

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on February 22, 2021. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present [in the Chamber] were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, and Ed Newsome. Commissioners Gloria Gaines 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 recognized Keep Albany Dougherty Beautiful (KADB) Executive Director Judy Bowles to update the Commission with the 2020 Annual Report and Arbor Day activities. Ms. Bowles shared a video of the annual report for 2019-2020. She also invited the Commission to the upcoming Arbor Day Celebration and announced two grants received totaling \$20,000.

The Chairman recognized GBI Special Agent in Charge Eric Schwalls to provide an update on operations and request that the Commission accept two Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force grant awards in the amount of \$248,000. Mr. Schwalls shared that 42% of the 211 cases were open in FY 2020 in Dougherty County. The total of drug seizures was \$3,406,019 and yielded 85 arrests.

The Chairman recognized Solid Waste Director Campbell Smith to update the Commission with the 2020 Annual Report and to introduce the Employee of the Year, Ronaldo Dumas, Heavy Equipment Operator I and Manager of the Year, Annie Hill, Administrative Operations Manager.

The Chairman recognized Public Works Director Larry Cook to update the Commission with the 2020 Annual Report and to introduce the Employee of the Year, Cindy Willis, Laborer and Manager, Benita Dyes, Administrative Supervisor. Mr. Cook introduced Sam Green who replaced Donald Mathis.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the February 1st Regular Meeting, February 8th Work Session, and February 8th Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman called for a discussion 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 \$34,962.28. Four bids were received with the highest being \$51,244.20. Funding is available in SPLOST VII. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Coroner Michael Fowler and City of Albany

buyer, Tina Strassenberg were present. Mr. McCoy and Mrs. Ware addressed the questions of Commissioner Edwards. Commissioner Edwards requested that the remote start be added to which the Chairman agreed.

The Chairman called for a discussion 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. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Solid Waste Director Campbell Smith was present.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase one Alamo 25' Boom Mower in the amount of \$74,600 and one (1) 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. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook and Buyer Tina Strassenberg were present.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to take appropriate action to either demolish or bring up to Code two purported dilapidated structures located at 2912 and 2914 Thrasher Avenue. County Attorney Spencer Lee and County Administrator Michael McCoy discussed. Commissioner Jones requested that action be taken on the properties in District 6. Attorney Lee provided an update on improvements being made and the process to implement the nuisance abatement procedure and how properties can be classified as abandoned versus dilapidated. Commissioner Jones wanted the Commission to look at other processes to assist citizens who complain about no action being taken on other properties. Chairman Cohilas would like a comprehensive review of the concern to be discussed in a future work session and possibly be a budgetary item for comprehensive action.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a review of Dougherty County's Stormwater Control Ordinance relative to the implementation of changes recommended by the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Project Engineer Jeremy Brown addressed. Mr. Brown stated that the changes reflected additional requirements by the EPD.

Mr. Newsome expressed thanks to the Chairman and the County Administrator for working with GEMA to get the vaccinations and encouraged citizens to use the sites. Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. McCoy to schedule a Recreation meeting. Chairman Cohilas asked for a moment of silence for Dougherty County School System long-serving Board Member Mr. Milton "June Bug" Griffin and stressed the desire for the vaccinations.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned to a Special Called Meeting at 11:08 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK