

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on June 7, 2021. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were 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. County Administrator Michael McCoy was absent.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the May 10th Work Session minutes.

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

The Chairman recognized the review of the Group Health Plan and its impact on the FY22 Budget. Health Plan Consultant Tammi Starkey addressed. Ms. Starkey mentioned that this FY high-cost claims were 54% and is considered an anomaly. COVID trends and the plan year 2021 cost stabilization action plan were reviewed. She stated that 59% of the population is participating in the wellness program. The FY 22 projected cost is \$7,893,114 with the Dougherty County net cost being \$6,786,580.

The Chairman recognized Henry Thomas, CEO of the Georgia Music Association to update the Commission on the upcoming event in the community. He initially presented the Call to Unity Campaign when Mayor Hubbard was in office.

The Chairman called for consideration of the installation of a new HVAC System as part of the SPLOST Renovation Project for the Facilities Management Department from Safe Aire Heating and Cooling (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$47,132. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VI and VII.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring the listed equipment as surplus and authorize the disposal of same. This is the first listing of furniture and equipment damaged by water in the Judicial Building.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-030 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION DECLARING AS SURPLUS THE
ATTACHED LIST OF EQUIPMENT
PROVIDING FOR DISPOSAL OF SAME
REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS
IN CONFLICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring a 2014 Ford F250 (from the Dougherty County Police Department) as surplus and authorize the sale through Underwriters Safety & Claims.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-031 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS A SALVAGED 2014 FORD
F250 (VIN NO. 1FTBF2A69EEA35071) AND HAVE SAID SURPLUSED
SALVAGED VEHICLE DISPOSED OF THROUGH UNDERWRITERS
SAFETY AND CLAIMS, DOUGHERTY COUNTY'S THIRD-PARTY
ADMINISTRATOR; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Finance Committee to amend the Coroner's FY 21 budget by \$24,475. The amended budget will increase to \$236,006 from \$211,531.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Finance Committee to fund the Albany State Youth Enrichment Program (ASYEP) in the amount of \$5,000. Funding will be provided from the DATE fund. Commissioner Johnson stated that this was another opportunity to help the youth.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the proposed Management, Operations and Maintenance Agreement for the Government Center between Dougherty County and the City of Albany. County Attorney Spencer Lee addressed. Attorney Lee stated that the City of Albany has already passed a resolution.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 21-032 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
EXECUTION OF A MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS AND
MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT
CENTER BETWEEN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA
AND THE CITY OF ALBANY; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS
OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners acceptance of the Terms and Conditions and the County's allocation of \$17,084,422 for the American Rescue Plan State and Local Recovery Fund from the U.S. Treasury which was signed by Finance Director Martha Hendley on May 10, 2021. Guidance related to the ARP funds was provided by ACCG. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. ACCG suggested that the acceptance of the money be ratified for documentation purposes even though it is not required by the Treasury. Commissioner Gaines asked how the money would be sent. Mr. Addison shared that the action plan is being developed and will be presented to the Commission for approval. He added that money will need to be allocated by the end of 2024 with spending by 2026 and staff are working to understand the guidelines.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to approve the County's Disaster Recovery Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 in the amount of \$1,020,000. Funding is provided by State and Federal Grants. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison and Finance Director Martha Hendley addressed. Initially, it was not known what to initially budget and these are the final fund numbers.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the presentation of the General Fund Budget Projections. Financial Advisor Ed Wall addressed. Mr. Wall reviewed the budget assumptions about the revenues and expenses that were provided to the Board. He reminded the Board that when there was a property tax increase it was anticipated that it would last 5 years. He was pleased that the County is doing well especially considering that the County did not know what to budget due to the COVID pandemic. The FY 22 budget is very similar to FY 21. He commended the Board for having a fund balance. The County does not have a policy on what the fund balance should be but historically, it has been at 3 to 6 months. He would not like for the County to be less than 2 months. If we are, then we would have to significantly decrease the budget or increase taxes. The Chairman shared that they [the Board] will have to move forward irrespective of ARP funds being used for fixed costs or not; [if needed] amendments can be done during the year. Commissioner Edwards asked about

the recommendation that was presented in the retreat specifically for employees. Mr. Wall shared that compensation is a priority but during the pandemic, it could not be presented with a tax increase. Mr. Wall mentioned that it would not be best to present an increase in a pandemic and suggested possibly doing so in 2023 or 2024.

The Chairman called for consideration of the discussion of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request by Coroner Michael Fowler. The Coroner reviewed specific line items for FY 22 to proactively prevent future requests for funding. Mr. Addison did clarify that the Finance Committee did recommend a budget decrease but the committee does not receive specific [department] line item requests.

The Chairman called for consideration of the presentation and review of the proposed FY 2022 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. Finance Committee Chairman Ed Newsome, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, and Finance Director Martha Hendley addressed. The introduction of the Finance Committee members was provided by the Finance Committee Chairman Ed Newsome and he thanked all that were involved. The recommendation for FY 22 is \$73,036,163 which is 3.0 % over last year. Mr. Addison shared that the department managers only presented increases when absolutely needed and noted that the Coroner's amendment presentation was not included. If the increase for the health changes were removed, then we would be within 1.4% of the CPI changes; allowing staff to present a flat budget.

Commissioners Johnson and Gray gave kudos to Commissioner Newsome for chairing the Finance Committee. Commissioner Gray also commended Public Works for a very good fishing rodeo and encouraged people to see the Radium Springs area.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK