

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on September 12, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Hope, 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. Commissioner Gloria Gaines was absent.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the minutes of the August 9th Special Called Meeting, August 15th Regular Meeting and August 15th Public Hearing.

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

The Chairman recognized representatives from ASPIRE Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services to receive the proclamation recognizing September as Recovery Month and recognize Daniel Fleuren and Marlisa Nixon as the 2022 GA Recovers Billboard Ambassadors. Mr. Fleuren said that he was a recovering addict and he appreciated the Board for their support with ASPIRE. It was mentioned that an event will take place on September 24th titled "Recovery in the Streets" at 117 Pine Avenue where family and friends can come out and enjoy the festivities. Mrs. Nixon expressed her gratitude as well. The proclamation read as follows:

RECOVERY MONTH 2022 PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, behavioral health is an essential part of health and one's overall wellness; and

WHEREAS, recovery from alcohol and other drug use occurs every day through a variety of recovery support resources and treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, prevention of mental and substance use disorders works, treatment is effective, and people recover across Georgia and around the nation; and

WHEREAS, millions of people across the United States are in long-term recovery living happy, healthy, and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Recovery Month theme, “Recovery is For Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community,” reminds people in recovery and those who support them that no one is alone in the journey through recovery. Everyone’s journey is different, but we are all in this together, and

WHEREAS, education about recovery and addiction is essential to combating the stigma and discrimination faced by people in recovery is needed by all Georgians including public health and safety officials, the workforce, older adults, and families; and

WHEREAS, to help more people achieve and sustain long-term recovery, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Certification Board of Georgia, the Association of Community Service Boards, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Georgia Addiction Counselors Association, the Georgia Association of Recovery Residencies, and the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, invite all residents of the State of Georgia to participate in National Recovery Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christopher S. Cohilas, Chairman of the Dougherty County Commission, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of Dougherty County, GA, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2022 as “RECOVERY MONTH” in Dougherty County, GA. I further call upon our citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools of Dougherty County, GA to commit to increasing awareness and understanding, fighting stigma and discrimination and promoting the observation of this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies to support this year’s Recovery Month theme, Recovery is For Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community”.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Dougherty County, GA to be affixed on this 12th day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Christopher S. Cohilas, Chairman

The Chairman recognized Citizen Gloria Baker to accept the proclamation recognizing September as Alopecia Awareness Month. Ms. Baker thanked the Board for the proclamation. The proclamation read as follows:

ALOPECIA AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, alopecia is an auto-immune condition for which there is no cure that causes cells to attack hair follicles that thereby cause hair loss and affects approximately two percent of the population of all races and ages, but most commonly affects children and young adults;

WHEREAS, a significant number of citizens of Dougherty County currently suffer from alopecia and have formed a support group to share their experiences and provide resources to one another; and

WHEREAS, Dougherty County citizen, Gloria Baker, who has been battling alopecia since 2003, and is a member of a support group that assists women and children in the Dougherty County suffering from alopecia, requested that the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia declare the month of September Alopecia Awareness Month;

WHEREAS Dougherty County, Georgia is desirous of declaring the month of September Alopecia Awareness Month;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia and it is hereby proclaimed by Authority of same that September shall be recognized as Alopecia Awareness Month.

This the 12th day of September 2022.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: _____
CHRISTOPHER S. COHILAS, Chairman
Dougherty County Commission

The Chairman recognized Kirby Glaze, President, Community Development Partners to provide an update on a potential public/private partnership to redevelop county-owned property (approximately 17 acres) located at 1500 N. Jefferson Street. Mr. Glaze provided an update to the Board and said that he had a conversation with the developer that has done residential development for the site. He shared other resources and information pertaining to private-public partnership management and outlined the process needed for the county to proceed. Mr. Glaze addressed Commissioner Jones' questions about the market study. Chairman Cohilas recommended scheduling a phone conference with Jana Dyke and Commissioner Johnson,

representing the Economic Development Commission. Afterwards, he will meet with Mr. McCoy to determine how to best proceed with the next steps for redevelopment.

The Chairman recognized William Wright, the representative for AFRAM Tech, Inc. to provide his concerns on the utilization of the 17 acres on Jefferson Street.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the amendment of the employment agreement between Dougherty County, GA and Dougherty County Police Chief Kenneth Johnson. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Mr. McCoy recommended approval for the new salary for the Police Chief as a result of the pay study. The pay study revealed that the Assistant Chief will be making more money than the Chief if his salary was not increased.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 22-042 is entitled:

**A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE EMPLOYMENT
AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND KENNETH JOHNSON; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Commissioner Johnson wanted to send prayers to the family of Johnny Williams “Rabbit Man” who had passed away. He said that there will be an expansion of behavioral crisis centers and co-responders across the state and added that billing for EMS will be changed and will not be set to start until the 11th mile of driving. He addressed Mr. Wright's information by saying that most of the information was incorrect and later requested a moment of silence for Queen Elizabeth’s death. He asked for information to understand the City of Albany’s IGA [Intergovernmental Agreement] discussed in a previous Recreation Committee Meeting. Commissioner Johnson said that he would like to have a Recreation Committee Meeting with the City of Albany’s Director of Recreation and Parks Steven Belk. Mr. McCoy shared that the staff has recommendations for changing the parking policy. Commissioner Edwards asked for the Horace King display to be refurbished. Public Information Officer Wendy Howell said that the redesign is currently in process. Commissioner Gray asked what could be done to facilitate a public-private partnership and he would love to have a discussion on this option. Commissioner Johnson asked if Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital President and CEO Scott Steiner would be present to provide additional insight on the discussion of current matters. Chairman Cohilas said that Dougherty County needs to consider the level of involvement with the Marine Base Logistics and how they are a vital component of our economic impact.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK