

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on October 12, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present [in the Chamber] was Commissioner Victor Edwards. Commissioners Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Lamar Hudgins, Clinton Johnson and Anthony Jones participated via the audio-conferencing feature. Also participating in the Chamber were County Administrator Michael McCoy, 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. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison was absent.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes for the September 21st Regular Meeting and September 28th Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman recognized EMA Director Chief Cedric Scott and GA Power Representatives, Jay Smith, Area Manager and Wayne Hardie, Hydro Manager to update the Commission on citizen concerns regarding flooding in Dougherty County. Chief Scott provided an update on the recent townhall meeting and citizen's request. Services available for citizens were shared. Mr. Smith introduced Mr. Hardie who provided an update on the operations of the Flint River Hydro Plant. Mr. McCoy asked questions that would provide clarification to assist with the Commission's request from citizens. Mr. Hardie answered Commissioner Gray's questions. Chairman Cohilas said that we could consider a follow up presentation on the matter later.

The Chairman recognized Wes Sadler, Albany Tennis Association Representative, to provide an update on the proposed tennis center. Mr. Sadler provided an overview on the Albany Complex and shared the importance of an expanded tennis center and the involvement of community partnerships for the projected location at Albany State University West. The association's goal is to grow the community participation from 400 to 3,000 in 10 years. The desire is for growth to occur by working with the school system. Commissioner Edwards clarified that the City of Albany is being asked to fund a position for a tennis director and the County is providing funding for the complex. Commissioner Edwards did ask that the word "disadvantaged" be removed because the services are for all students.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase one 2021 Kia Sedona LX in the amount of \$29,815.70 and one 2020 Kia Sorento EX in the amount of \$31,900 for the GBI Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Office from Hutchinson Kia (Albany, GA) for a total expenditure of \$61,715.70. Funding will be provided by the GBI SWRDEO Grant Fund. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Joe Chesnut, GBI Special Agent in Charge and City of Albany Buyer Christina Strassenberg were present.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase two 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles (each in the amount of \$39,422.21), two 2021 Ford Police Interceptor

Utility Administrative Vehicles (each in the amount of \$39,284.21) and one 2021 Ford F150-XLT (in the amount of \$32,120.92) for the Sheriff's Office from Sunbelt Ford (Albany, GA) for a total expenditure of \$189,533.76. Funding will be provided by SPLOST VII and the General Fund (Risk Management). County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Deputy Chief Pamela Johnson, Chief Jailer John Ostrander and City of Albany Buyer Christina Strassenberg were present.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to replace the LED lights at River Front Park for Facilities Management from the lowest quoted vendor RHC (Albany, GA) for a total expenditure of \$33,596. Three vendors submitted bids with the highest being \$35,800. Funding will be provided by SPLOST VII. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Facilities Management Assistant Director Donald Hood was present. Mr. McCoy stated that this was a continuation of the Board's investment in Riverfront Park.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with the State of Georgia. The contract allows Dougherty County to make agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies. County Administrator Michael McCoy and EMA Director Chief Cedric Scott addressed. Mr. McCoy shared that the 2017 storms showed that this agreement is needed so reimbursement for services and costs could be provided.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation from Public Works to apply for a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant in the amount of \$462,000 for Putney Park recreational improvements. The grant provided through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources requires a 50% local match. The county's portion of \$231,000 will be provided by TSPLOST. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook was present. There will be a follow up by staff for this opportunity shared by the Commissioner Johnson. If awarded, this recommendation will be used for the Putney and Radium Springs area. The use does qualify for transportation because a portion of the funding is used for walking trails. Mr. Cook shared additional project components.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to declare the listed equipment as surplus and authorize the sale of same via an online auction or disposal by appropriate means. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed.

Commissioner Edwards requested that the City of Albany also acknowledge the County on signs when funding is provided for projects. Chairman Cohilas stressed that this acknowledgement on signs will provide evidence of the County's collaboration and how both entities have worked together even if we are unconsolidated. Chairman Cohilas asked Mr. McCoy to confirm if the City of Albany Mayor is attempting to dismantle the Dougherty County Emergency Management department and start their own. If so, verification is needed to make sure it is legal to do so. If needed, the Chairman said that he could provide the recommendation letter from GEMA [regarding the current services] and he then readdressed the letter provided by the Mayor. Chairman Cohilas shared that the County Attorney is drafting a letter of historic significance of the tennis center and stated that there is no consensus from the Board to elect a Tax Commissioner. He asked Attorney Lee to also address the consensus in the letter. Lastly, he asked Attorney Lee to address the appointments to the ADICA Board and Hospital Authorities. Chairman Cohilas shared that based upon the letter, it does not appear that there is a consensus from the City

Commission to conduct a health study. However, to save the city taxpayers money, he stated that we can send a copy of the study that was recently done by the County. Attorney Lee provided some verbal responses and restated his understanding of the tasks assigned to him.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned to a Special Called Meeting at 11:06 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK