

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on September 21, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards and Russell Gray. Commissioners Gloria Gaines, Clinton Johnson and Anthony Jones participated via the audio-conferencing feature. 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 Lamar Hudgins was absent.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the August 17th Regular Meeting minutes.

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

The Chairman recognized Shaunae Motely, President and CEO of United Way to provide an update on the COVID-19 response and recovery. Ms. Motley said that 84,754 individuals had been served through the COVID-19 relief funds. She discussed the six focus areas and provided appreciation to the partners including the Commissioners that worked with them.

The Chairman recognized GBI Special Agent in Charge Joe Chesnut to provide an update on operations. Assistant Special Agent in Charge Eric Schwalls was present. Mr. Chesnut stated that they have been in operations for over 13 months. The Southwest Regional Office works with 41 counties but is currently located in Albany, Georgia. He mentioned that there have been over 188 cases processed with 100 arrests. Due to the pandemic, the court proceedings have slowed the process down for forfeiters. Additional information regarding staff from local surrounding police departments and future goals were shared.

The Chairman recognized citizen Warren Grant to request an ordinance on long-term care facilities in residential neighborhoods. He would like for the County to create an ordinance that would require developers to bring County roads up to standards and the cost not be passed onto the taxpayers. The specific road he addressed is Highgate Court because it is unpaved and not physically capable to handle traffic for a long-term care facility. Chairman Cohilas asked Mr. McCoy to analyze the issue and provide an update to the Commission this week. Planning and Development Director Paul Forgey and Public Works Director Larry Cook addressed questions and concerns from the Commission.

The Chairman recognized citizen Ricky Jackson to speak in reference to the crime, abandoned property in District 2 and the concern of improper use of the Floral Memorial Gardens cemetery. He asked if the Commission would contact the cemetery to implement things to prevent crimes. He stated that he attempted to, and no action was done. Chairman Cohilas asked if Mr. McCoy

would have Chief Johnson to actively patrol the area, speak to the private owner in reference to potential liability and asked for an update from Attorney Lee on the abandoned property.

The Chairman called for consideration of the upgrade of the camera system at Public Works and the Surveillance System at Radium Springs from the lowest responsible and responsive vendor meeting specifications Invision Technologies (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$28,932. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII- Public Works Facility Improvements and Equipment.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the replacement of the return fan on the third floor of the Judicial Building from the lowest responsible and responsive vendor meeting specifications SafeAire Heating and Cooling (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$26,245. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII- Judicial Building Improvements.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of twelve radios for DCP from the single source vendor, Motorola Solutions (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$76,648.08. Funding is budgeted in the SPLOST VII- DCP Vehicle Equipment.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of ten stainless steel toilet/sink combination units for the Jail from the single source vendor, Engineering & Equipment Company (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$24,450. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII – Jail Equipment.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Mrs. Ware clarified that the cost does include installation. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the installation of I-Wave C duct mounted auto-cleaning needlepoint bipolar ionization systems at the Jail. The recommendation is to award to the lowest responsible and responsive vendor meeting specifications, RHC Heating & Cooling (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$47,148.21. Funding will be provided from the General Fund.

Commissioner Edwards moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed for approval with five ayes and one nay by Commissioner Gray.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the contract to accept the bid to complete the 2019 Alley Paving Improvements from the lowest responsible and responsive bidder meeting specifications, Jim Boyd Construction (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$641,687.25 subject to execution by the County Administrator. Funding is budgeted in TSPLOST.

Commissioner Edwards moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-056 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE
OF A PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATION WITH JIM BOYD
CONSTRUCTION OF ALBANY, GEORGIA TO PROVIDE GRADING AND
PAVING OF FIVE ALLEYS FOR A TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF
\$641,687.25; 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 contract to provide CDBG-DR Homeowner and Reconstruction Professional Services from the most responsive and responsible bidder meeting specifications, Workforce Group (Baton Rouge, LA) in a not to exceed amount of \$1,111,650 subject to execution by the County Administrator. The contract will fulfill State and Federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) statutory responsibilities under award #B-18-DP-13-0001/DR 4294 and DR 4297. Funding is available in the CDBG-DR Grant.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-057 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
EXECUTION OF A PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATION WITH
THE WORKFORCE GROUP TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES FOR THE HOMEOWNER REHABILITATION AND
RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
\$1,111,650.00 ; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation to accept the following Health and Dental Plan Renewal and Plan Design changes for the 2021 Plan Year from the Insurance Review Committee:

- Implement a new wellness plan and incentive structure for 2021;
- Eliminate Quantum Services;
- Update the AFLAC Critical Illness Plan;
- Make voluntary term life enhancements;
- Implement plan design changes, reducing plan funding increase from 18.8% to 12% overall (this will result in a 10% employee increase)

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Gray discussed his concerns that the committee was not doing enough to

cut costs. He stated that the recommendation should not be about reducing the benefits but finding cheaper benefits to not mitigate the [financial] increase provided [to employees]. The motion passed with five ayes and one nay by Commissioner Gray.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring the listed vehicles and equipment as surplus and authorizing the sale of same via an online auction.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-058 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION DECLARING AS SURPLUS THE
ATTACHED LIST OF EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES;
PROVIDING FOR DISPOSAL OF OR SALE OF SAME ON
VIA AN ONLINE AUCTION; REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS
IN CONFLICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the FY 2021 budget amendment for the Voter Registrations and Elections Office in the amount of \$158,500. The amendment will include the recommendation for the addition of 3 ballot drop boxes (information technology support and contingency funding) for the Tallulah Massey, Southside and Northwest libraries (\$26,500), part-time salaries budget increase (\$20,000) and two new full time positions (\$112,000). The General Fund M&O budget to Registration/Elections will increase by \$158,500. This Amendment will increase the General Fund M&O Budget from \$52,978,381 to \$53,136,881 and the Fund Balance Use will increase from \$6,022,717 to \$6,181,217. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Mr. McCoy said that this recommendation reflects the additional information received for the hardware as of last week. If approved today, the fiber and equipment would be installed in approximately 2-3 weeks with the earliest installation of mid-October. Mr. McCoy did clarify that there would be a \$300 a month ongoing fiber service fee (\$100 per location).

Commissioner Edwards moved for approval. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Gray was opposed to spending money that the County does not have and stated how citizens could be more prepared to participate in the voting process. He shared that this is an unfunded mandate. Concerned that we would not be able to balance, he asked the Board to look at this request from a conservative stance. Commissioner Gaines shared that the federal government does have a responsibility and because it has not been implemented, this has caused local government to expend dollars. There was a request that the City provide funding. Mr. McCoy shared that the City of Albany notified staff of a potential competitive grant opportunity. Chairman Cohilas made an alternative motion to fund the two full time employees (budgeted amount \$112,000), part-time salaries (budgeted amount \$20,000), the county fund two drop boxes (at Tallulah Massey and Southside Library) and the third drop box is contingent on the City of Albany providing funding for the Northwest Library location and free fiber. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones. Commissioner Gray made a motion to remove the drop boxes from the motion, but it failed by a lack of a second. Mrs. Nickerson clarified the Commission questions. The first substitute motion was voted on and failed by four nays and two ayes by Chairman Cohilas and Commissioner Jones. The original motion passed with five ayes and one nay by Commissioner Gray.

The Chairman called for consideration of the proposed board appointment. Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, applicant J. Scott Steiner was unanimously appointed to the Chehaw Park Authority for an unexpired three-year term ending June 30, 2023. This was the County's first appointment since the Chehaw Park Authority Enabling Legislation Reauthorization was approved by the Georgia General Assembly in July 2020. The appointment term will be retroactive to July 1, 2020. There was one additional applicant- Ritchey Marbury.

County Attorney Lee provided an update on the properties on Leary Road that the Commission asked that he take action on. He and Code Enforcement met in front of Judge Lockette and have determined that 2902 Leary Road no longer qualifies as dilapidated due to homeowner repairs. The three remaining properties (2912, 2914 and 2916 Leary Road) were ordered to be brought up to code or demolished within 30 days. After the time frame, if it is not done, an affidavit can be acted upon authorizing the Commission to demolish the properties.

Commissioner Gray reminded everyone to complete the Census information in the remaining ten days. Commissioner Gaines thanked Attorney Lee for the follow up on Leary Road. Commissioner Jones requested that there be a discussion on how crime could be acted upon.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK