

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on July 11, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Present were Commissioners Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present 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 and via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel. Commissioner Victor Edwards was absent.

The Chairman provided the invocation and led the audience in stating the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman recognized the new City of Albany Recreation and Parks Director Steven Belk to the Board. Mr. Belk provided sentiments and shared his 90-day goals and core values.

The Chairman called for approval of the minutes of the June 6th Regular Meeting and June 13th Work Session.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring a 2011 Chevy Tahoe (from ADDU) as surplus and authorize the sale through Underwriters Safety & Claims. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 22-032 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS A SALVAGED 2011
CHEVY TAHOE (VIN NO. 1GNLC2E05BR127955) AND HAVE
SAID SURPLUSSED SALVAGED VEHICLE DISPOSED OF
THROUGH UNDERWRITERS SAFETY AND CLAIMS,
DOUGHERTY COUNTY'S THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR;

REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration the acceptance of the Economic Adjustment Program Grant for the multipurpose trails in the amount of \$2,080,946. The total estimated project cost is \$7,652,200. The City's contribution is nonmonetary and will consist of installing the fiber optic conduit, cable, and electric conduit for future electrical distribution along the trail. The County's contribution of \$5,571,254 will be funded in TSPLOST. The grant is provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Mr. McCoy shared that the numbers are different and the County was awarded more than 3 million dollars. However, the agenda reflects what is listed on the paperwork that needs to be signed by the Chairman.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. Under discussion, Mr. McCoy clarified that the funding may be used to cover the County's cost share. Chairman Cohilas shared how the City's contribution made our application more competitive. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for a consideration of a motion to have the Chairman notify the City of Albany of the County's position relative to the Renegotiation of the Local Option Sales Tax proceeds. The City's distribution request for the LOST proceeds was made by City Manager Steven Carter is for a 70/30 split favorable to the City. An analysis of the eight criteria as dictated by the LOST statute made by County Consultant Phil Sutton determined that an equitable split of the LOST proceeds would be 53% to the County and 47% to the City. Historically, the percentage split has been 60% City and 40% County. Chairman Christopher Cohilas and Commissioners discussed. County Administrator Michael McCoy was present. Chairman Cohilas thanked Mr. McCoy and Commissioner Johnson for participating in the meeting with the City of Albany. An overview of LOST and SPLOST were provided to the public. Attorney Lee discussed the impact of any change in the distribution contribution and what will happen if an agreement is not met. It was shared that the County's position is to keep the historic split of 60/40 favorable to the City.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Johnson and Chairman Cohilas also shared that the position of the 60/40 is also predicated upon the notation that the County makes contributions within the City. The process was reclarified for Commissioner Gaines. Commissioner Johnson shared with the public that the City of Albany can generate other revenue sources, unlike the County. Commissioner Jones wanted the citizens to be educated on the process. Mr. McCoy will prepare a written correspondence on the County's unanimous position and make sure that all Commissioners are copied. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for a discussion of SPLOST VIII proposed projects. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Mr. McCoy reminded everyone of the SPLOST meeting on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 2 p.m. After discussion with Albany Technical College, the SPLOST VIII list was revised to show local participation for the Law Enforcement Academy. It is not expected for local government to pay, but the application submission by Albany Technical College needed to show the government's participation. Commissioner Gaines asked about funding for the morgue and Mr. McCoy said an update can be provided but he was confident that the morgue can be built with SPLOST VII funding.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the collection of an Excise Tax on rooms, lodgings and accommodations throughout the unincorporated area of Dougherty County. County Attorney Spencer Lee was present.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 22-033 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT TITLE 48, CHAPTER 13,
ARTICLE 3, SECTION 48-13-50 ET SEQ OF THE OFFICIAL CODE
OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED, - EXCISE TAX ON ROOMS,
LODGINGS, AND ACCOMMODATIONS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR
THE COLLECTION BY OPERATOR; TO PROVIDE FOR
ADMINISTRATION; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Attorney Lee left at 11 a.m.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Board to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. The Board returned from Executive Session at 11:30 a.m.

The Chairman called for consideration of the Board's recommendation to accept the engagement letter for legal services dated July 6, 2022 from Page Scrantom.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Under discussion, Chairman Cohilas shared that it was the Board's desire to continue the

services of Attorney Lee until August. He added that Mr. Lee will work with Alex Shalishali during the transition and Attorney Shalishali will be present at the next meeting. The engagement letter will be executed as well. Chairman Cohilas thanked everyone who was involved in the attorney hiring process. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

Mr. McCoy shared that there was a discussion of a disparity study and it may qualify under professional services under SPLOST. Commissioner Johnson asked that Dougherty County School System be involved when engaging the City of Albany for costs to be split. Commissioner Gaines asked Mr. McCoy about the Mental Health provision under the recent gun law and if it can be reviewed by Cornerstone for possible funding at the local level.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK