

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION  
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

February 12, 2024

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on February 12, 2024. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. after the Westover Comprehensive High School Choir selections, led by Chorus Director Deese Brown II. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were Assistant 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.

After the invocation by Chairman Heard, he asked the Commission to review the minutes of the January 22nd Regular Meeting, January 29th Work Session and February 2nd Commission Retreat.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners, presented a proclamation celebrating Black History Month and the historical legacy of the Board's African American leadership. Those that were physically present were former Commissioners James Bush, Juanita Cribb, Muarlean Edwards, and John Hayes. Family members of former Commissioner William Hall accepted the acknowledgment on his behalf. Each former representative and current Commissioner provided comments. The proclamation reads as follows:

**A PROCLAMATION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
AND THE HISTORICAL LEGACY OF BLACK LEADERSHIP IN DOUGHERTY  
COUNTY.**

**WHEREAS**, the month of February marks the annual celebration of Black History Month, honoring the rich heritage, achievements, and contributions of African Americans throughout history; and

**WHEREAS**, it is with great pride and profound appreciation that we recognize the significant milestone achieved by Commissioner James Bush and Commissioner Jaunita Cribb, who made history as the first two black county commissioners to serve on the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, we also pay homage to the trailblazing legacy of former commissioners to include, Commissioners George Brown, Robert Cross, Brenda Robinson Cutler, Don Cutler, Muarlean Edwards, William Hall, John Hayes, Harry James, and Art Searles whose dedication, leadership, and advocacy have paved the way for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the commitment and service of these remarkable individuals has enriched our community, and we commend their unwavering dedication to public service and their enduring commitment to building a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

**WHEREAS**, we honor their legacy by continuing to strive for justice, equality, and opportunity for every member of our community.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia and it is hereby proclaimed by Authority of same that our gratitude and admiration for the contributions of Commissioner George Brown, Commissioner James Bush, Commissioner Jaunita Cribb, Commissioner Robert Cross, Commissioner Brenda Robinson Cutler, Commissioner Don Cutler, Commissioner Muarlean Edwards, Commissioner William Hall, Commissioner John Hayes, and Commissioner Harry James shall be recognized, this is the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
LORENZO L. HEARD, Chairman  
Dougherty County Commission

The Chairman recognized Southwest Georgia Regional Organizer of the Southwest Black Voters Matter Fund Kanisha Jones to acknowledge Dougherty County in support of closing Georgia's Health Insurance Coverage gap. She highlighted that many counties do not have hospitals and heavily rely on Albany, Phoebe Hospital, and Dougherty County.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to ratify the expenditures in the amount of \$189,386 for the emergency rehabilitation of the Public Works crew quarters. Funding is available in the General Fund. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Facilities Management Director Heidi Hailey addressed. It was clarified that this was an emergency repair, and the project exceeded the approval threshold of the Acting County Administrator. Commissioner Edwards questioned the nature of the emergency and felt as if the project had time to be bid. Public Works Director Chuck Mathis shared the severity of the situation including the displacement of employees. Mr. Brooks said that we can look at providing a specific threshold in a document (i.e. ordinance or policy) for emergency purchases.

The Chairman called for a recommendation from Dougherty County Police to purchase two mobile license plate readers in the amount of \$41,851 from Madden Associates (Braselton, GA) for use by DCP's Traffic Enforcement Unit. The expenditure includes license plate readers, installation, software systems, user licenses, and a first-year warranty. Funding is available in the Special Service District Fund. Chief Kenneth Johnson addressed. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks was present.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to purchase a Caterpillar 259D3 Compact Track Loader for Solid Waste from State Contract GA #99999-001-SPD0000177-0024 from Yancey Bros. Co. (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$79,233. Funding is budgeted in Solid Waste Capital Outlay. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Solid Waste Interim Director Melvin Williams addressed. Mr. Williams shared that the deductible exceeded the cost of the machinery, so it was more feasible to purchase new equipment.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to approve the alcohol application from Nilkanth 2212, Inc., Krupali V. Bodar licensee, dba Crossroads Food Mart, at 3023 Leary Road for Package-Beer and Wine. The Albany-Dougherty Marshal's Office recommends approval. Deputy Marshal Marcus Mitchell, Code Enforcement Department, addressed.

Mr. Brooks announced that the Public Health Committee will meet after the Executive Session and shared that the proposal for the financial audit had been distributed for later action. Commissioner Johnson stressed the need for a financial audit for the effectiveness and efficiency of the County. Chairman Heard commended Commissioner Johnson for the out-of-the-box approach to seeking a partnership with NACA (Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America) for homeownership, which could later grow our tax base.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 11: 02 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK