

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 06, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on November 06, 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, Ed Newsome, and Anthony Jones. Also present were Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, 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.

After the invocation by the Chairman and Pledge of Allegiance led by the local Marines in attendance, he called for approval of the minutes of the October 2nd Regular Meeting, October 9th Work Session, and October 9th Special Called Meeting.

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

The Chairman recognized Representatives of VFW Post 2785 to accept the County's Operation Green Light for Veterans Proclamation. Commissioner Clinton Johnson shared how Dougherty County will participate in the National Association of Counties (NaCo) and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) initiative. Commissioner Johnson shared information about the Veterans and encouraged others to "go green" to support them. The Chairman recognized former City of Albany Mayor Adams for his services and Commissioner Gaines shared similar remarks. The proclamation read as follows:

Dougherty County Supports Operation Green Light for Veterans

WHEREAS, the residents and the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dougherty County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans

Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability, and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually, and an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future. Also, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during the transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Dougherty County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Dougherty County hereby declares from October through Veterans Day, November 11th 2023 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Dougherty County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 6th through the 12th, 2023.

This the 6th day of NOVEMBER 2023.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: _____
LORENZO L. HEARD, Chairman

The Chairman recognized Georgia Pacific Public Affairs Representative Mr. Asa Porter who provided a welcome to the Board and shared their entity's interest in working with the Commission.

The Chairman recognized the new ADDU Commander Director Victor Camp who shared more information regarding the potential merger with the gang unit.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the contract for filter maintenance services for Facilities Management from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Service Pros, LLC (Leesburg, GA) in the amount

of \$83,584.16 subject to execution by the Assistant County Administrator. Funding is budgeted in various accounts.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-052 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE
ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT TO
ACCEPT THE BID FROM THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND
RESPONSIBLE BIDDER MEETING SPECIFICATIONS, SERVICE
PROS, LLC; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase a 2024 Kia K5 for ADDU from State Contract GA #99999-001-SPD000122-0003 from Kia Autosport (Columbus, GA) in the amount of \$29,910.95. Funding is budgeted in ARPA.

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

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase a 2023 Ford F150 Pick Up Truck for ADDU from the lowest quoted vendor Griffin Ford (Tifton, GA) in the amount of \$43,204. Funding is budgeted in ARPA.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Edwards for clarification of the use of this truck and ADDU Commander Camp addressed. There being no additional discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase a 2024 Caterpillar 826H Compactor for Solid Waste from State Contract GA #99999-001-SPD0000177-0024 from Yancey Bros. Co. (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$1,119,613. Funding is budgeted in Solid Waste Capital Outlay.

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

The Chairman called for a consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the renewal of the Real Estate Lease Contract between JFT Public Properties, LP, the City of Albany and Dougherty County, Georgia on behalf of the GBI for the building located at 1301 Evelyn Ave, Albany, Ga by the Assistant County Administrator. The lease renewal period is October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024. Attorney Shalishali made a correction stating that the lease was for one year with no renewal clause.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-053 is entitled:

RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF REAL ESTATE LEASE BETWEEN JFT PUBLIC
PROPERTIES, LP, THE CITY OF ALBANY AND DOUGHERTY
COUNTY, GEORGIA; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring the listed equipment and vehicles as surplus and authorize the disposal of or sale of same via an online auction.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-054 is entitled.

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION DECLARING AS SURPLUS THE
ATTACHED LIST OF EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES;
PROVIDING FOR DISPOSAL OF OR SALE OF SAME VIA
AN ONLINE AUCTION; REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS
IN CONFLICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration to approve the proposed alcoholic beverage license renewals for Calendar Year 2024. The Albany-Dougherty Marshal's Office recommended approval.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the proposed board appointments.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Gaines, incumbent Clint Newsome (joint) was unanimously recommended to the City of Albany for ratification of appointment and incumbents Quianna Lavant (County) and Clifford Tolbert (rotational) were reappointed to the Air Conditioning, Heating & Ventilation Board for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, incumbent Glenn Tyler Harris was unanimously reappointed to the Citizens Transportation Committee for a three-year term ending December 31, 2026.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, incumbent Dr. Joe “Tripp” Morgan was unanimously reappointed to the Dougherty County Development Authority for a four-year term ending December 31, 2027. The nomination for incumbent Michael Tabarrok made by Commissioner Gray failed due to a lack of a second. Upon nomination by Commissioner Gaines, the recommendation for Lawrence Roberts (replacing Michael Tabarrok) to be appointed to the Dougherty County Development Authority for a four-year term ending December 31, 2027 passed with six ayes and one nay by Commissioner Gray. Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, the recommendation for J. Scott Steiner to replace Sybil Thomas on the Dougherty County Development Authority passed with six ayes and one nay by Commissioner Newsome for a four-year term ending December 31, 2027.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, incumbent Brian Church was unanimously reappointed to the Economic Development Commission for a three-year term ending December 31, 2026.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, incumbent Sanford Hillsman (rotational) was unanimously reappointed to the Electrical Board for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024. The County will re-advertise for four vacancies to fill a one-year term ending on December 31, 2024.

The County will re-advertise for three vacancies to fill a three-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2025 for the Fire Code Board of Appeals.

Upon the nomination by Commissioner Jones, incumbent Harry James was unanimously reappointed to the Flood Plain Management Review Board for a three-year term ending December 31, 2026. The County will re-advertise for two vacancies to fill a three-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2024 for the Flood Plain Management Review Board.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, incumbent Sanford Hillsman (County) was unanimously reappointed to the Gas Board for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024 and incumbent Rhett Parker (joint) was recommended to the City of Albany for ratification of appointment. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy to fill a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Gray, incumbent Dr. Bernard Scoggins. was unanimously reappointed to the Dougherty County Health Board for a six-year term ending December 31, 2029.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, the recommendation for Tommy Gregors to replace Joel Callins on the Albany/Dougherty Hospital Authority was unanimously accepted for a five-year term ending December 31, 2028. The nomination for Dr. J. Price Corr Jr. made by Commissioner Newsome to replace Ferrell Moultrie failed with only two votes by Commissioners Newsome and Gray. Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, the nomination for Jacqueline Jenkins to be appointed to the Albany/Dougherty Hospital Authority for a five-year term ending December 31, 2028 passed with five ayes and two nays by Commissioners Gray and Newsome. The incumbents served the maximum of two consecutive terms.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Gray, incumbents Melissa Hodges and Bill Reilly were unanimously reappointed to the Keep Albany Dougherty Beautiful Board to fill a three-year term ending December 31, 2026.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Jones, incumbents Walter Kelley and Charlotte Ledford were unanimously reappointed to the Library Board of Trustees for a three-year term ending December 31, 2026.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Gray, incumbents Lee Eppley (Master Plumber), Rhett Parker (Master Plumber) and Glenn Harris (Citizen Member) were unanimously reappointed to the Plumbing Board for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

The nomination for Tameeka Daniels made by Commissioner Johnson to the Southwest Georgia Community Action Council failed with only two votes by Commissioner Johnson and Chairman Heard. Upon nomination by Commissioner Gray, incumbent Glenn Harris was reappointed to the Southwest Georgia Community Action Council for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024 with five ayes and two nays by Commissioner Johnson and Chairman Heard.

There were no applicants for the Southwest Georgia Housing Task Force. Commissioner Johnson requested to nominate Lawrence Knighton because Sonja Johnson did not desire reappointment. Commissioner Gray suggested that the name be presented later and that the current practice be followed. County Clerk Ware shared that our standard protocol is to not nominate from the floor because the County uses an application process, any open vacancies can be applied for at any time if not filled [from the initial process]. It was suggested that Mr. Knighton apply if interested and the application can be presented as early as the next Work Session. The County will re-advertise for

one vacancy to fill a one-year term ending December 31, 2024 for the Southwest Georgia Housing Task Force.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Jones, incumbent Raymond Breaux (County) was reappointed to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission for a one-year term ending December 31, 2024 and incumbent Haryl Dabney (joint) was recommended to the City of Albany for ratification of appointment. The appointments passed with six ayes and one nay by Commissioner Gaines. Upon the appointment of Chairman Heard, Commissioner Anthony Jones was reappointed to serve as his designee for the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission with a one-year term ending December 31, 2024.

Upon nomination of Commissioner Johnson, incumbent Mr. Alistari McKendrick was unanimously reappointed to the Stadium Authority for a four-year term ending December 31, 2027.

Upon nomination of Commissioner Johnson, incumbents Je’Nita Lane and Larry Thomas were unanimously reappointed to the Tax Assessors Board for a three-year term ending December 31, 2026.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution confirming the appointments to the Dougherty County Board of Tax Assessors for the three-year term beginning January 1, 2024 ending December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 22-055 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM
THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER
MEETING SPECIFICATIONS, SERVICE PROS, LLC;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mr. Brooks provided a copy of the Service Awards program to the Board and said that he asked HR to proceed if no changes from the Board were requested. Commissioner Edwards asked if any COVID restrictions would be in place. Mr. Brooks shared that the County has mirrored the CDC guidelines which have been uplifted but personal precautions can be taken. Commissioner Edwards also mentioned some concerns about ensuring that all family members can attend the events and Mr. Brooks said that we will make sure that all who desire to attend can come moving forward. Mr. Brooks ended by providing a risk

management update and Commissioner Johnson asked that the Risk Management team come and provide an update to the Board.

Attorney Shalishali shared an update on the opioid settlements that the County received \$17,929.61 as a part of the distributor settlement. They also received an additional \$2,829.68 for the Johnson & Johnson settlement with a total of \$20,759.29 for the two. Commissioner Johnson clarified for Commissioner Gaines that the Board is responsible for the spending of the funds. Commissioners Gray and Johnson suggested that a policy be created and that the discussion be directed to a subcommittee.

Commissioner Gray encouraged the citizens to go vote. Upon the redirection of the conversation by Commissioner Gaines to create a policy for spending settlement funds, Commissioner Gray agreed for the Public Health Committee to review the request if directed. Commissioner Gaines reminded Mr. Brooks to take action from the Governmental Affairs Committee regarding requested deadlines to establish timeframes for the ordinance priorities for the Board's consideration. She also wanted an overview from Cornerstone and distribution of funds. Mr. Brooks addressed. She asked for an audit update and Mr. Brooks reminded the Board of the status. Commissioner Jones shared the same statement as Commissioner Gray relative to advising citizens to go vote.

The Chairman called for the consideration of the recommendation from the County Attorney to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel, pending and potential litigation and then to adjourn.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously via roll call. Commissioner Edwards asked if Mr. Brooks would be included in the Executive Session and the answer was yes.

There being no further discussion, the Board entered into Executive Session at 11:03 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK