

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on September 11, 2023. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Ed Newsome, and Anthony Jones. Also present were Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Hope, 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 August 7th Regular Meeting, August 14th Work Session and August 14th Special Called Meeting.

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

The Chairman recognized Joseph Sheets, Senior Project Manager, Anser Group to provide an update on the County's ARPA (American Rescue Plan) Projects. Mr. Sheets shared an overview of the County's progression in implementing the ARPA spending plan. The County has spent the ARPA funding on public health, negative economic impacts, public sector capacity, revenue replacement, and administration. He mentioned the remaining balances for each project and provided a revenue loss review. He added that approximately \$7 million has been spent against the \$10 million allocation. The total ARPA expense summary was shared. Commissioner Gaines asked Mr. Brooks to look at the budget to see if we could make some adjustments to ensure that the remaining funds were spent. Mr. Sheets reminded the Board that the funds had to be obligated by December 2024 and expended by December 2026. The Chairman confirmed that staff will be directed for further discussion.

The Chairman recognized Suzanne Angell, Executive Director, Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (SWGRC) and Barbara Reddick, Deputy Director, Southwest Georgia Regional Commission to provide an update on Housing funds and general matters for the Commission. Ms. Angell shared the several programs that SWGRC had been involved in with Dougherty County and said that six homes had been revamped under the FY16 CHIP grant. Due to COVID, there has been a delay which has caused them to just start working on the FY 20

CHIP grant. She informed the Board that the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will allow the County to put in another application for the CHIP grant after 50% has been expended from a previous grant. She said that the housing plan will need to be updated if the County desires to apply for FY 25 CHIP grant. The main concern has been trying to obtain contractors to complete the homes. Commissioner Johnson wanted to make sure the unincorporated area codes were included in the new application. He also suggested that a date be set to advertise and recruit contractors for the next CHIP grant. Ms. Reddick gave an update on the CDBG- CV Food Bank program and introduced a new program titled the State Economic & Infrastructure Development Grant (SEID) that would help with broadband.

The Chairman recognized Kiana Renai Jackson, Representative of the Election Protection Committee, to discuss concerns with the Board. City Commissioner Demetrius Young was present. Ms. Jackson asked for a formal apology for an incident that happened in 2020 with the Black Voters Matter group. Commissioner Johnson shared that the Board had supported elections yearly and made sure funds were available. Chairman Heard said that the Board would review the matter and come back with a decision.

The Chairman recognized Debra Richardson, County Representative on the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities- Region 4 Board, to provide an update and share information about the October 14, 2023 Nami Walk. Ms. Richardson provided information for the upcoming NAMI walk and introduced Kelly Wesselman and AJ Parker who were NAMI Leadership Board Members. She invited the Board to walk with the “Albany Together” group in the ASU parade. Commissioner Johnson asked if the opioid settlement could be used to assist. The County Attorney said that he would have to look at the guidelines.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance of the contract for the bid for the Tax and Tag Office Renovation in the amount of \$216,366 from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder meeting specifications, JVS Associates (Albany, GA) subject to execution by the Assistant County Administrator. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VI and VII.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-042 is entitled:

**A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE  
AND EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT TO ACCEPT  
THE BID FROM JVS ASSOCIATES, INC., FOR  
RENOVATION OF THE TAX AND TAG OFFICE FROM**

THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE  
BIDDER MEETING SPECIFICATIONS; REPEALING  
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN  
CONFLICT HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase six 4RE in-car video camera systems from the single source vendor Motorola Solutions (Allen, TX) in the amount of \$41,972.40. This quote includes the in-car camera system, microphone bundle kits, unlimited data/cloud storage, and programming. Funding is budgeted in the Special Services District Fund.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to accept the resolution authorizing the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission to execute and file the renewal of the annual application on behalf of Dougherty County with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the United States Department of Transportation for a grant for public transportation assistance under Section 5311 Regional Transit Program.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-043 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN  
APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION, FOR A GRANT UNDER TITLE 49 U.S.C.,  
SECTION 5311.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring the listed equipment and vehicles as surplus and authorize the disposal of or sale of same via an online auction.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 23-044 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION DECLARING AS SURPLUS THE

ATTACHED LIST OF EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES;  
PROVIDING FOR DISPOSAL OF OR SALE OF SAME VIA  
AN ONLINE AUCTION; REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS  
IN CONFLICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mr. Brooks asked the Chairman if we could have a moment of silence for the patriots who lost their lives in the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack. Commissioner Edwards asked Mr. Brooks to reach out to Mrs. Hendley for an update regarding Dougherty County's investment pool. Upon the request from Commissioner Edwards, Assistant Chief Irving clarified that emergency services were ongoing despite the air conditioner going out in DCP. He asked that the overgrown grass concerns at 415 Redwood Road be forwarded to Code Enforcement again. Commissioner Johnson asked that a housing plan assessment cost be considered for SWGRC. He also wanted to know the percentage of police staff who had Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and Assistant Chief Irving said about 90%. Commissioner Gaines wanted an audit update and Mr. Brooks informed her that the information was still being worked on. Mr. Brooks mentioned that he will be adding a position to help with audits and grants in the Finance department. She asked for an update on the trail project and the process of the ordinance review. Mr. Brooks said that he and the County Attorney were in discussion of this and plan on hiring a paralegal to assist with codifications.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK