

## DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 5, 2024 DRAFT

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 5, 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, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were Acting 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.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by the Chairman, he called for approval of the minutes for the July 1st Regular Meeting, July 8th Work Session and July 8th Special Called Meeting.

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

The Chairman recognized City of Albany Parks and Recreation Superintendent of Community Events, Velvet Poole to update the Commission on the department's Fishing Rodeos. Deputy Director Breanna Nixon was present. Mrs. Poole shared the results of the Fishing Rodeos held earlier in the summer and announced that the last rodeo will be held on August 10<sup>th</sup> at Robert Cross Park. Commissioner Jones shared comments and stressed that these were the City of Albany and Dougherty County events together. The questions of Commissioner Gray regarding stocking fish were addressed and his suggestions pertaining to stocking and events will be considered. Questions from Commissioner Gaines regarding advertising were answered. Commissioner Edwards voiced his concerns on the stocking of the fish and previous advertising not including Dougherty County. He requested that the service delivery agreement be reviewed. Chairman Heard provided a response and said moving forward, there can be better collaboration and communication [between the entities] and recommendations from the Recreation Committee can be provided. Mr. Brooks shared historical context regarding the County's role in stocking fish and other information. He also said that the best method to address the service delivery agreement was systematically with other agreements. Attorney Shalishali said that our current agreement was not clear on the fish. Mrs. Poole mentioned that she was working to increase more activities and programs in the unincorporated area with 10 programs being held this year. She thanked the Board for allowing the City of Albany to host our recreation program and shared that she was looking forward to working with our Board more.

The Chairman recognized citizen Montravious Luke to readdress concerns regarding gangs in our community. He shared that he was not familiar with community resources and needs, but he had a passion for what was happening in the streets. He added that he desired to take corrective action in our area. The Chairman asked Clerk Ware to set up a meeting.

The Chairman called for consideration to accept the quote to replace the chiller at the Judicial Building, 225 Pine Ave, from Service Pros (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$375,708.96. Three quotes were obtained with the highest being \$459,148. Funding is available in SPLOST VII and SPLOST VIII. Facilities Management Director Heidi Hailey addressed.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Ms. Hailey addressed the concerns of Commissioner Johnson by sharing that this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> chiller to be replaced and was critical due to high usage in the building. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance of time-sensitive documentation in the National Prescription Opiate Litigation required to be executed in order to participate in the Kroger Opioid Settlement and to be bound by an anticipated Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Georgia and Georgia Subdivisions regarding the Kroger National Opioid Settlement. County Attorney Alex Shalishali addressed.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Under discussion, Attorney Shalishali addressed the concerns of Commissioner Gaines regarding three settlements. Documents were required to be executed prior to August 12<sup>th</sup> if the County decided to opt in. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 24-031 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE KROGER NATIONAL  
OPIOID SETTLEMENT AND AGREEING TO BE BOUND BY AN ANTICIPATED  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE STATE OF GEORGIA AND  
GEORGIA SUBDIVISIONS REGARDING THE KROGER NATIONAL OPIOID  
SETTLEMENT; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN  
CONFLICT HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mr. Brooks shared that the \$1.5 million request to the State Office for updates at RiverFront Park did not make the reappropriation bill for FY25. There were updates provided on the planning for the upcoming retreat agenda and on the County's restoration of services from the cyberattack. He thanked the technology team for their work and said an additional status from the City Manager will be provided later in the evening. Attorney Shalishali said that he would provide an update on the final numbers on the settlements. Commissioner Edwards provided suggestions on how to proceed on City and County projects prior to the retreat. He also asked for an update on the alley paving and ownership of a specific area. Mr. Brooks addressed ownership questions and shared cost estimates will be obtained. Commissioner Edwards also asked for an update on the vegetation clearing. Mr. Brooks recapped the conversation he had with Commissioner Edwards regarding the suggestions to have a public forum for concerns. Chairman Heard confirmed the request of Commissioner Edwards to have administrative staff attend a Neighborhood Watch meeting. Commissioner Johnson left the meeting at 10:44 a.m. Commissioner Gray asked that prayers be provided for those impacted by the storm. Attorney Shalishali provided an update to

Commissioner Gaines on the status of the code of ordinance project and the involvement of our consultants. Commissioner Jones shared the letter he received from the new NACO President James Gore appointing him to various committees. Chairman Heard said that Commissioner Gaines will be in Africa for the last two weeks in August.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK