

## DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

### WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2024      DRAFT

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 12, 2024. 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 Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, and other staff. The public 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 July 15th Regular Meeting, July 29th Work Session, and July 29th Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman recognized Jana Dyke, President & CEO, Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission (EDC), to provide the quarterly update. Mrs. Dyke thanked the Board for their support which included financial contributions. She highlighted data that would be in the annual report with the most significant being that the EDC responded to 27 RFI's, six of which the area won. Some business expansions and new businesses were mentioned and the increase in our tax base was noted. Mrs. Dyke shared some of the strategies being used to target East Albany, especially the Roses building. The area will soon be a Regional Hub for Georgia Grows, which is under the Department of Agriculture. Expansion of current partnerships including 4H and 4C were shared. Positive feedback from the Commission was provided. Commissioner Gaines reconfirmed that since 2021, our tax base increased by over \$112 million, noting that this increase occurred during the pandemic. Other suggestions and feedback to assist the EDC were shared. Per the request of Commissioner Johnson, Mrs. Dyke announced the marketing strategy and will work with Commissioner Jones on some of his additional marketing suggestions.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to accept Addendum 2 of the Third-Party Administrative Services Agreement between Charles Taylor and the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners. Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Mr. Brooks shared that the County has a good risk management program and said he will confirm the per-claim fee for automobiles.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to increase the Tipping Fee rates at the Landfill. It is proposed that the rates for MSW Garbage, Inert C&D, and residential self-haul increase from \$38.97 to \$40.97, the rates for asbestos increase from \$43.26 to \$45.26 and the rates for liquids increase from \$71.72 to \$73.72. The last increase was effective July 1, 2016. Finance Committee Chairman Clinton Johnson, Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks and Solid Waste Interim Director Melvin Williams addressed. Mr. Williams mentioned that Dougherty County's rates were below the natural average and those of our local peers. Mr. Brooks said that the fees would help offset some of the costs for EPD. Mr. Williams shared the impact of

the cost of inflation and said that the increase was planned to not be as high as other areas, but would help us offset some of our costs. Upon the request of Commissioner Gray, it was noted that there were plans to monitor fees for the future. Mr. Williams did not foresee an increase every year, and said we were looking to maintain costs. Commissioner Gray suggested that we look at a gradual increase plan to maintain profitability with the landfill because the Enterprise Fund assisted the General Fund in the past. Mr. Brooks shared that he was working with our consultants on how to improve the Enterprise Fund. Commissioner Gaines would like an update on the landfill's life cycle and other members were interested in looking at future fee increases. Commissioner Edwards requested that marketing be done to ensure citizens knew about the rates and other services.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the nomination for the County Voting Delegate at the ACCG Legislative Conference Business Session on October 10, 2024, in Athens-Clarke County. Chairman Heard addressed and Commissioner Johnson suggested that Commissioner Jones serve as our delegate.

Mr. Brooks reminded the Board that the Governmental Affairs Committee will meet immediately following the Work Session in Room 120. Commissioner Newsome provided kudos on the work done by Commissioner Jones for NACO. Commissioner Johnson would like an update from DCP on trending gang activity in the County. He also requested that our Governmental Affairs Committee review the costs for businesses and believed this was a factor in people relocating. He provided comments on the groundbreaking at Carroll Street Gardens. Commissioner Gray provided an update from the recent Department of Public Health (DPH) meeting and shared the receipt of the mobile health unit and new signage. He shared DPH's plan to address health disparities pertaining to maternal health and concerns were noted regarding new businesses locating here and our agriculture base diminishing. Commissioner Gray suggested that long-term policies be in place to protect farms and agriculture in the area and region to preserve our farmland. Commissioner Gaines provided kudos on the City's private-public partnership for the Carroll Street homes and would like an update from Farmer Fredo. Commissioner Jones shared his thanks for all the kind words regarding his service and said that the Commissioners on the Eastside were working. He stressed the need to continue to look at agriculture and children for the future.

Chairman Heard commended Commissioner Jones for his personal agricultural work and wished safe travels to Commissioner Gaines who will be abroad and will miss the next two meetings. Kudos were also provided to her for publishing a book.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK