

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 15, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, 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. County Administrator Michael McCoy was absent.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the minutes of the July 18th Regular Meeting, July 25th Work Session and the July 25<sup>th</sup> Special Called Meeting.

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

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing for a proposed tax increase to 19.069 mils for the County-Wide General Fund. The millage rate of 9.173 will remain the same for the Special Services District. Citizen Burton Newcomb opposed the increase and provided the Commission a "report card" that rated Dougherty County at a C+. He also shared his concerns pertaining to the current properties listed as tax-exempt which should not be. Suggestions were provided to the Board to include operating as a business to get a balanced budget. Citizen Herbet Phillips Jr yielded to speak. A representative for AFRAM Tech, Inc William Wright, opposed the increase and presented information not related to the millage rate. There being no other individuals present in support of or opposition to the proposed tax public hearing, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

The Chairman recognized William Wright, the representative for AFRAM Tech, Inc. to speak about consolidation and urged the Board to not consider it. He requested to speak at the August 29<sup>th</sup> meeting to present additional methods for the Board to implement as opposed to raising taxes. Commissioner Edwards asked Mr. Wright to research and provide complete information on his proposal that the Board could borrow \$50,000 and repay it at a low-interest rate.

Prior to calling the motion, Chairman Cohilas shared that the County's initial resolution was approved before the approval of the City's list. The Secretary of State confirmed the County's compliance. Once the resolution is approved, Attorney Shalishali will forward it to the Board of Elections. After the update, the Chairman called for consideration a resolution imposing a County one percent sales and use tax as authorized by Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 48

of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, specifying the purposes for which the proceeds of such tax are to be used; specifying the period of time for which such tax shall be imposed; specifying the estimated cost of the facilities to be funded from the proceeds of such tax; requesting the Election Superintendent to call an election of the voters of Dougherty County to approve the Imposition of such sales and use tax; approving the form of ballot to be used in such an election; and for other purposes. County Attorney Alex Shalishali was present to address.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 22-038b is entitled:

A RESOLUTION IMPOSING A COUNTY ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX AS AUTHORIZED BY PART 1 OF ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 48 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED, SPECIFYING THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX SHALL BE IMPOSED; SPECIFYING THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE FACILITIES TO BE FUNDED FROM THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX; REQUESTING THE ELECTION SUPERINTENDENT TO CALL AN ELECTION OF THE VOTERS OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY TO APPROVE THE IMPOSITION OF SUCH SALES AND USE TAX APPROVING THE FORM OF BALLOT TO BE USED IN SUCH AN ELECTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison reminded the Board that there will be no meeting on August 22, 2022 and the next meeting will be August 29, 2022. He also reminded the Board of the additional two public hearings on the proposed millage that will be held at 6 p.m. on August 15<sup>th</sup> and 10 a.m. on August 29<sup>th</sup>, both in room 100.

Commissioner Johnson asked that the lawn care services not take place during the Commission meeting and also commended the Dougherty County Police Department on the National Night Out event. Commissioner Edwards asked Mr. Addison to look at an upgrade of the sign in the median at Radium Springs. Planning & Development Director Paul Forgey was working on the issue, but he did not know who the owner was to provide consent. Commissioner Gaines asked who the custodian of the open records request was and the Chairman responded.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK