

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2024 DRAFT

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 19, 2024. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Russell Gray, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, 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. Commissioners Gloria Gaines and Clinton Johnson were absent.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by the Chairman, he called for approval of the minutes for the July 15th Regular Meeting, July 29th Work Session, and July 29th Special Called Meeting

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

The Chairman opened the public hearing for the proposed tax increase of .15% for the County-Wide Digest and the proposed tax increase of .15% for the Special Services Digest. The millage rates remain the same as last year. The County-Wide millage rate is 19.069 and the Special Services millage rate is 9.173. There being no individuals present in support of or opposition to the proposed tax public hearing, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman recognized Vivek Bist, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, to update the Commission with the quarterly report. Our new 4H Agent, Jennifer Edwards, a former 4Her under Commissioner Jones, was introduced and presented information to the Board. Commissioner Jones provided sentiments and words of advice. Ms. Edwards addressed questions by Commissioner Edwards regarding diversity and low participation of young black males by sharing her plans for engagement. Dougherty County Extension Nutrition Education Program Assistant Vanessa Washington was present.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of Addendum 2 of the Third-Party Administrative Services Agreement between Charles Taylor and Dougherty County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the minutes were unanimously approved. Resolution 24-032 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM 2 OF

THE THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
AGREEMENT WITH CHARLES TAYLOR TPA, LLC;  
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF  
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation to increase the Tipping Fee rates at the Landfill effective October 1, 2024. The rates for MSW Garbage, Inert C&D, and residential self-haul will increase from \$38.97 to \$40.97, the rates for asbestos will increase from \$43.26 to \$45.26 and the rates for liquids will increase from \$71.72 to \$73.72. The last increase was effective July 1, 2016.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the nomination of Commissioner Anthony Jones to serve as the County's Voting Delegate at the ACCG Legislative Conference Business Session on October 10, 2024 in Athens-Clarke County.

Upon a nomination by Commissioner Gray, Commissioner Jones was unanimously approved to serve as the County's Voting Delegate at the ACCG Legislative Conference Business Session on October 10, 2024, in Athens-Clarke County.

Mr. Brooks said there are two additional Tax Public Hearings scheduled. The first will be at 6 p.m. on August 19th and the second at 10 a.m. on August 26th, both in Room 100. He also provided an update on HB581 and suggested that the Board participate in the October 1<sup>st</sup> event in Tifton, Ga. Some information he received was shared from a recent City-County meeting hosted by the SWGA Regional Commission.

Commissioner Newsome shared his opinion on HB581, and Commissioner Edwards asked about the absentee ballot information he received. Commissioner Gray provided information on the best course of action to take, and Mr. Brooks said that we would work with our PIO and media partners to educate our citizens. Commissioner Gray also gave a preemptive welcome to those visiting our area for the ACCG Summer Policy Meeting being held in Dougherty County. Commissioner Jones provided kudos to Mr. Brooks and Facilities Management on the concerns with cats, the Humane Society, and the assistance they were starting to provide. Attorney Shalishali shared information on the local neutering and spaying programs. Chairman Heard asked that a moment of silence be held for the death of Public Works employee Lucius "Mickey" Amburn.

The Chairman called for the consideration of the recommendation from the County Attorney to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and pending litigation and then to adjourn.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously via roll call.

There being no further discussion, the Board entered into Executive Session at 10:45 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK