

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

April 24, 2023

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on April 24, 2023. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones and Ed Newsome. Commissioner Gloria Gaines participated via teleconference. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, County Clerk Jawahn Ware and other staff. The public and representatives of the media participated in person via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel.

After the roll call and the invocation, Chairman Heard asked the Commission to review the minutes of the April 3rd Regular Meeting and April 10th Work Session.

The Chairman recognized members of the Leadership Albany 2023 class. Nurse Practitioner Nedra Fortson introduced the six of the 28 leadership class participants that were present.

The Chairman recognized Emory University Associate Professor, Dr. Alexandra B. Morshed, President, Klein Buendel, Inc, Golden, Mary Buller, and associates to update the Commission on becoming a Go Sun Smart Georgia Worksite, which Public Works will be a cited department for this study. Public Works Director, Chuck Mathis, was also present. The project goal is to partner with Georgia employers to reduce UV exposure, and prevent skin cancer (also heat stress) among underserved outdoor workers in Georgia. The grant is funded by the CDC and Mr. McCoy shared that this research project is geared specifically towards African Americans to analyze what practices are beneficial. Other suggested practices will be examined for the best results. It was mentioned that this was a good fit for Dougherty County and ideally after the end of the 2-year study, a recommendation will be implemented countywide.

The Chairman recognized ARPA Consultants Anser Advisory to provide the Commission an update on the County's American Rescue Plan Program. Senior Project Manager Joseph Sleets and Project Manager Holly Vera presented to the Board. Assistant Project Manager Alexa Deliman was present. Ms. Vera commended the County for its strong focus on public health. Projects were highlighted; the budget amount spent and each status was discussed. Dougherty County is in compliance and does not need to deviate from the current plan. It was shared that the initial consultant team, GSG (Government Services Group, Inc.) was acquired by Anser Advisory and there were no changes to the Dougherty County team. Mr. McCoy shared that the Board approved two spending plans that are on track to spend what is allocated. He clarified for Commissioner Jones that there is not necessarily "free" money [available] but reallocations to approved expenses for projects can be made based on the Board's desire. Commissioner Gray stressed that no new projects should be created until other projects are completed because some projects (e.g., The Rescue Mission) may be over budget. It was added that the County received \$17 million.

The Chairman called for a discussion to purchase furniture for the Tax/Tag Office from the State Contract Vendor, Advent Business Interiors (Leesburg, Ga) in the amount of \$36,924.76. This purchase will upgrade and replace furniture for the department's renovation. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VI. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Facilities Management Director Heidi Hailey and Tax Director Shonna Josey were present. Mr. McCoy recommended approval and shared that the furniture is in desperate need of repair and is part of the department's renovation project.

The Chairman called for a discussion to accept the bid for food services for the Dougherty County Jail from the lowest responsive and responsible proposer meeting specifications, Trinity Services Group (Oldsmar, Fl) in the amount of \$811,340. Funding will be provided in the General Fund. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Capt. Pamela Coley addressed. Mr. McCoy shared that this is one of many contracted services for the Jail. The award is \$11,000 over the budgeted amount but the budget will be adjusted for the request.

The Chairman called for discussion of the recommendation to provide funding for the light installation request for 103 Mockingbird Lane. Commissioner Edwards asked Mr. McCoy to address. The County has a streetlight policy and this request does not meet the parameter and is not a staff recommendation. Therefore, the request must be presented to the Board to proceed in the amount of \$2,600 and \$18 per month. Commissioner Edwards provided additional information and asked that the Neighborhood Watch Chairman Chris Harvey and Mr. Brown, owner of the pecan trees address the Board on behalf of the requestor, Ms. Linda. Public Works Director Chuck Mathis shared that placing a light in the alley is not in compliance with the policy. If we proceed, we will need to update the policy. Commissioner Edwards said that staff initially stated that the project could not continue because of a pecan tree and Georgia Power provided consent with an alternative location. Mr. McCoy clarified that the staff is constrained by the policy and offered that the Board can approve this light or the citizen can install it privately. He stated staff is ready to proceed based on the Board's desire. Mr. McCoy encouraged the Board to be mindful of making approvals that are not consistent with its policy to reduce possible litigation. The Chairman clarified that the proposed lighting of the street location is to illuminate the street and alley.

Commissioner Edwards asked for an update on the balance in SPLOST VII after funding was allocated to the two recent major projects. Commissioner Jones asked for the County Attorney's opinion on the light installation. The Chairman asked that the attorney provide a [future] update.

There being no further business to discuss the Commission the meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK