

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on March 1, 2021. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, and Ed Newsome. Commissioner Gloria Gaines participated via the audio-conferencing feature. 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 and via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel. Commissioner Anthony Jones was absent.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the February 1st Regular Meeting, February 8th Work Session, and February 8th Special Called Meeting minutes.

Commissioner Edwards moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Chairman recognized Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, UGA Extension Coordinator James Morgan, City of Albany Planner Kerrie Davis, and Flint River Fresh Executive Director Fredando Jackson to discuss the Dougherty Fresh initiative. The initiative was centered around healthy food access and education. The partnership was formed in 2020 from a grant and is a partnership between Dougherty County, Dougherty County Extension Service, and Flint River Fresh. A community event to discuss the concept and proposal are being scheduled for April 2021.

The Chairman recognized Tax Director Shonna Josey and Chief Appraiser George Anderson to discuss VPILOT, PILOT, and tax-exempt property in the County. Mr. McCoy shared that this was one of the Commission goals.

The Chairman recognized Dr. Charles King, Sr. to discuss code enforcement concerns specifically on 910 Mercedes Avenue. Dr. King Sr. mentioned that he is receiving notices to clean the city/county easements and inquiring about the service of inmates being used again to keep the community clean. Chairman Cohilas shared that this is the unfairness that property owners are dealing with; even though you did not put the trash there, it is the property's owner responsibility to keep the property clean. Chairman Cohilas reminded Commissioner Edwards that the responsible entity [for this complaint] is the City of Albany. Attorney Lee outlined the County's responsibility and suggested that Dr. King speak to his City Commissioner and that board. Dr. King rebutted and shared that the County does have some responsibility.

The Chairman recognized citizen William Wright who provided an update on funding availability. He requested to come back next week. Commissioner Edwards directly held Mr. Wright responsible [for his complaints] because support has been provided by the Commission, but Mr. Wright has failed on his part [to follow through for services].

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation to purchase one 2021 Ford F150 4x4 Pickup Truck for the Coroner's Office from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder meeting specifications Sunbelt Ford Lincoln (Albany, GA) in the value-engineered amount of \$35,205.28. This amount reflects the addition of the remote start option. Funding is available in SPLOST VII.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation to purchase a T60T Hydroseeder for the Solid Waste Department from the State Contract vendor Flint Equipment (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$35,628.72. The machine will be used to grass areas of the landfill to comply with EPD rules. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Capital Outlay.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation to purchase one Alamo 25' Boom Mower in amount of \$74,600 and one John Deere 6130M Cab Tractor in the amount of \$99,773.52 from the State Contract vendor Flint Equipment Company (Albany, GA) for the Public Works Department. The total expenditure will be \$174,373.52 and is budgeted in SPLOST VII.

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

The Chairman called for the consideration of the resolution providing for the enforcement of the Dougherty County Nuisance Abatement Resolution relative to two purported dilapidated structures located at 2912 and 2914 Thrasher Avenue.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-007 is entitled:

**A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED**

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR INVESTIGATION AND/OR
INSPECTION BY THE PUBLIC OFFICER AS DESIGNATED UNDER
DOUGHERTY COUNTY NUISANCE ABATEMENT RESOLUTION
NUMBER 02-034 AND/OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE AND PROVIDING
FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE DOUGHERTY COUNTY
NUISANCE ABATEMENT RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO CERTAIN**

REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for the consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance of the changes recommended by the Environmental Protective Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources relative to Dougherty County's Stormwater Control Ordinance.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-008 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF THE DOUGHERTY
COUNTY STORMWATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND
DISCHARGE CONTROL RESOLUTION AND SUBSTITUTION
THEREFORE OF A NEW DOUGHERTY COUNTY STORMWATER
QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND DISCHARGE CONTROL RESOLUTION
AS RECOMMENDED AND REQUIRED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION DIVISION OF THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for the consideration of the recommendation from the GBI for the Commission to accept two Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force grants in the amounts of \$44,858 and \$203,142 for a total award of \$248,000.

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

The Chairman called for the consideration of the resolution providing an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and Dougherty County relative to the restoration and repair of a historic bridge known as Spring Run Bridge and construction of a trail system around Radium Garden. County Attorney Spencer Lee addressed. County Administrator Michael McCoy was present. Attorney Lee said that this was placed on a regular meeting because DNR will be meeting this month and this request supplements the grant received to improve the area.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-009 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND DOUGHERTY COUNTY RELATIVE TO THE RESTORATION AND REPAIR OF A HISTORIC BRIDGE KNOWN AS SPRING RUN BRIDGE AND CONSTRUCTION OF A TRAIL SYSTEM ALONG TRACT 1 AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT TITLED "GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FLINT RIVER EDUCATIONAL PARK – RADIUM SPRINGS TRACT" PREPARED BY STEPHENSON AND PALMER ENGINEERING AS SAID PLAT IS SHOWN AND RECORDED IN PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE 56-G IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Johnson provided updates on a pending House Bill HR 1319 to provide funding to counties. Chairman Cohilas shared sentiments from the participation at Albany Dougherty Day. It was mentioned that Dougherty County is in the top 5 of vaccinated counties in the state and we are seeing a significant decline in infection and death rates.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK