

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

September 25, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on September 25, 2023. Chairman Lorenzo Heard 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 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. Commissioner Gloria Gaines was absent.

After the invocation by Chairman Heard, he asked the Commission to review the September 11th Regular Meeting and September 11th Work Session.

The Chairman recognized citizen Gloria Baker to accept the proclamation recognizing September as Alopecia Awareness Month. A video regarding Ms. Baker's story and an overview of Alopecia was shown. Gloria Baker, Yvette Green, and Juanita Henderson, all impacted by Alopecia, provided comments to the Board. The proclamation was read and pictures were taken and the Chairman stated that a proclamation would be provided to the other ladies. The proclamation reads as follows:

ALOPECIA AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Alopecia is an autoimmune condition that attacks hair follicles and causes hair loss. Alopecia can affect hair on your scalp, eyebrows, or body. Hair may come out in small or large patches. It is estimated to affect 6.8 million people in the United States. Anyone can develop Alopecia, but it often starts in childhood;

WHEREAS, a significant number of citizens of Dougherty County currently live with Alopecia and have formed support groups to share their experiences and provide resources to one another;

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

WHEREAS, Alopecia Awareness Month is a month-long celebration in recognition of all those affected by different types of Alopecia.

WHEREAS, Dougherty County Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia, declares September Alopecia Awareness Month, which marks a time to learn more about and support people living with it.

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

This the 25th day of September 2023

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: _____

LORENZO L. HEARD, Chairman
Dougherty County Commission

VICTOR EDWARDS, District 2
Dougherty County Commission

The Chairman called for a recommendation to accept the quote from the lowest vendor meeting specifications, Service Pros (Leesburg, GA), to replace the cooling tower fill at the Dougherty County Health Department and the Albany Dougherty Government Center in the amount of \$82,252.01. Funding is available in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Facilities Management Director Heidi Hailey addressed.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to purchase four 2023 Ford Maverick Pickup Trucks from state contract vendor Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) for \$26,650 each for a total expenditure of \$106,600. Funding is available in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Public Works Director Chuck Mathis addressed. Unrelated to the purchase, Mr. Mathis addressed the questions of Commissioner Johnson regarding fleet management. Commissioner Johnson would like to have a conversation with Mr. Brooks on the fleet management program later. Mr. Mathis added that now it is more efficient to do it in-house.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to accept the resolution from ACCG urging the Governor and General Assembly of Georgia to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia. Commissioner Clinton Johnson addressed. Commissioner Johnson shared that all counties were asked to adopt a resolution to leverage our voices regarding mental health. Typically, counties are on one of the “first lines” for mental health.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to accept the resolution declaring 400 Highland Ave as surplus and authorize the sale of same. County Attorney Alex Shalishali and Public Works Director Chuck Mathis addressed. This property had generated interest in the past and Public Works shared that there is no current or future use. Commissioner Johnson wanted the Board to consider the historical value. Mr. Mathis mentioned that it was the previous mental health building. Mr. Brooks shared that the process would begin with surplussing the property because

the City of Albany shared that they may have an interest in disposing of adjacent parcels. However, a resolution would allow the Board to take appropriate action and could be discussed in an Executive Session on what would be the best method of disposal. Commissioner Newsome suggested that the City of Albany may be interested because they own some parcels. Commissioner Johnson added that it may be best to declare the property surplus, slow down and consider the value with the redevelopment of the Harlem District. Mr. Brooks said that options will be explored for the best use.

The Chairman called for a recommendation of the proposed board appointments. County Clerk Jawahn Ware addressed.

Citizen Transportation Committee – There is one appointment with a three–year unexpired term ending December 31, 2025. There is one new applicant: Perry Ford, Jr. There is one vacancy.

Flood Plain Management Review Board – There is one County appointment with a three–year unexpired term ending December 31, 2024. There is one new applicant: Perry Ford, Jr. There are two vacancies.

Mr. Brooks shared that an educational brochure was created with the City of Albany pertaining to TSPLOST and will be distributed appropriately soon. A Finance Committee Meeting will be held soon to discuss some concerns posed by Finance Committee Chairman Clinton Johnson. Mr. Brooks also provided an update on an incident that occurred last week from an “auditor” with the Georgia Transparency Group. Mr. Brooks mentioned the positive response taken by our HR staff and the Sheriff’s Office. Commissioner Edwards asked for an update on the property on Holly Drive and Mr. Brooks addressed. Commissioner Johnson gave kudos to Public Information Officer Phyllis Banks and requested that more videos be done on “forward facing” projects and staff. Commissioner Gray reechoed the kudos provided by Mr. Brooks regarding actions by our law enforcement and staff. Commissioner Jones reemphasized his concerns regarding the trailer park from the previous meeting and wanted Code Enforcement to investigate. Chairman Heard echoed some positive sentiments and requested to have more videos.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK