

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

July 08, 2024 DRAFT

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on July 08, 2024. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Gloria Gaines, Victor Edwards, 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. Commissioners Russell Gray and Clinton Johnson were absent.

After the invocation by Chairman Heard, he asked the Commission to review the minutes of the June 17th Regular Meeting, June 21st Special Called Meeting, June 24th Work Session, and June 24th Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman called Human Resources Director Erica Potts to recognize the participants for the completion of the 2024 Dougherty County Summer Enrichment Internship Program. Students and managers from the following participating departments were acknowledged: the District Attorney's Office, Dougherty County Police Department, Voter Elections, Finance, Library, Public Works, Tax and Tag and the Disaster Recovery Grants.

The Chairman recognized Public Information Officer Phyllis Banks to update the Commission on the recent 2024 Juneteenth Event. PIO Banks said that there were approximately 1,500 people in attendance. The budget for the event was \$70,000. The County's budget was \$30,000 with \$23,143 expended to date. The City's budget was \$40,000 with \$10,401.49 expended to date. As of the meeting, \$33,544 was expended with Ms. Banks noting that there were still outstanding invoices that needed to be paid. Feedback was provided by the Board and staff with Commissioner Edwards stressing that future events be held on a Saturday. Mr. Brooks said that if the Board desired, after the final expenditures, he would approach the City of Albany to propose to split all costs 50/50. It was also stressed that this should be a community event and not have a divide between the City and the County. PIO Banks shared that since she was now officially the County's Public Information Officer and would take into consideration these suggestions for future events.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to accept the bid to replace the scales at the landfill from the lowest, responsive, and responsible proposer CE Construction of Albany, GA in the amount of \$1,096,149. Two bids were received with one being able to meet all the requirements of the bid. Funding is available in the Solid Waste Capital Outlay. Acting County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Interim Solid Waste Director Melvin Williams and City of Albany Procurement Manager Joshua Williams were present. Mr. Brooks shared his historical concerns and needs for the project. It was noted that the Public Works Subcommittee understood the critical nature of the request and Mr. Williams addressed concerns regarding construction and bonding.

The Chairman called for a recommendation to adopt the amendment to the current ACCG 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan for Dougherty County employees to add the Roth 457(b) plan option. Approval of this recommendation will be of no cost to the County. The County currently offers this added option to employees through Nationwide Retirement Solutions. Human Resources Director Erica Potts and ACCG Retirement Services Regional Client Manager Ron Rowe addressed. Mr. Rowe explained the investment option and clarified that there were no administrative costs. Commissioner Jones took the opportunity to thank Mrs. Potts for the work she has done, especially with the internship.

Mr. Brooks reminded the Board of the Special Called Meeting after the Work Session. He also shared that there will be a reception for our summer interns in Room 120 following the business action items of the Special Called Meeting.

Commissioner Edwards requested that his mother, former Commissioner Muarlean Edwards, be recognized for her birthday. Commissioner Jones sang for her, Clerk Ware, Commissioner Victor Edwards, and PIO Banks.

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

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK