

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on March 21, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Russell Gray, Gloria Gaines, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. 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.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the minutes for the February 21st Regular Meeting, February 28th Work Session and February 28th Special Called Meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Chairman recognized Sheriff Kevin Sproul to update the Commission with their annual report for the Sheriff's Office and Jail. Sheriff Sproul shared that numbers are lower than in the past due to Covid protocols; except for field operations which helped other sister organizations. He provided highlights of the CHAMPS (Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety) summer camp and stressed the need to give attention to the importance of addressing mental health issues.

The Chairman recognized Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, Consultant David Maschke and Coroner Michael Fowler to provide an update on the morgue. Four options pertaining to the morgue were presented. Options one and two locations would be in the Old Sign Shop; options three and four locations would be between Public Works and the EMS station. The proposed costs range from \$747,214 to \$1,255,460. Only \$414,000 was budgeted in SPLOST VII leaving a budget shortfall between \$333,214 to \$841,460. Chairman Cohilas clarified that the previously explored options where Albany State University (ASU) or the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) would own the morgue are not feasible. After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Cohilas asked for a funding recommendation from staff at the next work session.

The Chairman opened the public hearing for Muggridge & Wimberly Limited, LLC, owner and Lanier Engineering, Inc., applicant (22-008) request for special approval to operate a Self-Storage Facility in a C-3 (Commercial District). The parcel is a .77-acre vacant lot. The property is located at 2707 Upland Ct. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Paul Forgery, Planning and Development Director, addressed. Engineer Tod Lanier was available to address the concerns of the Board. There being no additional comments regarding the proposed matter, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase one Batwing Mower for Public Works from the Sourcewell Contract servicing dealer Flint Equipment Company (Leesburg, GA) in the amount of \$24,252.36. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII.

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

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase one 2022 John Deere 6105E 4x4 Tractor and one 2022 John Deere HX7 Mower for Public Works from the Sourcewell Contract servicing dealer Flint Equipment Company (Leesburg, GA) for a total expenditure of \$76,466.52. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII.

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

There was a recess from 11:17 am to 11:20 am and Commissioner Gray left the meeting.

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

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-014 is entitled:

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the proposed board appointments.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, the recommendation for Barbara Johnson Clark to replace James Griffin was unanimously accepted to serve on the Department of Family and Children Services for an unexpired five-year term ending June 30, 2024.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, the recommendation for Roderick Garner to replace Norma Gaines Heath was unanimously accepted to serve on the Payroll Development Authority for an unexpired three-year term ending December 31, 2024.

The Chairman called for consideration of the joint resolution between the City of Albany and Dougherty County providing for the execution of forms provided by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs necessary to receive grant funding. The City must update the existing Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) to receive grant funding for the upgrade of overhead electrical lines. The existing SDS does not cover electrical services, so a new agreement is required and must be approved by both governments. The agreement must be submitted prior to April 1, 2022. Director of Planning and Development Services, Paul Forgey was present to address.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-015 is entitled:

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ALBANY AND  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY  
AND MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ALBANY TO EXECUTE  
FORMS PROVIDED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY OF AFFAIRS NECESSARY TO RECEIVE  
GRANT FUNDING FOR THE UPGRADE OF OVERHEAD  
ELECTRICAL LINES, REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS  
AND CONFLICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the ratification of approval for professional services for the search for the county attorney with Mercer Group Associates (Athens, GA) in the base amount of \$18,000. Funding is available in the General Fund.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-016 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND  
EXECUTION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY A  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN REDDISH  
EXECUTIVE SEARCH ASSOCIATES, LLC D/B/A MERCER  
GROUP ASSOCIATES HEREINAFTER (“REDDISH”) AND  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
HAVING REDDISH ASSIST THE COUNTY IN CONDUCTING A  
SEARCH FOR QUALIFIED ENTITIES TO PROVIDE LEGAL  
SERVICES TO DOUGHERTY COUNTY; REPEALING  
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT  
HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration to fund the proposed priority 3 project for the Albany Rescue Mission (Facility Roof Improvement) in the amount of \$54,000 in the current FY22 ARPA Budget. Chairman Cohilas thanked Commissioner Edwards for bringing this issue to the Commission's attention.

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

The Chairman called for the zoning consideration for the special approval of Muggridge & Wimberly Limited, LLC, owner and Lanier Engineering, Inc., applicant (22-008) request to operate a Self-Storage Facility in a C-3 (Commercial District). The parcel is a .77-acre vacant lot. The property is located at 2707 Upland Ct. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously. The zoning resolution is as follows:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION OF SPECIAL APPROVAL  
LOCATED WITHIN UNINCORPORATED AREA OF  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA  
SO AS TO APPROVE TO OPERATE A SELF- STORAGE FACILITY IN A C-3 AREA  
HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia, and IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by authority of same:

SECTION I: That on March 21, 2022, the Dougherty County Commission approved request Owner/Applicant to operate a self- storage facility in a C-3 area:

ZONING DISTRICT: C-3 (Commercial District)

SPECIAL APPROVAL: To allow the special approval to operate a self- storage facility in a C-3 area.

OWNER/APPLICANT: Muggridge & Wimberly LLC/ Lanier Eng

LOCATION: 2707 Upland Court

SECTION II: That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same hereby are repealed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK

APPROVED: March 21, 2022

Commissioner Gaines requested again that there be a discussion on mandatory pre-bids. Chairman Cohilas confirmed Commissioner Edwards' request in reference to the County's policy to have a high school diploma experience for the laborer position. It was added that this request should be presented in the next two weeks.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY CLERK