

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on February 8, 2021. Vice-Chairman Victor Edwards presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present [in the Chamber] were Commissioners 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, 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, via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel. Chairman Christopher Cohilas was absent.

Pastor Williamson from Blue Springs Baptist Church provided the invocation.

The Vice-Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Retreat and January 25<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting.

The Vice-Chairman recognized William Wright, representative of Afram Tech, Inc. to continue addressing concerns to the Commission. He provided supplement material and provided different funding strategies that could be used to finance a minority business program. The request for funding and room usage was presented along with additional information for a local "Green New Deal" program. Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. McCoy to review the policy on the Candy Room utilization and work with Mr. Wright because he desires for the Commission to support Mr. Wright in his initiatives. The Vice-Chairman directed Mr. McCoy to meet with Mr. Wright to establish a meeting to discuss the three issues. Commissioner Jones suggested that all entities [listed in the proposal] meet.

The Vice-Chairman called for discussion of the zoning application of Ola M. Brown, owner, and Frank Hadley IV, applicant; request to rezone 14.996 acres from AG (Agricultural District) to R-G (Single-Family Residential District County Only). The property address is 2620 Gibson Road. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Mary Teter, Planning Manager, addressed. The Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for February 15, 2021. The request is to subdivide the property into two tracts for a home to be built.

The Vice-Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase one 2020 Freightliner 114SD with attached 2021 Polar SRX 800-1 Tank Trailer for Solid Waste from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder meeting specifications Four Star Freightliner (Montgomery, AL) in the amount of \$173,277. Two bids were received. Funding is available in Solid Waste Capital Outlay. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Solid Waste Director Campbell Smith and City of Albany buyer, Tina Strassenberg were present.

Mr. Addison stated that this was a replacement for the tanker at the landfill and addressed the questions of Commissioner Johnson.

The Vice-Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase two Zoll Medical X Series Monitor/Defibrillators for the EMS Department from single-source vendor Zoll Medical Corporation (Chelmsford, Mass.) in the amount of \$61,218.16. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. EMS Director Sam Allen was present. Mr. Addison stated that this was a standard replacement for items that have reached the end of the life cycle.

The Vice-Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase ten Motorola Portable Radios for the EMS Department from single-source vendor Motorola Solutions (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$37,974.55. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. EMS Director Sam Allen was present. Mr. Addison stated that this was a standard life cycle replacement.

The Vice-Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the proposal in the amount of \$100,080 from Dewberry Engineers Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to provide professional engineering services. The services will assess the potential effectiveness of modifying the operations of the Flint River Hydro Project, Muckafoonee Dam, and Crisp Power Dam at Lake Blackshear on the Flint River to mitigate flooding on Lake Chehaw and Lake Worth. Funding is available in SPLOST VII. Assistant Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook, Project Engineer Jeremy Brown, and Associate Vice President Sam Fleming, P.E. were present. Mr. Addison provided an update to the Commission on the request for options to mitigate flooding. Commissioner Gray added that this will provide an independent opinion on how to best collaborate with the different entities for the flooding concerns for Dougherty County and Lee County residents. Mr. McCoy addressed Commissioner Gaines' concerns regarding the County's role in the issue. There was discussion opposed to Dougherty County funding the proposal considering that the cause of flooding stemmed from northern areas. The need to protect all citizens was stressed with the emphasis that other entities involved would need to assist with the costs. Commissioner Gray provided additional perspectives on the advantages of Dougherty County proceeding by providing data to get assistance for citizens. Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. McCoy to involve Cornerstone for legislative assistance and Mr. McCoy shared details on the previous action taken. After a lengthy discussion ensued, Commissioner Gray asked the Commission to remove the item for consideration [at the upcoming Regular Meeting] to allow him and Mr. McCoy to get additional information and speak to stakeholders. Commissioner Gaines offered her assistance on the matter based on previous expertise.

The Vice-Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation from the Albany Fire Department to apply for the Fiscal Year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Grant Program Directorate (GPD) in the amount of \$488,958.31 to purchase a tanker truck. This amount includes the local match amount of \$48,895.83. Funding is available in SPLOST VII. Assistant

County Administrator Scott Addison and Fire Chief Cedric Scott addressed. Action on this item is scheduled in the following Special Called Meeting. Mr. Addison stated that this would be an excellent opportunity to ideally provide another tanker truck on the other side of the county.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned to a Special Called Meeting at 11:33 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK