

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION  
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

November 14, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on November 14, 2022. Vice-Chairman Clinton Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, County Clerk Jawahn Ware and other staff. The public and representatives of the media participated in person via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel. Chairman Christopher Cohilas and Commissioner Russell Gray were absent.

The Vice-Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the October 17th Regular Meeting, October 31st Work Session and October 31st Special Called Meeting.

The Vice-Chairman recognized Judge Willie Lockette to discuss the proposed renaming of the Dougherty County Judicial Building. Judge Lockette asked that the Board consider renaming the Dougherty County Judicial Building in honor of Judge Herbert Phipps. Judge Lockette provided an educational background on Judge Phipps and shared he served as a magistrate and state court judge and later became the first African American Superior Court Judge. He also said that Judge Phipps serves as the presiding judge of the Court of Appeals. All of the judges within the Judicial Building support this proposal. Upon a question by Commissioner Gaines, Judge Lockette clarified that it is customary to name buildings after iconic individuals within state and federal guidelines, noting that our local federal building is named after Civil Rights Activist C.B. King. Mr. McCoy said that the County does not have a building name policy, so the Board is free to act on this request. If approved, two plaques will be posted and the cost will be between \$70,000-\$80,000 for this project. It was shared that this will set a precedent and Mr. McCoy encouraged the Board to adopt a building name policy. Mr. McCoy added that the cost will most likely come from the reserve funds and the budget will need to be amended.

The Vice-Chairman recognized Erica Potts, Interim HR Director, to provide an update on the County's compliance with the Fair Standards Labor Act and the complaint and grievance procedures. Mrs. Potts shared that there are two types of employees who are either nonexempt or exempt. Non-exempt employees are entitled to overtime pay and exempt employees are not entitled. She shared that HR staff visits the County departments to provide posters that contain state and federal laws. She mentioned two types of complaints: one is informal where employees can sit down with their immediate supervisor to discuss issues with the hope of a resolution. If verbal communication fails, then the complaints could advance to the department manager. The second type of complaint is formal and requires an employee to provide written documents to the immediate supervisor with hopes of a potential resolution within five business days. If this fails, the same process is followed at the department manager level. If needed, the final step is to attempt to resolve the complaint via the appointing authority.

Commissioner Gaines was concerned about the County Administrator providing compensation pay to exempt employees and asked that the compensation policy be forwarded to her. He shared that he would send an email to the Board with this information. Upon a question by Commissioner Gaines, Mr. McCoy shared that the funds provided for compensation pay normally come from the salaries of the numerous vacant positions within the County.

The Vice-Chairman recognized William Wright, representative for AFRAM Tech, Inc. to discuss an issue of unfair practices with the ARPA funding. Mr. Wright said that he will come back to discuss on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Vice-Chairman called for a discussion of the zoning application for Vicente S. Sontay, owner and Lanier Engineering, Inc., applicant (22-074) request for special approval to construct a Religious Institution with the cemetery (Church) in a R-2 (Single-Family Residential District). The parcel is a 5.0-acre vacant parcel. The property is located at 1416 Nelms Rd. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Angel Gray, Planning Manager, addressed. The Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for November 21, 2022.

The Vice-Chairman called for a discussion of the zoning application for Ivy RV Park, LLC, owner and Joseph Jackson, the applicant (22-077) request for special approval to construct a Recreational Vehicle Park in a C-8 (Commercial Recreation District). The parcel is a 4.195-acre vacant parcel. The property is located at 3420 Sylvester Rd. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Angel Gray, Planning Manager addressed. The Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for November 21, 2022. Ms. Gray also reminded the Commission that the special approval to operate a Women's Recovery Center will be on the next Regular Meeting agenda for recommendation to approve.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the board appointments. County Clerk Jawahn Ware was present to address.

Joint Board of Adjustments & Appeals – There are two appointments with a three-year term ending October 1, 2025. Incumbent Arwena Jones desires reappointment. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy and all joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany.

Air Conditioning, Heating, & Ventilation Board – There are four appointments: one County, two joint and one rotational, all with a one-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbents Thomas Driggers (joint), Quianna Lavant (County), Clint Newsome (joint) and Clifford Tolbert (rotational) desire reappointment. There are no new applicants. All joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany.

Citizens Transportation Committee – There are two appointments with a three-year term ending December 31, 2025. Incumbent Sonja Johnson desires reappointment. Incumbent Dr. Surendra Pandey relocated outside of Dougherty County. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy.

Economic Development Commission – There are three appointments with a two-year term ending December 31, 2024. Incumbents Lawrence Knighton and Matt Reed desire reappointment. There are two new applicants: Emmett Griswold and John Inman IV. There is one vacancy.

Electrical Board – There are five appointments: one County appointment for a Master Electrician, two joint appointments for an Electrical Supplier, one joint appointment for a Professional Engineer and one appointment for a joint citizen member, all with a one-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbent Sanford Hillsman (joint citizen member) desires reappointment. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for four vacancies and all joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany.

Fire Code Board of Appeals – There are four appointments with a three-year term ending December 31, 2025. Incumbent Rosal Malone desires reappointment. There was no response from incumbents Charles Mitchell and Zell Scott. Commissioner Jones informed the Board that incumbent Zell Scott has passed away. Incumbent Bruce Campbell does not desire reappointment. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for three vacancies.

Flood Plain Management Review Board – There are two appointments with a three-year term unexpired ending December 31, 2024. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for two vacancies.

Gas Board – There are three appointments: One County, one joint and one rotational all with a one-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbents Sanford Hillsman (county) and Rhett Parker (joint) desire reappointment. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy and all joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany.

Golden Triangle RC & D Council – There are two appointments with a two-year term ending December 31, 2024. Incumbent Doug Wilson desires reappointment. Incumbent J. Douglas Porter relocated outside of Dougherty County There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy.

Dougherty County Health Board – There is one appointment with a six-year term ending December 31, 2028. Incumbents Charles King Jr. desires reappointment. There are no new applicants.

Historic Preservation Commission – There are four appointments with a two-year term ending December 31, 2024. Incumbents Angela Cain Jones, Quianna Lavant and Kenneth Loudenbarger desire reappointment. There is one new applicant: Will Davis. There is one vacancy.

Albany/Dougherty Hospital Authority – There are two appointments with a five-year term ending December 31, 2027. Incumbents Dorothy Hubbard and Sharon “Nyota” Tucker desire reappointment. There is one new applicant: Sheri Barlow.

Keep Albany Dougherty Beautiful – There are six appointments: five with a three-year term ending December 31, 2025, and one three-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2024. Incumbent J.D. Sumner, Lew Culpepper and Jay Smith desire reappointment. Incumbent Dennis Barthelemy and Lisa Harrell do not desire reappointment. KADB recommended the appointment of Jerry Goodman to replace Bryant Harden and fill an unexpired three-year term ending December 31, 2024. KADB recommended the appointment of Tomekia Cooper to replace Lisa Harrel and fill a three-year term ending December 31, 2025. KADB will advertise for one vacancy.

Library Board – There are two appointments with a three-year term ending December 31, 2025. Incumbents Dr. Brenda Hodges Tiller and Will Davis desire reappointment. There are three new applicants: Haryl Dabney, Genevieve Marcus and Joseph Stubbs. There is one vacancy.

Planning Commission – There are three appointments with a three-year term ending December 31, 2025. Incumbents Billy Merritt, Art Brown and Jimmy Hall Jr. desire reappointment. There are no new applicants.

Plumbing Board – There are three appointments with a one-year term ending December 31, 2023. Two County appointments must be a Master Plumber and one appointment represents a citizen member. Incumbents Lee Eppley (Master Plumber), Rhett Parker (Master Plumber) and Glenn Harris (Citizen Member) desire reappointment. There are no new applicants.

Retirement Fund Committee – There are two appointments with a four-year term ending December 31, 2026, one must be a retiree representative and one must be a citizen appointee. Incumbent Greg Rowe (retiree representative) desires reappointment. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy. Commission Chairman makes all appointments.

Southwest Georgia Community Action Council – There is one appointment with a one-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbent Glenn Tyler Harris desires reappointment. There is one new applicant: Haryl Dabney.

Southwest Georgia Housing Task Force – There is one appointment with a one-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbent Sonya Johnson desires reappointment. There are no new applicants.

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission – There are three appointments: one County, one joint and one Chairman designee (appointee must be a Commissioner) all with a one-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbents Raymond Breaux (County) and Anthony Jones (Chairman designee) desire reappointment. Incumbent Casawn-Lhuillier Yheyeis resigned from the Commission. There is one vacancy and all joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany. The Chairman will appoint his designee.

Tax Assessors Board – There is one appointment with a three-year term ending December 31, 2025. Incumbent William Ashberry desires reappointment. There is one new applicant: Rhonda Stewart.

Voter Registration and Elections – There is one appointment with a two-year term ending December 31, 2024. Incumbent Frederick Williams desires reappointment. There are two new applicants: Dr. Jacob Clawson and Alvin “Al” Hatcher.

Mr. McCoy reminded the Board that the onboarding session will be held on today at 1:30 pm. Commissioner Edwards asked that handrails be placed at the bottom of the Radium Springs bridge. Mr. McCoy said that he would evaluate this request for safety reasons and to make sure that it is open for public access. Commissioner Gaines asked if we still recognized individuals that served on the various boards for Dougherty County. Mrs. Ware responded yes and informed her of the action taken.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

---

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

---

COUNTY CLERK