

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

May 24, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on May 24, 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 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. County Attorney Spencer Lee was absent.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the May 10th Work Session.

The Chairman recognized Scott Steiner, President & CEO, Phoebe Putney Health System, to present a check in the amount of \$5,000 to the 2021 Albany-Dougherty Youth Unit Summer Camp. Capt. Ted Thomas (Sheriff's Office), Chief Kenneth Johnson, Asst. Chief Tateshea Irving (Dougherty County Police) and Asst. Chief Derrell Smith (Albany Police Department) were present to accept the award. Commissioner Johnson thanked Mr. Steiner for helping to move the City of Albany from a good life city to a great life city. Mr. Steiner shared sentiments and the importance of supporting the community.

The Chairman recognized Greg Parks with Red Speed USA to discuss an Automated School Zone Safety Program in Dougherty County. Mr. Parks shared that there are no out-of-pocket costs to the County to provide valuable technology tools for the police departments. The specific use of the signs will occur when school is in session. GDOT and the Dougherty County School System will need to also approve the request. He mentioned that the revenue collected [from the program] must be used by the police department and not be placed in the general fund. The current program is being used in 50 jurisdictions and is a revenue share (65% County and 35% vendor) that takes about 60-90 days for implementation. He mentioned that the City of Albany will participate in the program and that 97% of individuals have not received a second ticket so it has been proven to be a great behavior modification tool. The law only allows automatic ticketing /citations to be issued in the school zones and funding can be used for other law enforcement items. This tool is a compliment to live officers and is not a replacement (of officers) in the school zones. The Chairman shared that he would like to digest this information and hear from Chief Johnson. Commissioners Edwards and Gray shared that this company does not solve the issue of the concern of the tractor-trailer on Lily Pond, but the Chairman will still follow up with Mr. McCoy.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase two-speed display signs for the Dougherty County Police Department from the lowest quoted vendor RU2 Systems, Inc. (Mesa, AZ) in the amount of \$24,002.70. The speed display signs will be used to reduce speeding in the unincorporated area of the county. Funding is available in the Special Services District. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Assistant Chief Tateshea Irving and Chief Kenneth Johnson were present. This technology will be used for enforcement in the unincorporated area due to the number of complaints received. Assistant Chief Irving shared that additional features can be selected based on the Commissioner's desire. The Board is in more favor of using live officers as deterrent options. The Chairman asked that there be a presentation at the next Regular Meeting on the recommendations to consider. Commissioner Edwards asked the police staff to inform the Commission if there is a need for additional officers to cover roads. Mr. McCoy shared that staff provided a more cost-effective solution. After hearing this discussion, an option more comparable with the selection made by City would possibly be better.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the quote to install a new HVAC System as part of the SPLOST Renovation Project for the Facilities Management Department from Safe Aire Heating and Cooling (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$47,132. Three quotes were received with the highest being \$49,939.56. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VI and VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Assistant Facilities Management Director Donald Hood was present.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to declare the listed equipment as surplus and authorize the disposal of same. This is the first listing of furniture and equipment damaged by water in the Judicial Building. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Assistant Facilities Management Director Donald Hood was present.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the resolution declaring a 2014 Ford F250 (from the Dougherty County Police Department) as surplus and authorize the sale through Underwriters Safety & Claims. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. He stated that this was a standard procedure to be able to get insurance proceeds to buy a new truck.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation from the Finance Committee to amend the Coroner's budget by \$24,475. The amended budget will increase to \$236,006 from \$211,531. Chairman Newsome, County Administrator Michael McCoy and Coroner Fowler addressed. Commissioner Newsome shared that this is a pattern and the Coroner needed to be held accountable for his budget. Coroner Fowler rebutted that when he took office, he promised to take the office to the next level. He alluded that this year he is over budget due to the pandemic and he needs help to serve the areas. The Coroner noted that he does not have a full-time deputy like in other areas and he spoke about his budget request for FY22.

Chairman Cohilas recognized the recent cleanup program in District 6 and Commissioner Johnson's daughter graduating. Commissioner Jones gave additional information on the cleanup event and thanked the Commissioner for their support. He also shared that he did a communication piece on promoting the landfill and personally thanked Solid Waste. Commissioner Johnson congratulated all the 2021 graduates in the Dougherty County School System.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK