

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2024

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on February 5, 2024. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Attorney Alex Shalishali, Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Clark, Public Works Director Chuck Mathis, 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. Commissioner Victor Edwards and Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks were absent.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by the Chairman, he called for approval of the minutes of the January 8th Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Chairman recognized McKenzie Rose who sang an African American spiritual in honor of Black History Month.

The Chairman recognized Steven Belk, Parks and Recreation Director, to provide an update to the Board. Mr. Belk shared an outline of moving forward and introduced Ms. Velvet Poole to provide the various programs being operated by the department. Mr. Belk mentioned the goal is to promote Albany to live, work, and play. In March 2024, the Georgia Recreation Association Department will be hosting a basketball tournament for the first time in Albany, Ga. Commissioner Jones gave kudos to Mr. Belk and staff on a job well done. Commissioner Gray shared similar sentiments. Upon a question from Commissioner Jones, Mr. Belk mentioned the tutorial support provided at the various sites to assist students.

The Chairman recognized Tommy Gregors, Executive Director, Artesian Alliance, to provide an annual update to the Board. In 2019, the Artesian Alliance was created to come together with other entities to have a greater impact in Southwest Georgia. He shared that about 55% were served by the local citizens who visit Thronateeska, Chehaw, and Flint RiverQuarium. He added that in-kind services have been provided and updates on the master plan to obtain more animals for Chehaw. He outlined the layouts from the master plan and ways to allocate the funds approved. Commissioner Gaines asked if the monthly report could be provided to the Board.

The Chairman recognized G-SPORT Edutainment Group, LLC, representative Berry Glenn to request that the Commission provide a season sponsorship in exchange for certain County logo branding placements for the planned local Albany Flint Rivergators professional indoor football team. Mr. Glenn stated his purpose and goal were to bring tournaments to the “Good Life City.” He desired to partner with Dougherty County, the City of Albany, and the Artesian Alliance. Commissioner Gaines asked that Attorney Shalishali and staff look to see if government funding could be used for this project. Chairman Heard said that he liked the concept and further discussions will be done with staff.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase six mobile radios for EMS from single source vendor Motorola Solutions (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$25,811 for the new ambulances recently approved for purchase. Funding is available in SPLOST VII.

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

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase three 2024 Type 1 Ford 350 Ambulance Chassis models from Wade Ford (Smyrna, Ga) for the EMS Department in the amount of \$243,603 each, for a total expenditure of \$730,809. Funding is available in SPLOST VII and SPLOST VIII.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from Superior Court to apply for a grant from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Council of Accountability Court Judges Operating Grant for FY 2025 in the amount of \$495,000 with a 15% match. The grant will provide services for part time employees and other program-related expenses. There is a local match of approximately \$74,250 and funding will be provided from the DATE fund. The reimbursement grant is provided by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring two 2000 Chevrolet 1500 Pickup Trucks, one 2002 Chevrolet 1500 Pickup Truck, and one 2006 GMC Sierra Pickup Truck as surplus and authorize the transfer at no cost of the same to the Chehaw Park Authority.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gaines, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 24-003 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR DECLARING AS SURPLUS
TWO 2000 CHEVROLET 1500 PICKUP TRUCKS, ONE 2002
CHEVROLET 1500 PICKUP TRUCK, AND ONE 2006 GMC
SIERRA PICKUP TRUCK AND AUTHORIZING AN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSFER OF SAME AT NO COST
TO THE CHEHAW PARK AUTHORITY; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT
HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the approval and execution of the Memorandum of Understanding with Albany Technical College on behalf of the Dougherty County Police Department authorizing assistance to each other during a local emergency.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 24-004 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF A
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DOUGHERTY
COUNTY, GEORGIA AND ALBANY TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR
THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES
TO EACH OTHER DURING LOCAL EMERGENCIES; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT
HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for approval for professional services for the search for the County Administrator with Colin Baenziger & Associates (Daytona Beach, FL) in the amount of \$38,500. Funding is available in the General Fund. County Attorney Alex Shalishali addressed.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Gray made a substitute motion to the table due to not having an open discussion and asked that it be placed on the next Work Session. Commissioner Newsome seconded the substitute motion. Chairman Heard called for the vote via roll call for the substitute motion which failed with three ayes by Commissioners Gray, Newsome, and Jones and three nays by Commissioners Johnson, Gaines, and Chairman Heard. The original motion was called for via roll call and failed due to three ayes by Commissioners Johnson, Gaines, and Chairman Heard and three nays by Commissioners Gray, Newsome, and Jones. There being no further discussion, neither

motion passed due to both motions being tied and this agenda item will be discussed at the next Work Session.

Upon appointment by Chairman Heard, applicant Pamela Coley was appointed to the Retirement Fund Committee, as the employee representative, for an unexpired four-year term ending December 31, 2024.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK