was the same as the previous one and said that this will allow DCP to assist Turner Job Corps if needed.

Mr. Brooks shared that Melvin Williams has been selected to serve as the interim Solid Waste Director. He also gave kudos to the Public Works Department for receiving an award for specific projects. Commissioner Edwards asked Mr. Brooks to provide an update on the status on the park and morgue.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK