

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

August 9, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met for a Special Called Meeting in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 9, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Hope and other staff. Commissioners Russell Gray and Clinton Johnson participated via the audio teleconference. 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 Clerk Jawahn Ware participated remotely. County Attorney Spencer Lee was absent.

The Chairman recognized William Wright, the representative for AFRAM Tech, Inc. to speak on his concerns about the SPLOST oversight committee and the project list.

The Chairman called for consideration to continue the discussion on SPLOST VIII. Chairman Cohilas read the counterproposal letter from the City of Albany and noted that Attorney Lee reached out to the Secretary of State to get a deadline extension to August 12<sup>th</sup>. There was unanimous consent to proceed with a 36/64% split between Dougherty County and the City of Albany. In addition, the County agreed to provide \$3.5 million to the City of Albany for the purpose of the sewer system. Mr. McCoy recommended that we do not pay the full \$3.5 million in Year 1 but pay it in incrementally over six years. Commissioner Gaines proposed that we pay it in increments consistent with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) time frame for the completion of projects which is possibly 2-2.5 years. The proposal of consolidation was mentioned and was unanimously rejected. However, the Chairman said that consolidation must happen in order for this city to move forward adding that he is supportive of the citizen's binding and non-binding choices. Chairman Cohilas ended by reiterating the counteroffer which consists of the following:

1. Agree to accept the 36/64% split between Dougherty County and the City of Albany.
2. Agree to fund \$3.5 million to the City's sewer system over a duration of 2 years.
3. Agree to separate LOST and SPLOST [for negotiation purposes].
4. Decline placing the question of the County and City consolidation on the ballot via a non-binding referendum.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 22-037 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF  
A SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT BETWEEN DOUGHERTY  
COUNTY, GEORGIA AND THE CITY OF ALBANY; REPEALING  
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Resolution 22-038a is entitled:

A RESOLUTION IMPOSING A COUNTY ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX  
AS AUTHORIZED BY PART 1 OF ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 48 OF  
THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED, SPECIFYING THE  
PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX SHALL BE IMPOSED;  
SPECIFYING THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE FACILITIES TO BE FUNDED  
FROM THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX; REQUESTING THE ELECTION  
SUPERINTENDENT TO CALL AN ELECTION OF THE VOTERS OF DOUGHERTY  
COUNTY TO APPROVE THE IMPOSITION OF SUCH SALES AND USE TAX  
APPROVING THE FORM OF BALLOT TO BE USED IN SUCH AN ELECTION;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Chairman Cohilas asked Mr. McCoy and Attorney Shalishali to prepare a letter pertaining to the counteroffer and send a copy to this Commission and the City of Albany representatives. If the counteroffer is not accepted, the Chairman will call another Special Called Meeting to go forward without an intergovernmental agreement.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK