

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

July 26, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on July 26, 2021. Vice-Chairman Victor Edwards presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Commissioners present were Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. 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, via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel. Chairman Christopher Cohilas was absent.

The Vice-Chairman asked Commissioner Jones to provide a word of prayer and asked the Commission to review the minutes of the July 12th Work Session Meeting.

The Vice-Chairman recognized Senator Freddie Powell Sims to provide opening remarks. She introduced Frank Sheppard, President & CEO, Cheryl Maddox, Albany Site Manager and Shelby Williams, Business Manager from Feeding the Valley Food Bank who discussed the needs and grant opportunities available for the Local Food Bank. It was shared that Dougherty County is ranked #2 in the state for food-insecure persons. Site expansion plans were shared. Mr. McCoy introduced Tommy Lowmon, EDFP Director, Office of Community Development, Georgia Department of Community Affairs who discussed the possible use of the Department of Community Affairs FY 2022 Community Development Block Grant- COVID (CDBG-CV) funds to expand local food bank services in Dougherty County and surrounding areas. He mentioned that funds are provided by Congress through the CARES ACT. He added that the local food bank is responsible for 25% of the grant match and shared that funds have been secured. EDC Director Jana Dyke was available to also discuss grant opportunities.

The Vice-Chairman recognized Director of Planning and Development Services Paul Forgey and County Attorney Spencer Lee to update the Commission on citizen concerns regarding businesses located on Poinciana Ave. Attorney Lee shared that local and state regulations are being met and Mr. Forgey thanked citizen Paul Murray for bringing this concern to the Commission's attention. Mr. Forgey said that the business owner cooperated and when she started the business, the County had a different regulation. Vice-Chairman Edwards asked that the business license state the type of business an individual has to prevent having this type of "slip up" again. Upon the question of Commissioner Jones, Attorney Lee was not in favor of revisiting the ordinance because the presented concerns were addressed and activities inside the business are governed by the state. Mr. Forgey shared that all the ordinances can be made better but in this case for the training concern, a neighbor would have to report the issue. Many areas have asked for a copy of our ordinance and Mr. Forgey believes it is in good order. Mr. Murray thanked the Commission and presented other concerns. Commissioner Gaines directed him to speak to his state representative and stated that the Board has exhausted all of our efforts to resolve concerns.

The Vice-Chairman recognized William Wright, dba Afram-Tech, Inc. to continue the discussion of building capacity, programs for small businesses, and other concerns. He shared information pertaining to the high per capita cost of Dougherty County as compared to Chatham County. He also spoke about concerns about the Coroner's office. He requested to speak to the Commission on August 9th, 16th, and 23rd.

The Vice-Chairman recognized Coach Jessie Massey to provide an update on the 46th year of the Albany State Youth Enrichment Program noting that there was a recent program name change. He thanked the Commission for the recent donation. Tokens of appreciation were provided to the Board.

The Vice-Chairman called for a discussion to accept the quote to install new cameras at Turtle Grove & Riverfront Parks for the Public Works Department from single-source vendor Invision Technologies (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$22,110. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII – County Parks Improvement/Equipment. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Engineer Jeremy Brown was present. Mr. Addison said that the system will tie into the existing one and protect the County's investment.

The Vice-Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to purchase one 2021 Hyundai Santa Fe SEL for the GBI Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Office from Albany Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram-Hyundai (Albany, GA) for a not to exceed the amount of \$32,093. Funding will be provided by the GBI SWRDEO Grant Fund. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Eric Schwalls, GBI Special Agent In Charge was present. Mr. Addison said that this was a grant purchase that has been approved by GBI's controlling Board. However, the County has to give the authorization to proceed.

The Vice-Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the 2020-2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Fire Chief/EMA Director Cedric D. Scott addressed. Chief Scott said that the plan required an update every five years and required every county and municipality to receive federal funding. Mr. McCoy stated that these documents allowed the County to continue being eligible for FEMA reimbursements.

The Vice-Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to review and discuss a proposed Resolution providing for the use of the services of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission for the purpose of preparing, submitting, and administering a FY 2022 Community Development Block Grant-COVID (CDBG-CV) Food Bank application to the State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs. County Administrator Michael McCoy, SW Georgia Regional Commission Executive Director Suzanne Angell, Deputy Director Barbara Reddick, and Grants Administrator Brenda Wade addressed. Mr. McCoy provided an update on the meeting held for the application process. There is no Dougherty County staff available for management and it was recommended to partner with the SWGA Regional Commission. Ms. Angell shared that her team is prepared to move forward. She added that there is no cost for the application but there is funding available for grant administration. Mr. McCoy shared that future documents will need approval.

The Vice-Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to amend the FY 2021 General Fund Budget from \$53,664,296 to \$55,258,686 for various grants. It was also recommended to

amend the Grants Fund from \$1,980,748 to \$2,038,756 to show the HEROS Grant and to create the Alternate Dispute Resolution Fund as requested by Superior Court Judge, Willie Lockette. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Finance Director Martha Hendley addressed. Mr. McCoy said that this request is administrative housekeeping because additional grants were received in the last FY budget. Mrs. Hendley also addressed questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Edwards asked Attorney Lee about the legality of businesses not allowing the public to use the restroom. Attorney Lee will take it under advisement and provide information later. Commissioner Johnson asked for clarification on the staffing ratio at the jail. Commissioner Gray provided comments. Mr. McCoy also noted that language was included in layman's terms to explain that the Board was not proposing a tax increase and language was published in the newspaper. Commissioner Jones recognized Commissioner Johnson for his appointment on the Department of Community Affairs Board. Commissioner Edwards recognized his campaign manager Captain Edward Lemon Jr.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK