

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on June 13, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Hope and other staff were also present. 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.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the May 16th Regular Meeting, May 23rd Work Session and May 23rd Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman opened the public hearing for the proposed fiscal year 2022-2023 Budgets. William Wright, representative for AFRAM Tech, Inc spoke against the budgets and was concerned about economic opportunity in the community. Chairman Cohilas noted that the statement made by Mr. Wright referencing the County paying an individual \$600 an hour was incorrect. There being no additional people present in support of or opposition to the topic the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman recognized Dominique Riggins, Interim Executive Director, Albany Civil Rights Museum and other Board Members and Representatives to request SPLOST VIII funding. Mr. Riggins stated that he worked with his board members to create a master plan to enhance the exhibit. He added that they were looking to expand various areas of the exhibit and asked for consideration from the Commission to help fund the master plan. Their total request amount is \$3 million with no specific ask from the County. Mr. Riggins said that this request will be presented to the City of Albany as well. Chairman Cohilas asked Mr. Riggins if he had plans to collaborate with local partners. Mr. Riggins said that he was currently working on those plans. Chairman Cohilas asked Mr. McCoy to meet with Mr. Carter (City of Albany) to obtain his viewpoint.

The Chairman recognized A.L. Fleming, Vice President for University Operations and Strategic Initiatives, Albany State University, to request funding for the ASU AYSEP (Albany State Youth Enrichment Program). Mr. Fleming thanked the Board for their contribution last year to help the program and help to staff a full-time employee to assist. He said that there were over 200 students in the program and Commissioner Gaines asked for him to provide an end of the summer program report. Mr. Fleming will provide the report later.

The Chairman recognized Chief Cedric Scott, Albany Fire Department, to provide an update on the County Fire Station Equipment needs. Chief Scott provided an overview of the tanker trucks and thanked the County for the purchase of the \$465,664 tanker truck which included

equipment. He added that possible funding from SPLOST VIII would be the next ask to replace the other three tanker trucks and other equipment needed. Commissioner Jones provided kudos to Chief Scott and said that the citizens in the unincorporated area will be excited to benefit from this tanker truck. Commissioner Gray asked if one of the trucks could be used to bring water to a potential community garden. Commissioner Edwards asked for acknowledgment to be shown on the tanker truck that was purchased by the County and asked if the Commission could reevaluate the service delivery agreement. Chairman Cohilas asked Mr. McCoy to talk to Chief Scott about possibly arranging a logo be placed on the tanker truck. Commissioner Jones asked that Public Information Officer Wendy Howell be involved as well.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the zoning application for Emily McAfee, Jean Haley & et. al., Laura Creel Haley & Lee Haley Jones c/o Larry Walden, Albany, GA, owner and Oxford Construction Company, J. Bruce Melton, applicant, (22-025) request for Special Approval to operate a surface mine borrow pit on 69.342 acres. The property is located on Fleming Road parcel #(00158/00001/79A). The property is zoned AG (Agricultural). The Planning Commission recommended denial. Angel Gray, Planning Manager, addressed. The Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for June 27, 2022. Chairman Cohilas requested the staff recommendation as well.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the zoning application for Jessica Fields, owner and applicant (22-026) request to rezone 106.639 acres from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to AG (Agricultural District). The property is located at 5913 Old Dawson Road. The Planning Commission recommended approval with the following conditions: 1. commercial agricultural operations are not permitted, 2. a 100' buffer from all property lines must be maintained, and 3. Non-Commercial Farming Activities are not allowed within the 100' buffer. Angel Gray, Planning Manager, addressed. The Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for June 27, 2022.

The Chairman called for a discussion to accept the bid for Facilities Management for the Interior Painting of the Dougherty County Police Department from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder meeting specifications, Empire Painting, LLC (Sylvester, GA) in the amount of \$28,625. Three vendors submitted a bid with the highest being \$96,500. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Facilities Management Director Heidi Minnick and City of Albany Buyer Joshua Williams were present.

The Chairman called for a discussion to accept the bid for Public Works for one Compact Excavator with Cab and one trailer from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder meeting specifications, Flint Equipment (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$64,850. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Five vendors submitted a bid with the highest being \$76,994.62. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Chuck Mathis and City of Albany Buyer Joshua Williams were present.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to amend the Service Agreement with Cornerstone Government Affairs, Inc. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Mr. McCoy said that the current agreement expired at the beginning of this month and the cost will remain the same. He added that the agreement will automatically renew next year.

Commissioner Johnson asked for the total [dollar] amount of accomplishments that Cornerstone has done for the County.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a continued presentation and review of the proposed FY 2023 Budgets as recommended by the Finance Committee. County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison and Finance Director Martha Hendley addressed. Mr. McCoy shared that there was one amendment and it was to propose an internship program. He mentioned that the plan would be to change the line item from "GCAPS" to "GCAPS internships." Commissioner Edwards said that he wanted a paid summer program for next year and asked HR Director Dominique Hall to reach out to the Dougherty County School System principals and 4-H programs for recruitment opportunities.

Commissioner Johnson asked Mrs. Nickerson to discuss how important it is to complete the precinct identification card. Mrs. Nickerson provided information on the cards and Commissioner Johnson asked for chamber security during our Commission meetings. He also asked Mr. McCoy for a GDOT presentation update for Highway 133 road-widening project.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK