

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on March 6, 2023. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Anthony Jones, Clinton Johnson and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, 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 and Pledge of Allegiance by the Chairman, he called for approval of the minutes for the February 6th Regular Meeting and February 13th Work Session.

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

The Chairman recognized Aspire Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services, Community Support Day Coordinator, Kathy Revell, and representatives to accept the proclamation recognizing Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Dougherty County. Aspire Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services, Chief Clinical Officer, Caroline Chandler addressed the Commission. Commissioner Johnson asked that they forward any bill numbers to the Commission so that they could help by asking the legislatures for support. The proclamation reads as follows:

INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

Whereas: Individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, their families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers encourage everyone to focus on the abilities of all people;

And,

Whereas: the most effective way to increase this awareness is through connections to the community, employers, and building healthy relationships and openness to seeing everyone makes important contributions to their community.

And,

Whereas: policies must be developed, attitudes shaped, and opportunities offered for citizens with intellectual/developmental disabilities to live as independently and productively as possible in our community;

And,

Whereas: we encourage all citizens to support opportunities for people with disabilities that include full access to education, housing, employment, and recreational activities;

And,

Now, therefore, we, Dougherty County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim March 2023 as

INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH
and offer full support to ASPIRE Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and their efforts that assist people with intellectual/developmental disabilities to make choices that enable them to live a ‘Life Without Limits’;

Furthermore, we urge all citizens to take time to connect with someone with a disability and to discover how they live ‘Life Without Limits’. Every person holds a promise to encourage, empower, and inspire others.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand and caused our seal this 6th day of March, in the year two thousand and twenty-three.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Lorenzo L. Heard, Chairman

The Chairman recognized Rushabh Patel to provide an update on the convenience store located on Liberty Expressway. City of Albany Inspector, Patrick "PJ" Ranew addressed. Mr. Patel shared that he is awaiting inspection from the City of Albany and new permits are needed. It was stated that 60% of general construction has been done and the plans to reopen are set around the second quarter of the year. He also said that he would like the Commission to participate in the ribbon cutting. Commissioner Jones provided a historic update and introduced Mr. Ranew and Mr. Jay McGhee. Commissioner Edwards requested that code enforcement provide an update to the Board. It was added that clarity is needed regarding who has the responsibility to call for inspection (owners or contractors). The inspectors provided the rationale for requesting new plans and permits and Mr. McCoy shared that he will address the concerns and provide an update to the Board. Mr. McGhee addressed the concern of Commissioner Edwards regarding the building permit process.

The Chairman recognized Chief Kenneth Johnson to update the Commission with the annual report for the Dougherty County Police Department. The following employees were recognized in the presentation. The 2022 Officers of the Year was Detective Julius Phillips and Evidence

Custodian Ke’rinton Girdner; Support Staff of the Year was Senior Clerk Pamela Leary, Traffic Officer of the Year was Patrol Officer Addonis Battle and the four Top Gun Awards were to Lieutenant David McVey, Corporal Donald Eubanks, Corporal David Gadd and Patrol Officer Bert Jones. Commissioner Gaines asked that our communication department share the “good news” regarding the County’s low crime rate which is usually portrayed otherwise. Commissioner Edwards asked that we help educate the public regarding the proper use of their medical waivers while driving.

The Chairman recognized Director Sam Allen to update the Commission with the annual report for the Dougherty County Emergency Medical Services Department. Mr. Allen shared that the total revenue collection in 2022 was \$3,239,053. The total call volume was 23,538 and 5 minutes and 49 seconds was the average response time.

The Chairman recognized William Wright, a representative for AFRAM Tech, Inc., who asked for an update on the Mainstreet presentation. The County Clerk shared with Mr. Wright that the document he provided did not have accessible information. She requested that he provide information that can be accessible so that she can distribute it to the Board.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance of the bid from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, BHM Farms, LLC, dba South Georgia Turf Care (Leesburg, Ga) for the Public Works Right of Way Mowing Project in the amount of \$52,797.96, subject to the execution of the contract by the County Administrator. Funding is budgeted in the Special Tax District.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-008 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT TO ACCEPT THE BID FOR THE
PUBLIC WORKS RIGHT OF WAY MOWING PROJECT FROM THE
LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE VENDOR MEETING
SPECIFICATIONS, BHM FARMS, LLC, DBA SOUTH GEORGIA
TURF CARE; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance of the bid from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Pro Outdoor (Albany, Ga) for the Public Works Riverfront Park Landscaping and Lawn Maintenance River Park and Resource Center Project in the amount of \$70,081.08, subject to the execution of the contract by the County Administrator. Funding is budgeted in ARPA.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-009 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT TO ACCEPT THE BID
FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS RIVERFRONT PARK
LANDSCAPING AND LAWN MAINTENANCE RIVER PARK
AND RESOURCE CENTER PROJECT FROM THE LOWEST
RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE VENDOR MEETING
SPECIFICATIONS, PRO OUTDOOR; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance of the bid from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Ray the Handyman (Ashburn, Ga) for the Public Works County Parks Mowing Project in the amount of \$116,040, subject to the execution of the contract by the County Administrator. Funding is budgeted in ARPA.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-010 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT TO ACCEPT THE BID FOR
THE PUBLIC WORKS MOWING PROJECT FROM THE
LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE VENDOR
MEETING SPECIFICATIONS, RAY THE HANDYMAN;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase ten pole cameras for Dougherty County Police from Flock Safety (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$58,500. The payment amount will be broken down into two annual payments (year #1 \$31,000 and year #2 \$27,500). Funding is budgeted in the Special Services District Fund.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, Chief Johnson responded to the questions of the Board and Commissioner Gray

provided additional insight. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia (JAG) Probation Services Agreement on behalf of the Superior Court of Dougherty County effective January 1, 2023.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-011 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FIVE-YEAR RENEWAL OF
THE JUDICIAL ALTERNATIVES OF GEORGIA, INC, PROBATION
SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 1, 2023; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia (JAG) Probation Services Agreement on behalf of the Magistrate Court of Dougherty County effective January 1, 2023.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-012 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FIVE-YEAR
RENEWAL OF THE JUDICIAL ALTERNATIVES OF
GEORGIA, INC, PROBATION SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF DOUGHERTY
COUNTY EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 1, 2023; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR
PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the revision of the Dougherty County Board of Commissioner's COVID Guidelines and discontinue paid leave under FFCRA (Families First Corona Virus Response Act) and ARPA (American Rescue Plan) effective March 6, 2023.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-013 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE REVISION OF THE
DOUGHERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S
COVID GUIDELINES AND DISCONTINUANCE OF PAID
LEAVE UNDER THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONA VIRUS
RESPONSE ACT AND AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS
IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the required resolutions updating the authorized personnel for the Georgia Fund I accounts and accepting the required resolutions authorizing Georgia Fund I to accept funding for the LGIP account.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Ms. Hendley addressed questions of the Commission. She shared that the Board, upon approval, can use the accumulated interest collected for projects if there is a deficit. She will provide the Board the amount of interest collected. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-014 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE REQUIRED RESOLUTIONS
UPDATING THE AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL FOR THE
GEORGIA FUND 1 ACCOUNTS AND ACCEPTING THE
REQUIRED RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING GEORGIA FUND I
TO ACCEPT FUNDING FOR THE LGIP ACCOUNT WITH THE
NEW ACCOUNT TO RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE OPIOID
PANDEMIC; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration for the proposed board appointments.

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, Michael Tabarrok was appointed unanimously to the Dougherty County Development Authority to fill a four-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2023.

The Chairman called for consideration to adopt the General Services Administration (GSA) 2023 mileage rate for 2023. The 2023 GSA mileage rate is 65.5 cents per mile, up 7 cents from the rate for 2022 mileage, which was 58.5 cents per mile. The current county rate is \$0.485. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newsome updated the Board on the Combos [formerly known as Snickers] Marathon. Commissioner Gaines shared that the most recent grand jury presentation requested that the jury selection compensation fees be increased; which aligned with some of the Board's initial conversation. Mr. McCoy and Attorney Shalishali confirmed that the County Commission sets the per diem. It was recommended that the Board consider this change. Mr. McCoy shared that the best time to address this will be during the budget process. Commissioner Jones shared that his update was to provide concerns in District 6 relative to blighted properties.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK