

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2021

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on October 11, 2021. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. 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, via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel.

The Chairman recognized Thomas Brazzle, Ariel Fristoe, and Marcel Foster with Out of Hand Theater, Atlanta, GA to request Board support in pursuit of a CDC grant. The Chairman asked that paperwork be sent to the County Administrator for additional consideration.

The Chairman recognized Public Works Director Chuck Mathis and Engineer Manager Jeremy Brown to provide an update and response to the request to consider the installation of exercise pad fans at Robert Cross and Overlook Parks. Mr. Brown shared that a consultant was contacted regarding this request and provided current constraints in reference to expense, liability, security and building structure. Commissioner Edwards shared that he appreciated the staff for bringing the cost to the Commission. Concerns of the Board were addressed.

The Chairman recognized Public Works Director Chuck Mathis and Engineer Manager Jeremy Brown to provide an update on the Speed Study conducted in the Southgate community and proposed solutions for Astoria Drive. Mr. Mathis shared that he had a discussion with Mr. Dawson. When the initial traffic study was conducted it did not capture all of the data in the area where speeding was occurring. Mr. Mathis said that it is now staff's recommendation that the speed study is redone. Citizen Mr. Willie Dawson spoke and shared that if the new study is not favorable, then he is requesting for a 4 way stop sign to be installed. Pastor Frank Williamson spoke about his concern about the article in the paper regarding this issue and the time it took for a response. Concerns of the Board were addressed. After a lengthy discussion, the Chairman reminded the Board that we need to adhere to the policy that adheres to the best engineering practices.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the zoning consideration of Lanier Engineering, Inc. (21-056) request to rezone 1.45 acres from C-5 (Office-Institutional-Residential District) to C-3 (Commercial District). The property is located at 2507 Fleming Road. The property owner is Base Side Storage, LLC; the applicant is Lanier Engineering, Inc. (District 6). The Planning Commission recommended approval. Paul Forgey, Planning & Development Director, addressed. The Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for October 18, 2021.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the zoning consideration of Lanier Engineering, Inc. (21-057) request for Special Approval to allow the special use of self-storage (Mini Warehouses) in a C-3 (Commercial District). The property is located at 2507 Fleming Road. The property owner is Base Side Storage, LLC; the applicant is Lanier Engineering, Inc. (District 6). The Planning Commission recommended approval. Paul Forgey, Planning & Development Director, addressed. The Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for October 18, 2021. Mr. Forgey confirmed that rezoning is required prior to a special approval.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the proposed resolution providing for the assessment and collection of an annual ad valorem tax to provide funds for the payment of the principal and interest on a Dougherty County School District General Obligation Sales Tax Series 2021 Bond in the amount of \$28,565,000. Dougherty County School System Attorney Tommy Coleman addressed. He shared that this is a standard request and noted the significant improvements made throughout the school system. Attorney Coleman confirmed that Dougherty County's role is a required administrative duty of the County Commission.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to approve the alcohol application from Moree's Grocery & Liquor, Inc, Bettye J. Amburn licensee, dba County Line Liquor, at 4030 Moultrie Road for Package- Liquor, Beer and Wine. The Albany-Dougherty Marshal's Office recommended approval. Marshal Nathaniel Norman, Business and License Support Department, addressed. He said that this is an application to transfer ownership to a relative due to the death of the initial applicant.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Project 4297-0008-R Albany-Dougherty County Acquisition Project - Phase I Award in the amount of \$3,327,308.48. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Director of Disaster Recovery & Grant Programs Georgia Collier-Bolling addressed. Mr. McCoy shared details of the Phase I project and stated that it consists of 18 homes from the 2017 storms. The County has been responsible for about \$499,000 that will come out of the Special Services Fund. Ms. Collier-Bolling shared that additional properties are being evaluated for consideration and the County will need to maintain the lots after the homes are demolished. Mr. McCoy said that it will be an economic impact because properties are coming off of the tax digest. Upon Commissioner Johnson's question, Mr. McCoy shared that the properties are vetted at the federal level. Ms. Collier-Bolling reconfirmed that the application is between the applicant and FEMA and Dougherty County does not have a "say" in this mitigation process. She also added that the matching funds will be paid by the homeowners.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the federal procurement guidance under the Uniform Administrative Requirements at 2 CFR 200.318 through 2 CFR 200.327, General Procurement Standards, and the federal GSA scheduled rates for travel, retroactive to January 1, 2017. Director of Disaster Recovery & Grant Programs, Georgia Collier-Bolling addressed. Ms. Collier-Bolling shared that this request will make the County's threshold similar to the Federal threshold (for disaster recovery requests).

The Chairman called for a discussion of the review of the State of Georgia's Tiny Home Zoning Regulation for consideration of adoption. Paul Forgey, Director, Planning & Development Services addressed.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to declare the listed vehicles and equipment as surplus and authorizing the disposal of or sale of same via an online auction. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed.

Mr. McCoy asked for direction on the Tiny Homes and Commissioner Johnson asked for a sample ordinance. Chairman Cohilas shared that we can review this issue on a future Work Session after consensus was received from the Board. Commissioner Edwards wanted the Marshall to address the codes on dumpsters at apartment complexes and enforcement and/or citation that can be provided to the private property owners. Commissioner Gray announced condolences to the family of the former Dougherty County School System Superintendent Butch Mosley. Chairman Cohilas read a letter from the City of Americus that was received that thanked the Board for their assistance with a recent clean-up after the storms.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK