

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on February 1, 2021. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, and Ed Newsome. Commissioners Anthony Jones and Gloria Gaines participated via the audio-conferencing feature. 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 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, the Chairman called for approval of the January 4th Regular Meeting, January 11th Work Session, and January 11th Special Called Meeting minutes.

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

The Chairman and County Commissioners recognized Voter Registration & Elections Board member Dontravious Simmons for his past service.

The Chairman recognized William Wright, representative of Afram Tech, Inc. to address concerns to the Commission. Mr. Wright presented a proposal for a local "Green New Deal" program for the citizens of Dougherty County and Southwest, Georgia. He proposed the following:

1. Economic Development (i.e, having a black-owned/controlled bank).
2. A need for a minority business program.
3. Proactively dealing with sundry food deserts.
4. Organizing a meeting with the state legislators regarding the payroll protection program.
5. Focusing on racial justice/racial equality in the criminal justice system.
6. Meeting with the state legislators to reauthorize the New Mainstreet loan program.
7. Having an entrepreneurial academy.

The Chairman called for consideration of the request from Public Works to purchase equipment and a roof shade for Robert Cross Park from the lowest quoted vendor Hasley Recreation (Flowery Branch, GA) in the amount of \$84,094. Three vendors submitted quotes with the highest being \$91,370. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook was present. Mr. Addison said that this was one of the projects identified in the Radium Springs Master Plan and will be used for exercise equipment.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, questions from the Commission were addressed about installation and solar panels. The motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation to accept the proposal from Stones Aquatic Weed & Algae Removal LLC in the amount of \$20,000 for the enhancement of Radium Springs by hydraulically dredging the spring area to remove silt. Funding is available in SPLOST V. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison discussed. Juston Stone, the owner of Stones Aquatic Week and Algae Removal LLC, was present via phone. Mr. Addison stated that this was the next phase to remove the vegetative per the recommendation of UGA Aquaculture Specialist Dr. Burtle.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, Mr. Addison answered questions from Commissioner Gaines about the herbicide applications. Mr. McCoy provided additional information on the 3-phase process. The motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the acceptance of a change order to the Connector Trail Project in Radium Springs with the awarded vendor, HTS Construction, for the Overlook Park Loop in the amount of \$53,340. Funding is available in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook and Project Engineer Jeremy Brown were present. Mr. Addison said that the trail will be completed with concrete instead of gravel.

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

During the updates from the Board, Commissioner Edwards asked that there be a discussion between Mr. McCoy and Mr. Wright regarding his presentation; particularly regarding the minority business aspect. Commissioner Edwards shared information with Mr. Wright regarding past actions taken by Commission and reminded him of the requests made for his assistance.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK